



City of Torrance, Community Development Department

3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503 (310) 618-5990

Environmental Checklist Form

1. **Project Title:** 2019 Coyote Management Plan Update
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** City of Torrance
3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Oscar Martinez, Acting Planning and Environmental Manager
City of Torrance
3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503
4. **Project Location:** City of Torrance
5. **Project Sponsor's Name & Address:** City of Torrance
3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503
6. **General Plan Designation:** NA (City-wide)
7. **Zoning:** NA (City-wide)
8. **Description of the Project:**

Background

The City of Torrance covers approximately 21 square miles (12,312 acres) of land and is situated in southwestern Los Angeles County¹. The population of the city is approximately 147,175.²

Coyotes have existed within the City of Torrance since the area first developed. Coyotes are members of the dog family which are highly adaptive to their surrounding environment.³ Due to their adaptive behavior, coyotes have adjusted to human population expansion in the City. Furthermore, the ready supply of food, water, and shelter in the City helps coyotes survive and makes them tend to lose their fear of humans. Urban coyotes have access to rodents, household garbage, compost piles, pet food, domestic pets and water from ponds and landscape irrigation run-off.

Since 2015, the City has experienced an increase in reported urban coyote activities within its boundaries affecting the residents and their pets. These activities have been manifested through observations of coyotes in neighborhoods, and coyote sightings along public streets and in residential yard areas, parks, or green spaces. Interactions have also included coyotes biting or killing pets. Instances of coyotes stalking small pets (cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits), and even those on leashes, have been reported as well in the City. Coyote sightings and/or attacks were raised as a serious issue of concern by residents. To solve this issue, the City prepared its first Coyote Management Plan in 2016, which remains in effect. It contains various strategies to educate residents about the coyotes and how to avoid them. The management plan also highlights certain coyote removal techniques such as the use of firearms, traps, and lethal control. Although the City has implemented the Coyote Management Plan, coyote activities may have increased in the last few years.

¹ City of Torrance Website, <https://www.torranceca.gov/government/city-manager/residents/about-torrance>, Accessed February 2019.

² Profile of the City of Torrance by Southern California Association of Governments (2017).

³ Article #L-5473 on Managing Suburban Coyotes by Texas A&M Agrilife Extension.



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On September 18, 2018, the City's Police Department was asked by the City Council to evaluate the 2016 Coyote Management Plan and to recommend relevant updates to it. At the Council meeting of November 27, 2018, the City Council received a staff report update and heard public comment regarding coyote encounters, threats to pets and other associated concerns, and recommendations to updating the 2016 Coyote Management Plan. After hearing comments and discussing the item, the Council directed staff to update the existing plan based on feasible and effective options available. One option includes implementing the use of coyote traps and euthanization programs. Other options for updating the plan included: sustaining the Coyote Response Plan, enhancing Coyote education and outreach programs, hiring a program staff assistant, and prohibiting wildlife feeding.

The purpose of this Initial Study is to provide an overall evaluation of the environmental impacts that could occur upon updating the City's 2016 Coyote Management Plan, more specifically, implementation of the proposed strategies included in it.

Project Description

The purpose of the City of Torrance's 2016 Coyotes Management Plan Update is to establish strategies to minimize conflicts between humans, their pets and urban coyotes using education, behavior modification, and implementation of a tiered response to aggressive coyote behavior. The proposed project involves updates to the 2016 Coyote Management Plan which consists of a determination of more stringent strategies to solve human-coyote conflicts and secure household pets. The following are the recommended strategies which would be implemented:

1. Sustain Coyote Management Response Plan;
2. Prohibit wildlife feeding;
3. Enhance coyote education and outreach;
4. Consider addition of program staff assistant;
5. Implement an annual Coyote Trap and Euthanize Program between October and February.

This Initial Study provides an overall evaluation of the impacts on the environment that could occur upon implementation of these strategies.



