



Project Title:	City of Arcata 2014 Housing Element
Lead Agency Name and Address:	City of Arcata Community Development Department 736 F Street Arcata, CA 95521
Project Location:	Citywide
Project Sponsor's Name and Address:	City of Arcata Community Development Department 736 F Street Arcata, CA 95521
General Plan Designation(s):	N/A
Zoning:	N/A
Contact Person:	David Loya, Community Development Deputy Director
Phone Number:	(707) 822-5955
Date Prepared:	March 12, 2014

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is an Initial Study and Negative Declaration (ND) prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the 2014 City of Arcata Housing Element (referred to as the "2014 Housing Element" or the "proposed Housing Element"). This ND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq., and the CEQA Guidelines.

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064, an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if the Initial Study indicates that the proposed project under review may have a potentially significant impact on the environment that cannot be mitigated. A negative declaration may be prepared instead, if the lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why it would not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a negative declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

- a) The Initial Study shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or
- b) The Initial Study identified potentially significant effects, but:
 - (1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed negative declaration is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and
 - (2) There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

If revisions are adopted into the proposed project in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b), a mitigated negative declaration (MND) is prepared.

1.1 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over a proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." Based on these criteria, the City of Arcata will serve as lead agency for the 2014 Housing Element.

1.2 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this Initial Study and Negative Declaration is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed 2014 City of Arcata City Housing Element. This document is divided into the following sections:

- 1.0 **Introduction:** Provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of this document.
- 2.0 **Project Description:** Provides a detailed description of the proposed Housing Element.
- 3.0 **Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:** Provides an identification of those environmental factors that involve a "Potentially Significant Impact."
- 4.0 **Determination:** Provides the environmental determination for the proposed Housing Element.

- 5.0 **Environmental Checklist and Evaluation:** Describes the environmental setting for each of the environmental subject areas, evaluates a range of impacts classified as “no impact,” “less than significant,” “potentially significant unless mitigation incorporated,” or “potentially significant” in response to the environmental checklist.

This Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15061(b)(3), and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15000 et seq. The Negative Declaration analyzes the potential impacts of the 2014 City of Arcata Housing Element.

This is a public document to be used by the City to determine whether the proposed Housing Element may have a significant effect on the environment. The City of Arcata General Plan was adopted by the City Council in October 2000. The General Plan contains supporting environmental studies, as well as extensive objectives, policies, and programs designed to identify and address the environmental impacts of development in the City over the long term.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is the 2014 Housing Element of the General Plan update mandated by State law. The Housing Element establishes the policies and implementation measures necessary to provide for the City’s fair share of housing pursuant to the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan adopted December 19, 2013. All policies and implementation measures included in the 2009 Housing Element update, for which a Negative Declaration was adopted in August 2009 are included in this element update intact except for the removal of the mandatory inclusionary zoning policy. This change also requires an amendment to the Land Use Element policy LU-2b for horizontal consistency.

Importantly, this analysis of the General Plan amendments associated with the adoption of the Housing Element reflects a reduction in RHNA from the 2009 Housing Element cycle. The number of units required to meet the City’s RHNA for the 2014 cycle is 363, whereas the 2009 Element accounted for 811 housing units.

Furthermore, the Element is a planning document that will not enact any specific project. Any project related to Housing Element programs and measures will receive a CEQA evaluation at the time of implementation.

2.1 GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS

2014 HOUSING ELEMENT

The 2014 City of Arcata Housing Element is designed to address the projected housing needs of current and future City residents and comply with state law requiring amendment of the Housing Element by June 30, 2014 (Section 65580–65589.8 of the Government Code). The 2014 Housing Element is the City’s policy document guiding the provision of housing to meet future

needs for all economic segments of Arcata, including housing affordable to lower-income households. The Arcata Housing Element is based on five strategic goals (objectives): (1) Housing Quality, (2) Housing Quantity, (3) Affordable Housing, (4) Equal Housing Opportunity, and (5) Natural Resources, Energy Conservation, and Sustainable Living. The 2014 City of Arcata Housing Element sets forth a housing program that works toward the preservation, improvement, and development of housing for Arcata. The housing program includes many components, such as the establishment of goals, objectives and programs, which together provide a foundation upon which detailed housing activities can be developed and implemented. The City's housing program was developed to be consistent with and implement the guiding principles and goals identified in the Land Use Element of the General Plan.