CALIFORNIA

PACIFIC OCEAN

MEXICO



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Source: Google Maps, 2018

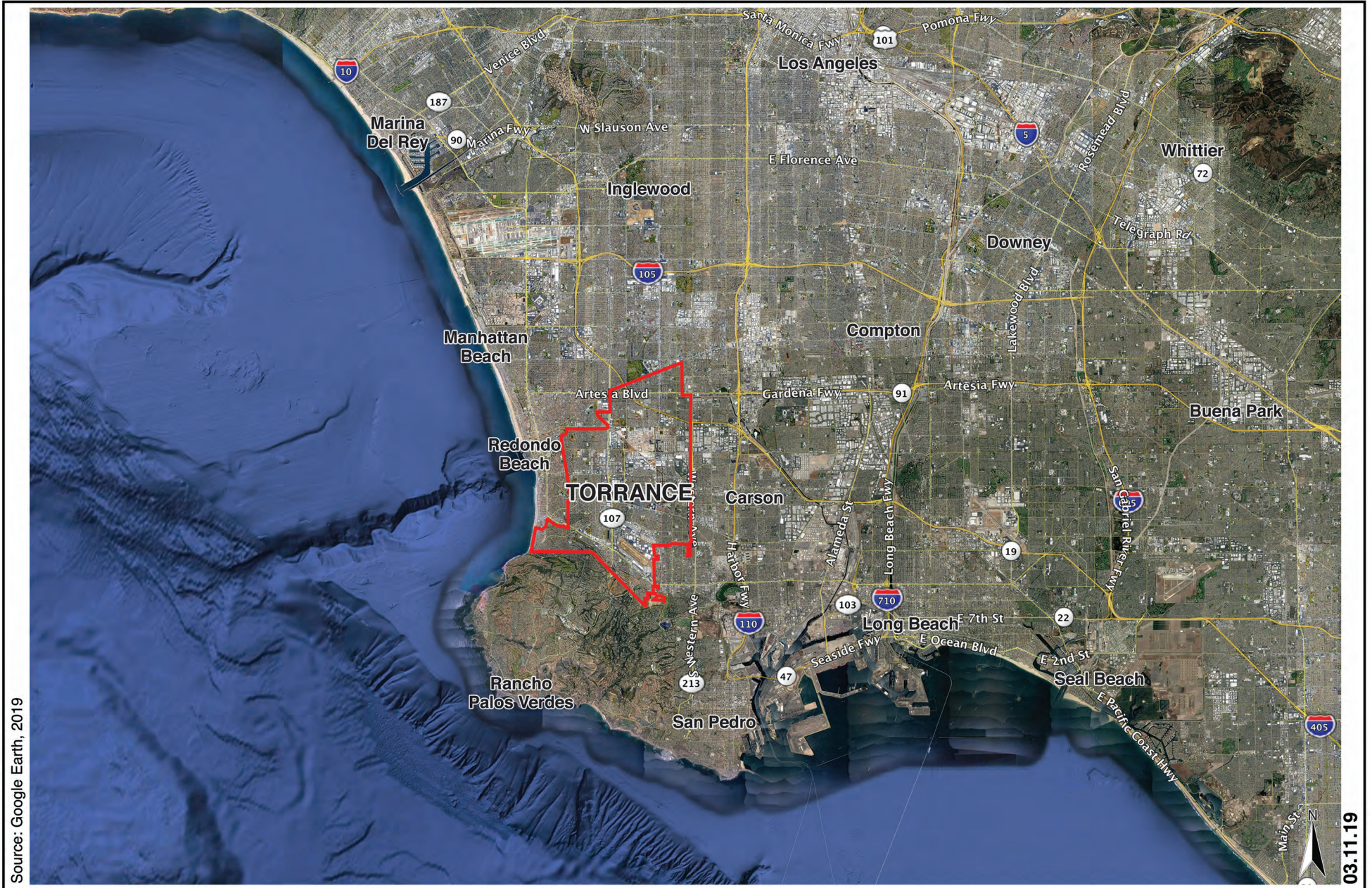


2019 Coyote Management Plan Update
Regional Location Map
Torrance, California



Exhibit

1

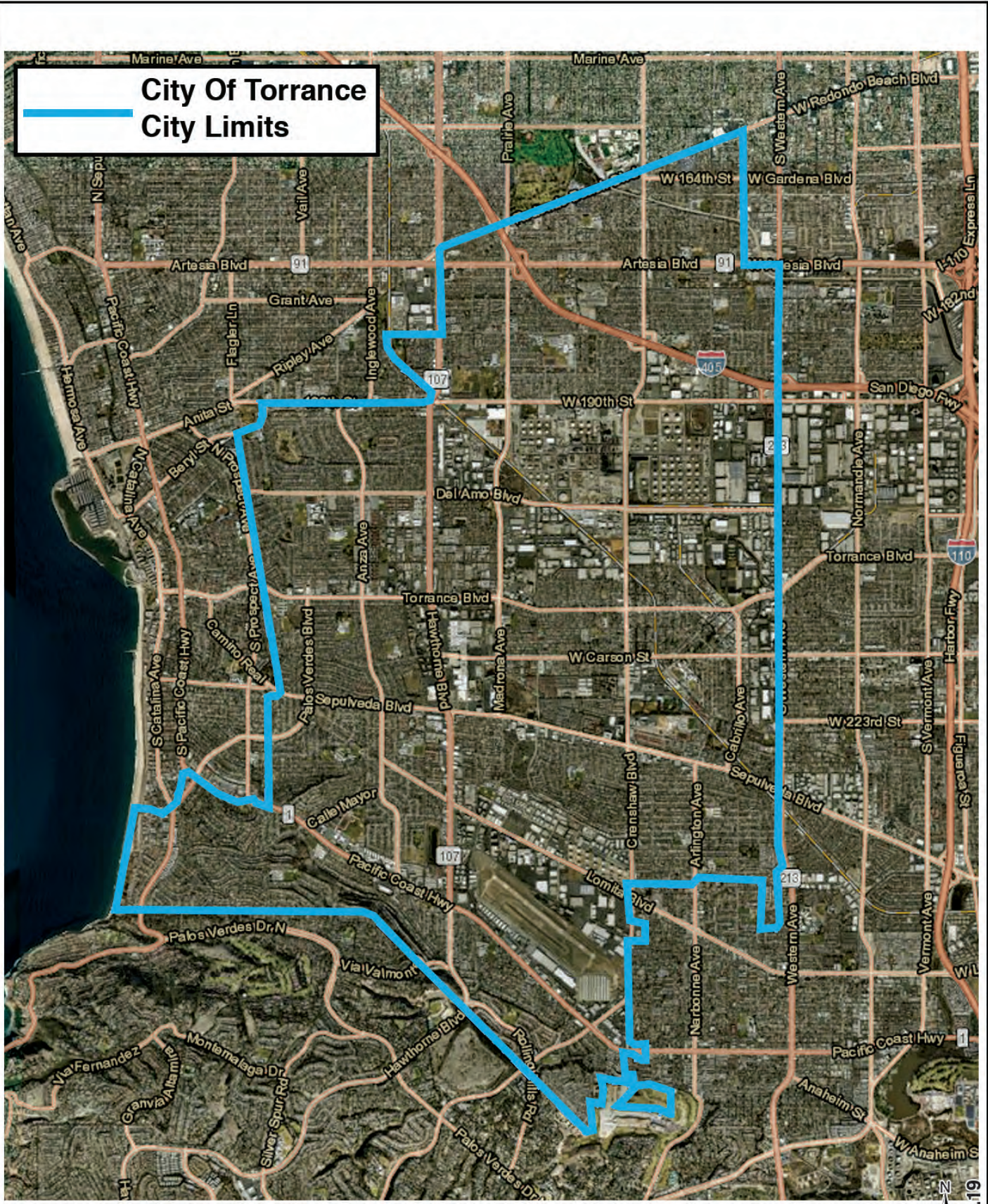


Source: Google Earth, 2019

**2019 Coyote Management Plan Update
Vicinity Map
Torrance, California**



Exhibit
2



Source: Google Maps, 2019



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9. Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting:

The City of Torrance is situated in southwestern Los Angeles County and is bounded on the north by Gardena and Lawndale, on the east by Los Angeles, on the west by Redondo Beach, and on the south by Rolling Hills Estates and Palos Verdes Estates (Exhibit 1, 2, and 3).

The City covers approximately 21 square miles (12,312 acres). The majority of the city is developed with residential (49%), commercial (12%), and industrial (22%) projects.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?

The City of Torrance submitted a request to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento for a Sacred Lands File Search and a Tribal Consultation Contact List for the proposed project. The NAHC provided a Tribal Consultation List of California Native American tribes within the project area, and the Sacred Lands File (SLF) record results, which were "negative," indicating there is no significant tribal cultural resource within the City.

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

In mid-February 2019, the City sent cultural consultation requests, as mandated by AB 52, regarding the proposed project to three Tribes that have requested formal notification under AB 52. As of the preparation of the assessment, one response has been received from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation which stated that since the Plan update does not involve ground disturbance, no further consultation is necessary.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology / Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology / Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use / Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Population / Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities / Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION: On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Oscar Martinez, Acting Planning and Environmental Manager
City of Torrance

7/10/19

Date

Prepared by:



Nicole Sauviat Criste, Principal
Terra Nova Planning & Research, Inc.

7/10/19

Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:	Sources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant	Less than Significant	No Impact
			With Mitigation Incorporation	Impact	Impact

1. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

Environmental Background

The City of Torrance is located in southwestern Los Angeles County. Neighboring communities include Rolling Hills Estates and Palos Verdes Estates to the south, Redondo Beach to the west, Gardena and Lawndale to the north, and Carson, City of Los Angeles, unincorporated County of Los Angeles and Lomita to the southeast.

Trees such as acacias, palms, camphors, jacarandas, and California pepper trees are valuable assets for the City because they contribute to the community aesthetic. Many of these trees were planted in the early 1900s as street trees in residential neighborhoods and windbreak areas. For example, eucalyptus trees along Torrance Boulevard between Madrona Avenue and Border Avenue are approximately 60 feet in height and 80 years in age. The City has adopted street policies to protect and conserve these trees.

In addition to trees, natural topography creates many scenic vistas throughout the City. The San Gabriel Mountain Range and the Pacific Ocean are visible to the north and west, respectively, from the hillsides along the City's western and southern boundaries. The City has adopted policies to protect these scenic views within hillside areas.

- (a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
- (b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

a, b) The proposed project proposes management strategies and actions whose physical elements would include placing temporary coyote traps at affected areas in the City; no buildings, structures, or other improvements or facilities would be constructed. Traps would be located on the ground and would involve minimal to no ground disturbance or vegetation removal. Therefore, the project would not include any component that would substantially affect any scenic vista such as trees, mountain and Pacific Ocean views, or historic buildings within a state scenic highway. No impact is anticipated.

- (c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

c) The City of Torrance is predominantly developed in an urban environment. The implementation of the Plan will result in management activities, including hazing, community education and the trapping of coyotes. The proposed Plan will be generally consistent with the standards in the City's current Coyote Management Plan, and will not change standards or zoning associated with height, mass or scale, which have the potential to affect scenic quality. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

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

d) Project related activities are not expected to change the lighting environment as a result of the proposed update. No new permanent light sources and no temporary light sources beyond perhaps an occasional use of flashlights by City staff to implement the proposed Plan. As such, there would be no impacts associated with new lighting sources. No new structures would be built, and no existing structures would be modified. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

Environmental Background

The City of Torrance is located in southwestern Los Angeles County, and is not mapped in the Los Angeles County Important Farmland Map published in 2016.⁴ In addition, no agricultural resource is shown within the City in the County's Agricultural Resource Areas Policy Map.⁵ However, according to the City's Zoning Map (2015), limited Light Agriculture (A1) lands occur on the southern boundary of the City. The City's General Plan identifies lands within the municipal airport, approximately 140 acres, as having been used for agriculture.

- (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?

a) No prime or unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance exists within the City of Torrance. Project activities do not include any changes to zoning, land use, or other landform alteration that would result in the conversion of prime farmland to other uses. No impact would occur.

- (b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?

b) No land in the City is under Williamson Act contract⁶. None of the Plan's activities will involve the alteration of landforms, or conflict with zoning for agricultural uses or a Williamson Act contract, because no construction is planned as part of the Plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- (c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

⁴ Los Angeles County Important Farmland 2016 Map, [ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2016/los16.pdf](http://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2016/los16.pdf), Accessed February 2019.

⁵ Los Angeles County Agricultural Resource Areas Policy Map.

⁶ California Department of Conservation GIS Online Farmland Map, <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>.

- (d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

c, d) The majority of lands in the City are zoned for various types of residential, commercial, or industrial development. No lands within the City are identified, either in the General Plan or the Zoning Ordinance, for forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned as Timberland Production. No impacts would occur.

- (e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

e) The City is urbanized and surrounded by urban areas. Limited agriculturally zoned lands occur in the City. No forest lands are designated or occur in the City. The management of the coyote population that will be implemented by the Plan will not result in the alteration of land, or any change in land use. There will be no change in the environment with implementation of the Plan. No impact would occur.

3. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

Environmental Background

The City of Torrance is located in the South Coast Air Basin, which is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).⁷ The SCAQMD is one of the 35 air quality regulatory agencies in the State of California and all development within the South Coast Air Basin is subject to SCAQMD's 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (2016 AQMP). The SCAQMD operates and maintains regional air quality monitoring stations at numerous locations throughout its jurisdiction. The City is located within Source Receptor Area (SRA) 3.⁸

The City's location near the Pacific coast results in better air quality than many inland Los Angeles County cities. However, the air basin is a "non-attainment" area for federal and state air quality standards for ozone and state standards for particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀).

- (a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

a) The implementation of the Plan would not result in increases in population, housing, or other development and therefore would not generate emissions. Management activities will occur within existing land uses and activities, and will not impact those activities. The Plan would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the SCAQMD 2016 AQMP. No impact would occur.

- (b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

⁷ Final 2016 Air Quality Management Plan by South Coast Air Quality Management District, <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/clean-air-plans/air-quality-management-plans/2016-air-quality-management-plan/final-2016-aqmp/final2016aqmp.pdf?sfvrsn=15>, Accessed March 2019.

⁸ SCAQMD online GIS Map.

- (c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

b, c) The Plan's management activities would have a negligible effect on the existing air emissions profile of the City. To implement the proposed Plan, a staff member may be added to conduct community education, assist with hazing, inspect open areas for the presence of coyotes, and install and remove traps. These activities could result in a marginal increase in the number of automobile trips per day occurring from City Hall, which would generate a minimal, and less than significant amount of air pollutants in exhaust emissions. These activities and associated trips would be consistent with other municipal activities and will not result in a measurable increase in air emissions. The project activities would be conducted at various locations throughout the City, wherever needed. They would not expose any sensitive receptor to substantial pollutant concentrations.

The proposed Plan would not violate or contribute to an existing violation of an air quality standard, and would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of ozone or particulate matter, which are pollutants for which the region is in nonattainment with respect to federal and state air quality standards. Less than significant impact is anticipated.

- (d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

d) Implementation of the Plan will not generate odors, nor will it generate emission which could be considered objectionable, because management activities such as hazing, education and the setting of traps have no potential to generate odor-causing emissions. There is no potential for the project to expose people to objectionable odors.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

Environmental Background

The majority of the City is urbanized. Some open spaces in the City contain unique vegetation and wildlife communities, including Madrona Marsh. The General Plan has identified other open space areas that have the potential for ecological restoration throughout the City.

The proposed Coyote Management Plan update has been developed to address the presence of coyotes in the City's urban environment. Coyotes are found throughout California, from desert and mountain habitats to urban areas. Coyotes are not a federally- or state-listed species and are controlled in California to protect infrastructure, agricultural resources, public health, and special-status species. Coyotes are classified as a "nongame mammal" by the California Fish and Game Commission. According to the California Fish and Game Commission, killing a problem coyote does not require any permit, however, a hunting license and legal methods must be used.⁹ The 2019 Coyote Management Plan encourages the City's Police Department to work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on the management and removal of coyotes within the City.

The strategies proposed in the 2019 Coyote Management Plan were reviewed by Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood) for consistency with CEQA, as discussed below. Please see Appendix A for the Technical Memorandum in full.

- (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 regulation, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

⁹ Living with California Coyotes by California Fish and Game Commission, <https://sagehen.ucnrs.org/Documents/visitors/wildlife/coyote.pdf>, Accessed March 2019.

a) Coyotes are not classified as sensitive, or special status species in any local or regional plans, policies, or regulation, including those of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The proposed Plan update will not result in direct impacts or habitat modification for any special status species. The coyote is not considered a candidate, sensitive or other special status species under local, State or federal regulations. The proposed Plan update will not result in habitat modification, insofar as no construction will occur, and existing native and ornamental plant communities and habitats will not be changed by implementation of the Plan. There is no published evidence that the elimination of coyotes will indirectly impact sensitive species such as coastal California gnatcatcher or least Bell's vireo. No impact is expected.

The use of traps has the potential to inadvertently trap other species. Live traps are the only type of trap permitted in California for such a purpose. As a result, should another species be captured in a trap intended for a coyote, that animal would not be harmed, and would be released by City staff when the trap was checked for activity. The use of live traps will assure that impacts associated with inadvertent capture of other species will assure that the impact to those species is less than significant.