The 2014 Housing Element identifies the goals and implementation measures that the City will implement to ensure that housing in Arcata is affordable, safe, and decent. The proposed Housing Element addresses housing needs by encouraging the provision of an adequate quantity of sites designated for multi-family housing, by assisting in affordable housing development, and through the preservation and maintenance of existing affordable housing stock.

Amendment of the Housing Element is subject to CEQA. No specific development projects are proposed as part of the 2014 Housing Element.

The 2014 Housing Element is consistent with the land uses envisioned in the current City of Arcata General Plan (GP) and does not require the redesignation of any specific acreage, nor does it require changes to the Land Use Code that would result in development not envisioned in the GP or remove policies that currently protect environmental resources. It provides policies to encourage the development of affordable housing consistent with current General Plan policies.

2.3 GOALS OF THE 2014 HOUSING ELEMENT

The 2014 Housing Element contains the following objectives:

- HE-1 Housing Quality
- HE-2 Housing Quantity
- HE-3 Affordable Housing
- HE-4 Equal Housing Opportunity
- HE-5 Natural Resources, Energy Conservation, and Sustainable Living

Under each Housing Objective are the guiding policies and programs (implementation measures) associated with each objective that will be implemented during the 2014–2019 Housing Element period to accomplish the objective. Detailed descriptions of each guiding policy and program, as well as specific time frames, responsibility for programs, and funding sources, are provided in the City's Draft 2014 Housing Element.

2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND SURROUNDING LAND USES

The environmental setting consists of the City of Arcata, which is located on the Northern California coast, in the west-central portion of Humboldt County, 6 miles north of the City of Eureka, the county seat. Arcata is located on U.S. Highway 101, which connects to Eureka and the San Francisco Bay Area to the south and to Crescent City and the Oregon Coast to the north. Arcata is at the western terminus of State Highway 299, which connects Arcata and the north coast to Redding and the upper Sacramento Valley to the east.

2.5 OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED

There are no other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement) for the proposed Housing Element. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) reviews Housing Elements and determines the degree to which they comply with state law; however, HCD approval is not required for adoption by the City.

2.6 GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS

The 2014 Housing Element is horizontally consistent with the General Plan. Furthermore, the impact of the 2014 Housing Element is considered in the context of the previously adopted and compliant 2009 Housing Element. This Initial Study will focus on the project impacts that differ from the previous Element and/or those that were not considered in the General Plan: 2020 Final PEIR. Furthermore, this document is based on the following assumptions:

- a. **Project-Specific Environmental Review:** In the City of Arcata, all housing development proposals are subject to a review process. All future housing development proposals will be subject to project-specific environmental analysis pursuant to CEQA Guidelines.
- b. **Purpose of Housing Element Environmental Review:** This Initial Study is not intended to and does not address the particular impacts of each possible future housing project discussed or identified in the Housing Element update. The Initial Study is limited to the review of potential environmental impacts resulting from the adoption of the Housing Element, which is a policy document, and is not intended to analyze impacts of current or future specific development activities.
- c. **Subsequent Environmental Review Prepared as Part of the Arcata General Plan: 2020 Final Program PEIR (Section 15168):** This Initial Study is predicated on previous assumptions that were identified in the Arcata General Plan: 2020 Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). The PEIR is located in the Community Development Department of the City of Arcata, the Arcata Branch Humboldt County Library, and the Humboldt State University Library and can be reviewed at any of the above locations. Photocopies of the PEIR can be obtained through the City's Community Development Department.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by the 2014 Housing Element, as indicated by the checklist and corresponding discussion on the following pages.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture and Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<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/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance

4.0 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 PEIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier PEIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Planner's Signature

Date

Planner's Printed Name

City of Arcata
Community Development
Department

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND EVALUATION

5.1 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the information shows that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take into account the whole action involved, including offsite as well as onsite, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, a PEIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses" may be cross-referenced). Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program PEIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier PEIR or negative declaration Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

- 5) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 6) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

5.1 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

I. AESTHETICS				
Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Arcata's visual resources include features of both the natural and man-made environment. These features include forested hillsides to the east, a sloping coastal terrace in the central area of the City, a river corridor to the north, and flat bottomlands, forested coastal dunes, bayfront, and tidelands to the west and south. The City is bordered by the Mad River to the north, Arcata Bay to the south, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and Fickle Ridge to the east.

The urban landscape includes five main architectural styles: Settlement (1850-1885), Victorian (1885-1900), Transitional (1900-1910), Craftsman (1910-1930), and modern (1930-present). Most buildings are one to two stories high, allowing scenic views of the City and Humboldt Bay.

The City's Land Use and Development Guide and Land Use Code define design review procedures intended to promote orderly and harmonious development in the City, including the protection and enhancement of its visual resources. The City has incorporated into the General Plan, Land Use and Development Guide, and Land Use Code standards to assist in the preservation of the small-town character of Arcata. These standards direct development to produce structures that fit with the character of surrounding areas both historically and proportionally.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City on scenic vistas was addressed in the Final PEIR. General Plan Policies D-1 (h), Policy D-3 (a through j), Policy D-4 (c), and Policy D-4 (d), which include management of the development pattern, designation of scenic routes and scenic entryways, requirements for subdivision design and grading to minimize disturbance to natural landforms, and requirements for the subdivisions' design to be based upon an analysis of the natural conditions and features of the site. These policies were determined to reduce aesthetic impacts to a less than significant level.

The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Future housing development would be subject to project-specific environmental review, and potential impacts to scenic vistas or roadways will be identified and mitigated on a project-by-project basis.

b-c) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City on scenic resources and degradation of the existing visual character was addressed in the Final PEIR. Future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to aesthetic resources and Land Use Code requirements associated with site planning and development regulations. In addition, subsequent residential development projects would be subject to the City of Arcata Site Planning and Project Design Standards. The Site Planning and Project Design Standards are intended to ensure that proposed development is compatible with existing and future development on neighboring properties and produces an environment of stable and desirable character, consistent with the General Plan and any applicable specific plan.

d) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City creating a new source of substantial light or glare was addressed in the Final PEIR. As discussed under **b-c)** above, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development designs or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would increase daytime glare or nighttime illumination in the City. Future residential development projects in the City

would be required to be designed and constructed in accordance with the City of Arcata Land Use Code and the Site Development Regulations, which contain standards for lighting and building materials that do not produce glare.

Chapter 9.30.070 – Outdoor Lighting of the Site Planning and Project Design Standards requires lighting fixtures to be shielded or recessed to reduce light bleed to adjoining properties, and each light fixture must be directed downward and away from adjoining properties and public rights-of-way, so that no on-site light fixture directly illuminates an area off the site. In addition, for development in commercial or industrial areas, the parking area standards may require compliance with the latest edition of the *Lighting Handbook* by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR.

II. AGRICULTURAL 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.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

This Housing Element does not involve a change in land use designation that would conflict with agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program has not mapped Humboldt County. Thus, there will be no conversion of "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.”

The City of Arcata General Plan: 2020 defines Prime Agricultural Land as “land which qualifies for rating 60–100 with the Storie Index Rating.” The City of Arcata does not have a definition for Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland. The California General Plan Glossary defines farmland using the eight classifications of land mapped by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service. The glossary defines Farmland of Statewide Importance as land other than Prime Farmland which has a good combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. The land must have been used for the production of irrigated crops within the last three years. Unique Farmland is land which does not meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance that is currently used for the production of specific high economic value crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high quality or high yields of a specific crop when treated and managed according to current farming methods. Examples of such crops may include oranges, olives, avocados, rice, grapes, and cut flowers.