- (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?

b) The implementation of the Plan does not involve modification or removal of any riparian habitat. Proposed Plan activities would result in the trapping of a species which is not considered sensitive by local, State or federal agencies, or their regulations. The proposed Plan update would not cause direct or indirect impacts to sensitive natural communities, and thus there would be no impact.

- (c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

c) The implementation of the Plan does not include any development or construction activities. Coyote management activities do not include any removal, filling, or hydrological interruption to wetlands or other waters of the U.S. Therefore, there would be 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?

d) Implementation of the Plan does not include any activities in rivers or streams which may impact migratory fish species. Wildlife movement in the City would not be impacted by proposed program operations. Should species other than coyotes be inadvertently trapped, the use of live traps would assure that that animal would be released as soon as the traps were checked by City staff. The Plan update would not affect migratory species movement or corridors, and there would be no impact.

- (e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

- (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?

e, f) There is no policy, plan or ordinance in the City, other than the proposed Plan update, relating to coyotes. There is no Habitat Conservation Plan applicable to the City. The City and County have identified significant ecological areas in the City, including the Madrona Marsh. The Plan's implementation, however, will not impact the Marsh, insofar as it will not result in any alteration to this area.

The Plan is, in and of itself, a program for the management of a wildlife species. The Plan proposes management strategies and techniques intended to manage the existing coyote population in the City, and protect citizens and their pets from coyote attack.

Implementation of the proposed Plan update will have no impact on local or regional policies, ordinances, or habitat conservation plans.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

Environmental Background

Cultural resources consist of prehistoric and historic sites, structures, and districts or any other physical evidence associated with human activity considered important to a culture, subculture, or community for scientific, traditional, or religious reasons. According to the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians (Kizh Nation), the City occurs within the traditional territory of the Kizh nation. Their territory extended throughout a large portion of Southern California, including most of Los Angeles County. Please also see Section 18, Tribal Cultural Resources.

Historical resources, as described in CEQA, include buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, prehistoric, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance and be listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or a local register of historical resources.

The City has identified and studied locally significant historic resources, such as Torrance High School, the Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge, and Fern Avenue School. The City has adopted a number of policies to preserve historic sites.

- (a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

a) The Plan's activities, such as community education and outreach programs and the installation of traps will not involve the modification, construction or alteration of historic structures or other facilities within the City. No impact to historical resources is anticipated.

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

b) The majority of the City is developed with residential, commercial, and industrial land uses. The implementation of the Plan will not result in ground disturbance, or the excavation of land, and therefore has no potential to impact buried cultural resources. No impact to archaeological or cultural resources is anticipated.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento was contacted by the City in early January 2019 regarding the project. NAHC provided the City a letter on February 27, 2019. The letter indicated that a Sacred Lands File (SLF) records check of the NAHC registry shows negative results, indicating that no known resources have been recorded by NAHC. NAHC

recommended contacting local tribes regarding potential Native American Cultural resources. The City also extended an opportunity for consultation to the three tribes that have requested to be contacted under the provisions of AB 52, and received a response and request for consultation from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation. The results of consultation are provided in Section 18, Tribal Cultural Resources.

- (c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

c) None of the Plan's activities are anticipated to occur within known cemeteries. In addition, the project does not include activities that would result in grading or excavation, so there is no potential for the implementation of the Plan to disturb human remains. No impact to human remains is anticipated.

6. ENERGY. Would the project:

Environmental Background

Primary energy sources include fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas) and renewable sources like wind, solar, geothermal and hydropower. The City of Torrance is located within the Southern California Edison (SCE) service area.^{10,11} Currently, SCE serves approximately 4.4 million residential service accounts and 520,000 commercial service accounts which use up to 69% of the electricity generated by SCE in its service area. Natural gas in the City is provided by the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas). Its service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles in Central and Southern California, from the City of Visalia to the Mexican border.

- (a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

*a) **Electricity:** The proposed updates to the existing Coyote Management Plan do not include any activity which would consume electricity, since project activities involve education, inspection, and the setting and removal of traps, none of which will result in an increase in electrical use. No impact is anticipated.*

***Natural Gas:** None of the project activities are anticipated to use natural gas. No impact is anticipated.*

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

b) The project would not result in the construction or operation of any facility which could interfere with any state or local plan that promotes renewable energy or energy efficiency, since it involves management activities that would occur in existing buildings, including City Hall. No impact is anticipated.

¹⁰ Southern California Edison Company Territory Map, https://www.scholarsapply.org/uploads/edison/service_territory.pdf, Accessed February 2019.

¹¹ Torrance Office of Economic Development Website (Utilities), <https://business.torranceca.gov/our-city/economic-development/utilities>, Accessed February 2019.

7. GEOLOGY / SOILS. Would the project:

Environmental Background

The City of Torrance is located within the Los Angeles basin.¹² This basin is an alluviated lowland or coastal plain bounded on the north by the Santa Monica Mountains and the Elysian, Repetto, and Puente Hills and on the east and southeast by the Santa Ana Mountains and San Joaquin Hills.

The City predominantly consists of marine and non-marine sedimentary rocks of Pleistocene and Oligocene age. Tectonically, it is bisected by two faults, the Palos Verdes and Redondo Canyon faults, which could generate earthquakes of magnitude >7 on the Richter scale.

The City is located on the western edge of the greater floodplain of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers where flooding is unpredictable. The City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program to reduce potential flood hazards. In addition to these rivers, there are two enclosed water reservoirs (i.e. Walteria and Ben Haggot reservoirs) in the City which could discharge up to 7,300 cubic feet of water per second if breached.

In the City, the greatest risk of liquefaction occurs along the bluffs overlooking Torrance Beach. Liquefiable areas along the channel of Dominguez Creek are already built upon with residential and commercial developments which could be damaged during moderate to strong earthquake events.

(a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

- i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.
- ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?
- iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
- iv) Landslides?

i-iv) None of the coyote's management practices outlined in the proposed Plan update would have the potential to expose people or structures to ground rupture, seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, or landslides. Coyote control activities occur intermittently, involve limited staff resources, and would not involve any new construction or repair of buildings or other structures. There would be no associated impacts.

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

b) As stated above, the proposed Plan update would implement more stringent coyote management practices, primarily through the implementation of community education, hazing and the placement of traps. Coyote control activities occur at the ground's surface and do not require the exposure of soils. None of these types of activities would induce soil erosion or otherwise adversely affect soil stability. There would be no associated impacts.

¹² Geology of the Los Angeles Basin California – An Introduction by R. F. Yerkes et al., 1965, Geological Survey Professional Paper 420-A.

- (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?

c) The project does not involve construction or operation of any facility on an unstable geologic unit or soil to cause landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. Management activities would occur in or in close proximity to already developed areas. No impact is anticipated.

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

d) The majority of the city is developed with residential, commercial, and industrial land uses where coyote activities have been reported. Implementation of coyote control strategies will not involve construction of structures or other activities susceptible to expansive soils. No impact is anticipated.