The Arcata General Plan Policy LU-1e states that “Agricultural [A-E] and Natural Resource [NR] designated lands make up over half of the community land base. Their productive, open space, and natural resource values are important to the community and conversion to other non-compatible uses shall be prohibited.” The A-E lands occur mainly in the southern portion of the City, as well as in some areas to the west of the City. Sun Valley Floral Farms is one of the largest agricultural uses in the City, and employs approximately 595 persons from June through December and about 675 to 700 during the peak season from January through May. Grazing is also a common agricultural use within the agriculturally designated lands in the City. Throughout Humboldt County, the top ranking agricultural product is timber, which accounted for \$178 million in crop value countywide in 2006, representing more than half of the total crop value as reported by the Humboldt County Department of Agriculture 2006 Crop Report. While the next highest crop was nursery crops, with a value of \$49.1 million, the third through fifth ranking crops included milk and milk products, livestock, field crops, vegetable crops, and fruit and nut crops.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-b) No Impact. The impact of development in the City on the potential loss of productive agricultural lands was addressed in the Final PEIR. Future development consistent with housing need identified for the City would not result in the direct conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as these farmland categories do not exist in the City. In addition, the rezoning of specific sites to accommodate higher-density uses consistent with Housing Element policies would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. The Housing Element anticipates land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan Land Use Element and Land Use

Plan Map and anticipates that provisions of the City's Land Use Code related to high-density, affordable, and special needs housing will continue to be implemented.

Furthermore, future residential development projects would require compliance with General Plan policies related to agricultural resources that are intended to preserve blocks of agricultural land in agricultural or open space use and maintain a continuing agricultural use of those lands. Policy LU-1e of the General Plan Open Space Element prohibits conversion to other non-compatible uses of Agricultural [A-E] and Natural Resource [NR] designated lands that provide productive, open space, and natural resource values which are important to the community.

The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR.

c) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City of the placement of non-agricultural uses adjacent to agricultural uses can result in agriculture-urban interface conflicts was addressed in the Final PEIR. These conflicts include inconveniences or discomforts associated with dust, smoke, noise, and odor from agricultural operations, restrictions on agricultural operations (such as pesticide application) along interfaces with urban uses, farm equipment and vehicles using roadways, and trespassing and vandalism on active farms. The proposed Housing Element does not identify specific development. If future land use or development proposals include residential land uses or housing adjacent to agricultural land uses, the City would consider agricultural-urban interface conflicts as part of the appropriate environmental review prior to taking any action to consider the approval of such changes. All future development would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan, Land Use Code, and adopted building standards. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal.

The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR.

III. AIR QUALITY

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

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in significant construction-related air quality impacts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Air quality in the City of Arcata is regulated by the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD). This district currently meets all federal air quality standards but is classified as nonattainment (exceeding maximum limits) for California Ambient Air Quality Standards for airborne particles that are ten microns in diameter and smaller (PM₁₀). As required by the California Clean Air Act, the NCUAQMD adopted an attainment plan in 1995 to identify major PM₁₀ sources and develop and implement control measures to meet state ambient air quality standards. The NCUAQMD's attainment plan established goals to reduce PM₁₀ emissions and eliminate the number of days in which standards are exceeded. The plan includes three areas of recommended control strategies to meet these goals: transportation, land use, and burning.

Control measures for these areas are included in the attainment plan and have also been incorporated in the Arcata General Plan: 2020. It is important to note that the air quality standards for PM₁₀ are often met and that incidents when the standards are exceeded occur in the winter months.

Respirable particulate matter that is 10 microns or less in diameter (PM₁₀) consists of tiny solid or liquid particles of soot, dust, smoke, fumes, or mists. The size of particles (about 0.0004 inches or less) allows them to enter the air sacs deep in the lungs, where they may be deposited, resulting in adverse health effects. PM₁₀ levels tend to be high in the summer months because of higher auto traffic, farm activities that raise dust, and little rainfall. In the winter, radiation and katabatic inversions, which trap emissions close to the ground, agricultural burning, wood stoves and fireplaces, and motor vehicles contribute to high levels of PM₁₀.

A project would have a significant adverse impact on air quality if it generates pollutants that violate air quality standards, contributes to an existing or projected air quality violation, generates pollutants which temporarily cause substantial degradation of air quality in the local area, or creates substantially objectionable odors that are offensive to off-site properties.