- (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?

e) No septic tanks or alternative, soils-based wastewater disposal systems are required for the Plan update. Current coyote control activities do not affect existing subsurface wastewater disposal systems. The management activities included in the Plan update will not require the installation of wastewater disposal systems, as no structures will be constructed. No impact is anticipated.

- (f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

f) The Plan update does not include activities that would result in grading or excavation, and would therefore not have any potential to destroy any unique paleontological resource or geologic feature. No impact is anticipated.

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:

Environmental Background

Greenhouse gas emissions are generated by both moving and stationary sources, including vehicles, the production of electricity and natural gas, water pumping and fertilizers. The principal greenhouse gases (GHGs) include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), Ozone (O₃), and water vapor (H₂O). Some GHGs, such as CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O, occur naturally and are emitted to the atmosphere through natural processes and human activities. Of these gases, CO₂ and CH₄ are emitted in the greatest quantities from human activities. Emissions of CO₂ are largely byproducts of fossil fuel combustion, whereas CH₄ results mostly from off-gassing associated with agricultural practices and landfills. Manmade GHGs, which have a much greater heat-absorption potential than CO₂, include fluorinated gases, such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃), which are associated with certain industrial products and processes.

The City experiences an "heat island effect" because of its urbanized environment, and concentration of heat-absorbing structures and pavements. The City encourages open space, light-colored development materials, and the planting and preservation of trees for shading of streets and buildings to help reduce the heat island effect in the city.

In addition, the City has joined the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign, and is participating in the Climate Action Planning efforts of the South Bay Council of Governments. The City's goal is to reduce GHG emissions by 15% from 2005 levels by 2020, and 49% by 2035.

- (a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

a) The project would not result in increases in population, housing, or other development that would increase energy use, motor vehicle usage or solid waste production, which are currently the primary sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the City. Management activities consistent with the proposed Plan update may continue to include the use of vehicles in response to coyote sightings. However, these vehicle trips currently occur under the approved Plan, and would not be expected to increase significantly, even with the addition of a staff person. As such, GHG emissions associated with vehicle use would remain similar to existing conditions. Overall, the minimal increase in vehicle trips would represent a nominal amount of greenhouse gas emissions and a less than significant impact.

- (b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

b) Management activities associated with the Plan update will continue existing activities, and will implement strategies developed in the City's Climate Action Planning efforts as those are implemented throughout the City. Implementation of the proposed Plan activities would not conflict with any plans or programs adopted to reduce greenhouse gases.

9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:

Environmental Background

Hazardous material is defined as any material that, due to quantity, concentration, physical, or chemical characteristics, poses a significant potential hazard to public health and safety or to the environment.¹³ In the City of Torrance, hazardous materials transport, storage, and use is strictly regulated for large quantity users, such as industrial processing plants and commercial dry cleaners. There are several hazardous sites in the City which are referred to as Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites, Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) sites, closed landfills, oil fields, or large quantity generator sites.¹⁴

Beginning in the 1970s, governments at the federal, state, and local levels became increasingly concerned about the effects of hazardous materials on human health and the environment. Numerous laws and regulations were developed to investigate and mitigate these effects. Hazardous materials are regulated by state, federal, and local agencies, including the US Environmental Protection Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Torrance Fire Department. As a result, the storage, use, generation, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials are highly regulated by federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Furthermore, the City has provided numerous policies and programs in its General Plan to regulate the use of hazardous materials and hazardous sites within its boundaries.

(a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

(b) Create significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

a, b) The proposed management activities included in the Plan update do not include the use of hazardous materials. The use, transport, and/or disposal of any substances used in euthanizing coyotes would be subject to federal, state, and local regulations regarding the handling of such materials, including the regulations associated with medical waste. Therefore, the proposed Plan update would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, release, or disposal of hazardous materials, nor would it create a risk of upset or accident.

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

c) The proposed project would not involve or authorize use of hazardous materials or wastes within one-quarter mile of a school. No impact would occur.

(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?

¹³ California Health and Safety Code definition.

¹⁴ City's General Plan – Figure S-4 (Hazardous Materials Sites).

d) *The majority of the management activities would be conducted near residential units, parks, and open areas where the coyotes have been identified. It is not expected that any management activities would result in the disturbance of structures or ground surfaces at sites identified as having had hazardous materials incidents, or large generators. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.*

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

e) *Torrance Municipal Airport is located in the southern portion of the City. The airport covers approximately 500 acres of land which is a restricted area. None of the Plan's component would be affected by airport operations. All activities occur at the ground level, and there are no environmental effects that could obstruct pilot visibility or otherwise interfere with normal flight operations and air traffic patterns in the area. No impact is anticipated.*

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

f) *Coyote management activities occur for short periods of time in residential, park and open space areas of the City. These activities are typically carried out by one or two people at a time, who arrive/depart via passenger automobiles and light-duty trucks. As such, these activities would not physically interfere with emergency plans or would have no effect on any emergency evacuation routes. No impact is anticipated.*

- (g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

g) *The project would not generate housing and/or population, nor would it increase nonresidential development in the wildland fires zone. Management activities do not generate a risk of fire in any part of the City. No impact is anticipated.*

10. HYDROLOGY / WATER QUALITY. Would the project:

Environmental Background

The City of Torrance is located within the Los Angeles basin. Average yearly precipitation in the area is about 13 inches.¹⁵ Drinking water to the City is supplied by multiple water agencies, the Torrance Municipal Water Department (TMWD) and the Rancho Dominguez and Hermosa-Redondo Districts of the California Water Service Company (CWS). Approximately 78 percent of water is provided by TMWD which works with the State Health Department of Health Services to control water quality. Metropolitan Water District (MWD) provides approximately 88 percent of the City's portable water supply. MWD mainly imports water from the Colorado River Aqueduct, State Water Project via the California Aqueduct, and groundwater basins. MWD also purchase water from the Water Replenishment District of Southern California and recycled water from the West Basin Municipal Water District.

The federal Water Pollution Control Act (CWA) prohibits the discharge of any pollutant to navigable waters from a point source unless the discharge is authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In California, the NPDES program is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) through the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) and requires municipalities to obtain permits that outline programs and activities to control wastewater and stormwater pollution. The City is permitted under NPDES No. CAS004001 to discharge water to the Pacific Ocean, however, it is obligated to keep waterways clean by reducing or eliminating contaminants from storm water and dry-weather runoff.¹⁶

(a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

(e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

a, e) None of the Plan's management activities would trigger requirements for any waste discharge or jeopardize compliance with water quality standards, because coyote management activities do not involve the construction of impermeable surfaces, or the discharge of wastewater. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

(b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

b) The Plan update would not involve the use of domestic water supplies, insofar as management activities include community education, site inspections and installation and removal of traps in existing developed areas. No new water demand would be created, and no recharge activities affected. No impact is anticipated.

(c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

¹⁵ City's General Plan – Page CR-45.

¹⁶ City's General Plan – Page CR – 48.

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|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (i) | Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>c, i) The proposed project would not result in modifications to any drainage patterns in the City that could lead to substantial erosion of soil or siltation during storm events because no construction or soil disturbance would occur. No impact is anticipated.</i> | | | | | |
| (ii) | Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site; | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (iii) | Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (iv) | Impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) | In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

c. ii-iv, d) The Plan update would not result in the construction of housing or other structures. Therefore, the implementation of the Plan's management strategies would not generate surface runoff or result in exposure of, or increase exposure of, people or structures to flooding, or affect the capacity of existing storm drain systems, or inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No impact would occur.

11. LAND USE / PLANNING. Would the project:

Environmental Background

The City of Torrance covers approximately 21 square miles (12,312 acres) of land which are governed by its land use policies and designations and Zoning Ordinance. Development in the City consists of 49% residential, 12% commercial, and 22% industrial developments. The balance is composed of open space, parks and other uses.

The City adopted its first Coyote Management Plan in 2016 to secure its residential communities from hazards associated with coyote presence in parks, residential neighborhoods, and private yards. The original Plan was prepared in response to increased sightings. The update is being considered to modify the Plan to better respond to the community's concerns, based on data and evidence collected by the City and its police department.

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| (a) | Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>a) The proposed Plan update focuses on the control of coyote activities in existing neighborhoods throughout the City. None of the strategies contemplated in the proposed update would involve construction activities or any modification of the layout of the City's residential neighborhoods, park sites, City Hall, street medians, or any other elements of the community. None of the project related activities would physically divide an established community, and there would be no impact to the physical structure of any part of any community.</i> | | | | | |

- (b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

b) One of the important missions of the City of Torrance is to provide a safe and secure community and environment to its residents. The proposed project is one of the City's efforts to reduce recently increased coyote presence in the community, and to increase resident safety. None of the coyote management practices (traps, euthanization, community education and outreach programs etc.) that may be implemented under the Plan update would conflict with a land use plan or program established by the City or any regional agencies with jurisdiction over areas within City boundaries. The proposed Plan update would further support the following General Plan policies:

Policy LU.5.6. Strictly enforce City codes, including building and safety, zoning and land use regulations, and property maintenance codes, to maintain safe, high-quality residential neighborhoods.

Policy LU. 9.1. Preserve, protect, and maintain open space, parks, and recreation facilities as desirable land uses, recognizing that such uses contribute to the high quality of life in Torrance.

Policy S.6.5. Maintain sufficient and adequate police stations and substations, facilities, services, and staffing to meet high public safety standards.

Policy CR.8.2. Maintain, promote, and enhance programs that provide recreational, educational, cultural, and community services for families and residents of all ages.

The Plan update is designed to protect and preserve existing neighborhoods in a safe and community-minded manner. Its management strategies will preserve the quality of open space, and community safety. As a result, the proposed Plan update supports and enhances the General Plan's vision of a high quality of life for City residents. No impact is anticipated.

12. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

Environmental Background

According to the State Mining and Geology Board, the majority of land within City of Torrance is classified as MRZ-1 and MRZ-3 which designates an "area containing mineral deposits of no significance importance," or "area containing mineral deposits; however, the significance of these deposits cannot be evaluated from available data." A small strip of land, south of Pacific Coast Highway, is designated as MRZ-2 which designate an "area containing mineral deposits of significant importance."

- (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?

a, b) The City of Torrance is predominantly developed on land that is classified as MRZ-1 and MRZ-3, which is land with limited mineral resource potential. The City's General Plan and Zoning maps do not include areas reserved for mineral extraction. The proposed Plan update does not involve any extraction of mineral resources, nor will it result in the development of any structure which would prevent the use or removal of state or local mineral resource. No impact would occur.

13. NOISE. Would the project result in:

Environmental Background

The main sources of noise include road traffic, aircraft, railroads, construction, industry, noise in buildings, and consumer products.¹⁷ Other noise sources include stationary sources, such as pool and spa equipment or heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) units.

In the City of Torrance, street and freeway traffic represent the primary source of noise. Interstate 405 (I-405) is the main source of noise in the northeastern portion of the City. Other significant sources of noise in the City include the Santa Fe Railroad and Torrance Municipal Airport. The effective methods to reduce the impacts of noise on sensitive land uses implemented by cities include vehicle trip reduction, noise barriers, and setbacks.

- (a) Generation of substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

a) The management strategies included in the Plan update do not have the potential to generate substantial noise. Activities will include automobile and truck trips, which are currently occurring as a result of coyote sightings and incidents, and are not expected to increase as a result of the Plan update. Project activities are temporary and would not exceed any noise levels. No impact is anticipated.

- (b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

b) The Plan update does not include vibration-producing activities or the use of vibration-producing construction equipment, such as bulldozers, jackhammers, or pile drivers. No impact would occur.

- (c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

c) The proposed Plan update would not generate housing or population, nor would it increase nonresidential development. Therefore, the project would not result in, or increase exposure of people or structures to, excessive noise from the municipal airport. No impact would occur.

¹⁷ EPA Clean Air Act Title IV - Noise Pollution.

14. POPULATION / HOUSING. Would the project:

Environmental Background

The current population of the City of Torrance is approximately 147,175, with an average household size of 2.623 persons for single-family units. The City is composed of low, medium, and high density residential development, but the majority of housing units (27,210 units) are single family homes.

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

a) The proposed Plan update would not directly or indirectly induce unplanned population growth in the City, as it does not include the construction of new homes or result in the need for new homes. In addition, the project would not result in or encourage the extension of paved roadways or public service/utility infrastructure into an undeveloped area and thus indirectly encourage population and housing growth. No impact would occur.

- (b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

b) The proposed Plan update would not displace existing people or housing to necessitate the construction of housing elsewhere, because it does not propose construction or other physical alteration to the current City environment. No impact would occur.

15. PUBLIC SERVICES.

Environmental Background

Fire Protection: Fire protection services to the City are provided by the Torrance Fire Department whose headquarters is located on 1701 Crenshaw Boulevard. Currently, there are six fire stations in the City: Fire Station 1 (Headquarters), Fire Station 2 (25135 Robinson Way), Fire Station 3 (3535 W. 182nd Street), Fire Station 4 (5205 Calle Mayor), Fire Station 5 (3940 Del Amo Blvd), and Fire Station 6 (21401 Del Amo Circle).¹⁸

Police Protection: Police protection services to the City are provided by the Torrance Police Department which is located at 3300 Civic Center Drive. The police department is responsible for the City's emergency management planning. It also administers a Neighborhood Watch Program which involves residents in neighborhood activity. The department manages current coyote management efforts in the City.

Schools: The City of Torrance is located within the jurisdiction of the Torrance Unified School District. Currently, this district is operating approximately seventeen elementary, eight middle schools, and five high schools in the City.¹⁹ The district also offers several preschool and adult educational programs.

¹⁸ City of Torrance General Plan.

¹⁹ Torrance Unified School District Website, <https://www.tusd.org/schools>, Accessed February 2019.

Parks and Recreation Facilities: *The City's Community Services Department operates and manages over 40 parks and recreation facilities, libraries, and open spaces in its boundaries. The size of parks in the city ranges from 0.1 acre to 52 acres, which provide different levels of recreation use. The two largest parks in City are Columbia Park (52 acres) and Wilson Park (44 acres).*

(a) Would the project 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 public services:

(i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Fire Protection: *None of the proposed Plan activities would generate housing and/or population increases, nor would it increase nonresidential development. Therefore, the project would not increase the demand for fire services. No impact is anticipated.*

Police Protection: *Currently, the City's police department is responsible for response to coyote sightings or incidents. The proposed Plan update is designed to include programs to reduce incidents, including pet and food-source management, and removal of coyotes within the City. Implementation of the Plan update will also increase resident security and safety, thereby reducing the calls for service currently required by the police department. No impact is anticipated.*

Schools: *The proposed Plan update will result in management activities which would not directly or indirectly increase the City's student population or require the construction of a new school facility. No impact is anticipated.*

Parks or Other Public Facilities: *As discussed above, the proposed Plan update would not result in an increase in population that would require the provision of additional parks or other public facilities in the City. In addition, management activities will assure public safety in parks and public open space areas by removing coyotes when the safety of the public is at risk. Therefore, there would be no change in the level of use or activity as a result of the Plan. No impact is anticipated.*

16. RECREATION.

Environmental Background

The City owns and maintains approximately 1,218 acres of public parks and open space. Open space for outdoor recreation in the City includes regional, community, and neighborhood parks; public school grounds; golf courses; and public trails for walking and biking. Some open spaces in the City are restricted and protected due to unstable geological conditions or the presence of unique vegetation and wildlife communities, including coastal hillsides and Madrona Marsh.

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| (a) | Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) | Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

a, b) The proposed Plan update will result in management activities throughout the City, but will not induce population growth. As a result, it would also not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities such that the facilities would be substantially degraded, nor will it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impact is anticipated.

17. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:

Environmental Background

The circulation network in the City of Torrance consists of six roadway categories (i.e. freeways, principal arterial, major arterial, minor arterial, minor arterial, and collectors) all interconnected to adjoining jurisdictions. Regionally, the City is served by Interstate 405, and California Highway 107. The City's industrial districts are served by rail lines of the Union Pacific and the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railways which are used to transport and deliver goods and materials throughout the region.

The City's acceptable Level of Service (LOS) for both roadway and intersection operations is Level-of-Service (LOS) D or better.²⁰

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| (a) | Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) | Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

a, b) Proposed coyote management practices will have a negligible effect on traffic. The proposed Plan components could introduce a negligible number of new trips if an additional staff person were hired to respond to and inspect sightings of coyotes. As such, there would be no impact to the performance of the local or regional vehicular transportation network. There would be no impacts involving any physical modifications to streets, highways, sidewalks, transit stops, or bicycle routes, and no changes in usage of any of these modes of travel. Overall, no impact is anticipated.

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| (c) | Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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- (d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

c, d) None of the proposed Plan activities would require any physical modifications to streets, sidewalks, transit stops, or bicycle routes, and there would be no effect on any of these modes of travel or their uses. There would be no changes to the physical design of the local or regional transportation network or to the access to any particular property. As such, there would be no impact involving a design hazard or emergency access.

18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

Environmental Background

As discussed in the Section 5, cultural resources consist of prehistoric and historic sites, structures, and districts or any other physical evidence associated with human activity considered important to a culture, a subculture, or a community for scientific, traditional, or religious reasons. Whereas, historical resources include buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, prehistoric, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance and be listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or a local register of historical resources.

- (a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- (i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

- (ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

i, ii) As described above in Section 5, Cultural Resources, based on the NAHC's analysis, no known resources occur in the City. The City also conducted tribal consultation under the requirements of AB 52, and contacted those tribes who have requested to be contacted under the provisions of law. As of this writing, one response has been received from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians (Kizh Nation). According to the Kizh Nation, the City occurs within its traditional territory, and is therefore a sensitive area and potentially contains sub-surface archaeological resources. To avoid any impact to their resources, the City arranged a consultation with Kizh Nation representatives to consider their concerns. The Kizh Nation subsequently responded that because the Plan update does not involve ground disturbance, no consultation was necessary.

The Plan update does not include activities that would result in grading or excavation. No impact to tribal cultural resources is anticipated.

19. UTILITIES / SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:

Environmental Background

Domestic Water

Drinking water in the City of Torrance is supplied by two water agencies: the Torrance Municipal Water Department (TMWD) and the Rancho Dominguez and Hermosa-Redondo Districts of the California Water Service Company (CWS). Approximately 78 percent of water is provided by TMWD. Metropolitan Water District (MWD) provides approximately 88 percent of the City's portable water supply. MWD imports water from the Colorado River Aqueduct, State Water Project via the California Aqueduct, and groundwater basins. MWD also purchase water from the Water Replenishment District of Southern California and recycled water from the West Basin Municipal Water District.

Sewer System

The Public Works Department maintains local sewer and storm drain systems in the City. The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) is the regional agency responsible for the collection and treatment of wastewater. The City of Torrance lies within Sanitation Districts No. 5 and 30. The nearest wastewater treatment facility to the city is the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) in Carson. JWPCP treats approximately 320 million gallons of wastewater a day. About five million gallons of the treated water is reused for irrigation purposes. The remainder of the treated water is discharged into the Pacific Ocean.

Storm Water Management and Flooding

The City of Torrance works with the County of Los Angeles to manage the storm drain and flood control facilities within the City. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works provides plans, develops, operates, and maintains flood control facilities; whereas the City is responsible for local drainage from developments in the City and ensuring that storm drains properly feed into the regional system.

Utilities and Telecommunications

Natural gas and electric power services in the City is provided by the Southern California Gas Company and Southern California Edison Company, respectively. There are a number of telecommunications providers serving the City, including, AT&T, Frontier, Spectrum, and Cox Communications.²¹

Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste and recyclable collection services in the City are provided by the City's Sanitation Division and other private haulers. The Sanitation Division is responsible for residential and municipal trash and recycling collection. Commercial development and multifamily homes secure private service from independent services.

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| (a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

²¹ HighSpeed Internet Website, <https://www.highspeedinternet.com/ca/torrance>, Accessed March 2019.

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

a-c) The proposed Plan update does not require connections to any water, wastewater, storm drainage, electric power, or telecommunications infrastructure. There is no wastewater generation and no stormwater runoff associated with any project activities. There will be no increase in the demand for these services, and therefore no need for the construction of new or physical modification to existing infrastructure. There will be no need for the acquisition of any new or expanded water supply entitlements. No impact would occur.

- (d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

- (e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

d, e) The Plan update involves management practices which will not generate solid waste beyond that already generated by City Hall and police department activities. The Plan update has no potential to exceed the capacity of local infrastructure or conflict any local, regional, and federal standards for solid waste disposal. No impact is anticipated.

20. WILDFIRE.

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

Environmental Background

The potential for wildland fires represents a hazard where development is adjacent to open space or within close proximity to wildland fuels or designated fire severity zones. The City of Torrance is located in Los Angeles County, which has been exposed to the deadliest and most destructive wildfires between 2017 and 2018. Historically, wildland fires in the County have occurred in the brush-covered hills of many communities, including the Palos Verdes Hills, south of the City, in what is Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, and Palos Verdes Estates. Wildfire hazards are highest in areas of the community near the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Southern portions of the City are susceptible to the risk of wildland fires.

- (a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

a) The proposed Plan activities occur for short periods of time in limited areas in residential areas, parks, and open space area where incidents have been reported. These activities are typically carried out limited number of staff, who arrive/depart via passenger automobiles and light-duty trucks. The Plan's activities will not result in any construction activity, road detours or other actions that could affect evacuation routes or emergency response plans. As such, these activities would have no effect on any emergency evacuation routes or plans.

- (b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

b) As discussed above, the majority of the southern portion of the city is subject to wildfire. These existing open space areas have potential to be occupied by coyotes proposed for management under the Plan, and could be subject to Plan management activities. These activities, however, have no potential to create or exacerbate wildfire risk, insofar as Plan activities do not include any fire-causing activity. The proposed Plan update would not require the construction of any new buildings, structures, or other facilities, and no coyotes control activities are proposed that would involve burning vegetation or using machinery that generates sparks or flames. There would be no impact involving exposure of people or structures to wildland fire hazards.

- (c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

c) The proposed Plan update proposes no physical modifications to the urban environment, and will not result in any infrastructure, including roads or water sources. No impact is anticipated.

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

d) The project would not result in any ground-disturbing activity, nor would it have the potential to cause wildfire. Therefore, the implementation of the proposed Plan update would not expose people or structures to significant risks such as downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. No impact is anticipated.

21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

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

a) Biological Resources: The majority of the City of Torrance is urbanized. Some open spaces in the City contain unique vegetation and wildlife communities, including Madrona Marsh. Implementation of the proposed Plan update will not impact any protected or sensitive species. Implementation of the Plan does not include any activities in areas such as rivers or streams which may impact migratory fish species. Wildlife movement corridors in the City would not be impacted by proposed program operations. Overall, the Plan activities will not reduce fish or wildlife habitat or otherwise adversely impact a fish or wildlife species. No impact is anticipated; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Cultural Resources: *There are a number of locally significant historic resources in the City of Torrance. The City occurs within the traditional territory of the Kizh Nation. None of the Plan's activities are anticipated to result in grading or excavation, so there is no potential for the implementation of the Plan to affect any cultural resource. No impact is anticipated; therefore, no mitigation is required.*

- (b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

b) A significant impact could occur if the proposed project, in conjunction with related projects, would result in impacts that would be less than significant when viewed separately, but would be significant when viewed together. The impacts of the proposed Plan update are individually limited and will not impact the physical environment. Cumulative projects in the City involve development of vacant sites, and redevelopment of existing projects to achieve General Plan buildout. The proposed Plan update is not related to, nor will it impact, other cumulative development projects.

The Plan update proposes the management and control of a common, unprotected mammalian species, whose presence has caused a demonstrated hazard within the community. The Plan's implementation will have a cumulatively beneficial impact in the City, by managing an existing, known hazard.

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

c) The proposed project would continue to implement the City's coyote management activities, which are intended to protect, rather than have adverse effects on human beings. The stated goal of the Plan is to conduct sound, safe, and responsive coyote management to assist the City in resolving human-coyote conflicts, as well as to conduct control activities in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. No significant impacts affecting human beings have been identified for any of the topics analyzed in this Initial Study.

22. EARLIER ANALYSIS:

N/A.

23. SOURCE REFERENCES:

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Living with California Coyotes by California Fish and Game Commission, <https://sagehen.ucnrs.org/Documents/visitors/wildlife/coyote.pdf>, Accessed March 2019.

Southern California Edison Company Territory Map, https://www.scholarsapply.org/uploads/edison/service_territory.pdf, Accessed February 2019.

Torrance Office of Economic Development Website (Utilities), <https://business.torranceca.gov/our-city/economic-development/utilities>, Accessed February 2019.

Geology of the Los Angeles Basin California – An Introduction by R.F. Yerkes et al., 1965, Geological Survey Professional Paper 420-A.

California Health and Safety Code definition.

City's General Plan – Figure S-4 (Hazardous Materials Sites).

Detailed Discussion of Animal Euthanasia by Alexandra Kleinfeldt (2017), Animal Legal & Historical Center.

The Humane Society of the United States – Euthanasia Reference Manual (2013).

City's General Plan – Page CR-45.

City's General Plan – Page CR – 48.

EPA Clean Air Act Title IV - Noise Pollution.

Torrance Unified School District Website, <https://www.tusd.org/schools>, Accessed February 2019.

City's general Plan – Chapter 2 (Circulation and Infrastructure Element) – Page CI-7

HighSpeed Internet Website, <https://www.highspeedinternet.com/ca/torrance>, Accessed March 2019.

24. ATTACHMENTS:

A. Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., Technical Memorandum, April 1, 2019.



Technical Memorandum

To **Nicole Criste, Principal**
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Project No. **32252098**

From **Scott Crawford**
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Date **1 April 2019**

Subject Draft CEQA Review of the 2018 Draft Urban Coyote Management Plan for the City of Torrance, California

Terra Nova Planning and Research has requested that Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood) conduct a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of the 2018 Urban Coyote Management Plan (plan) for the city of Torrance (City), Los Angeles County, California. The plan was approved by Torrance City Council on 27 November 2018. The purpose is to review the existing plan for consistency with CEQA.

There are six separate CEQA items on the standard checklist. This memo addresses each of those individually below: Would the project:

- a. Have a Substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification on any species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulation, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

Since coyotes are not identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulation, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, any impact to a single coyote or group of coyotes are not considered significant under this CEQA guideline. There is some speculation, but no published documentation, that removal of coyote(s) will indirectly increase the loss of sensitive species such as least Bell's vireo and coastal California gnatcatcher by allowing feral cat populations to increase. Under this CEQA guideline, only direct impacts or impacts associated with habitat removal are considered for substantial adverse effects. Therefore, under this section, the impacts associated with the coyote eradication plan are not considered significant under CEQA.

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woodpic.com
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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 US Fish and Wildlife Service?

The coyote management plan will not impact any riparian habitat, because it will not result in physical alteration of the environment. Since the removal of coyotes are not identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulation, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, any impact to a single coyote or group of coyotes are not considered significant under this CEQA guideline.

c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Since the coyote management plan does not include the removal of any wetlands, it is not considered a significant impact under this CEQA guideline.

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 management of coyotes within the city limits will not 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 implementation of the coyote management plan will not significantly impact this specific CEQA guideline.

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

There are no city ordinances or policies that restrict the removal of coyote in the city of Torrance. There are also no specific Los Angeles County ordinances that restrict the removal of nuisance coyotes.

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?

There are no Habitat Conservation Plans or Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plans associated with the city of Torrance. Los Angeles County has designated a number of Significant Ecological Areas that are located in incorporated cities. The Madrona Marsh



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Preserve is a vernal marsh that occurs in the middle of the city but is not to be impacted as part of the coyote management plan. Therefore, any impacts to coyotes are not considered significant with regards to any implemented HCPs or MSHCPs.

This concludes Wood's CEQA review of the City's proposed Coyote Management Plan. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact me at (951) 369-8060 ext. 102 or at scott.crawford@woodplc.com.

Sincerely,

**Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions,
Inc.**

Scott Crawford
Biology Group Manager