Discussion/Conclusion

a) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City which would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the regional air quality attainment plan (North Coast Unified 1995 Particulate Matter PM₁₀ Attainment Plan) was addressed in the Final PEIR. The emission inventories identified in the North Coast Unified 1995 Particulate Matter PM₁₀ Attainment Plan are based on sources of activities that result in increased levels of PM₁₀ and ways to reduce the frequency of these activities. Projects that result in an increase in personalized transportation methods, increases in the use of wood burning stoves, and outdoor unregulated burning would be considered inconsistent with the attainment plan. The proposed Housing Element foresees land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan Land Use Element and Land Use Plan Map and is intended to encourage infill and mixed uses to encourage people to walk or bicycle to work and/or shopping as encouraged in the General Plan.

The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. All future development associated with the proposed Housing Element would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and the Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Furthermore, future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to air quality, including policies and programs intended to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and the use of private motor vehicles. Therefore, impacts associated with obstructing implementation of the regional air quality attainment plan would be less than significant.

B-d) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City which would increase criteria pollutants during both construction and operational activities and contribute substantially to the existing nonattainment status of the North Coast Area Air Basin was addressed in the Final PEIR. All federal ambient air quality standards except national standards for ozone and the state standards for ozone, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} are met in the Arcata area. However, the state ambient standards of PM₁₀ are exceeded (CARB, 2009). All future development would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and the Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Furthermore, future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to air quality.

The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would have less than significant impacts associated with contributing substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation and increasing criteria pollutants during both construction and operational activities.

e) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City which would expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations was addressed in the Final PEIR. Housing units facilitated by the proposed Housing Element would be considered sensitive receptors that could be exposed to pollutant concentrations. However, as discussed under **a)** and **b-d)** above, future residential development would be required to comply with General Plan policies related to air quality, conform to the North Coast Unified 1995 Particulate Matter PM₁₀ Attainment Plan, and meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and thresholds during both construction and operation activities. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would have less than significant impacts associated with exposing sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations.

f) No Impact. Residential developments are not considered to be an emission source that would result in objectionable odors. No impact would occur from the 2014 Housing Element. The rezoning from PF to IL on the M Street parcel may result in an emission source, but the impact would not be greater than that analyzed in the Final PEIR.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The City of Arcata is located in a coastal terrace at the northern edge of Arcata Bay, the northern basin of Humboldt Bay. Humboldt Bay is one of the most ecologically diverse embayment on the Pacific coast. Many of the tidelands surrounding Humboldt Bay were diked and drained in the late 1800s for pasture and remain in agricultural use today. Eastern portions of the City contain redwood forest. West of the City lies a dune ecosystem recognized as the most complex and least disturbed of its kind on the northwest coast of North America. Numerous watercourses meander through the City and empty into Arcata Bay. Freshwater, brackish, and saltwater marshes throughout the area are highly productive, sensitive habitats requiring special protection. There are many special-status plants and animals in these habitats and as such they need to be protected. The City’s General Plan: 2020 has a variety of policies designed to protect the unique habitats and special-status species of the area.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City which could result in impacts to biological resources was addressed in the Final PEIR. Site-specific field studies are generally required to search for special-status species and to determine whether suitable habitat for any special-status species occurs on or near a study area. The Housing Element anticipates land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan Land Use Element and Land Use Plan Map and anticipates that provisions of the City’s Land Use Code related to high-density, affordable, and special needs housing will continue to be implemented. While the Housing Element does propose changes to existing land use zones and densities, as well as changes to land use regulations, it does not involve the construction or expansion of any residential land uses. Specifically, General Plan Resource Conservation and Management Element Policies RC-1 through RC-9 seek to protect natural resources through development design review. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and the Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal.

Therefore, adverse impacts to special-status plant and animal species, as well as their habitats, would be less than significant. The zoning change will have no impact based on the rationale in the setting introduction.

b-c) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City which could result in adverse impacts to sensitive natural communities such as riparian habitat and federally protected wetlands was addressed in the Final PEIR. As discussed under **a)** above, future residential development projects will be required to comply with General Plan policies related to riparian and wetland resources (Resource Conservation and Management Element Policies RC-2 through RC-4). Specifically, Implementation Measure RC -7, Wetlands Management Plan, mandates preparing a Wetlands Management Plan that includes mapping of all known wetland areas, guidelines for wetlands management, setbacks, restoration goals and objectives, and review and approval requirements for wetland alterations. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, adverse impacts to federally protected wetlands and riparian resources would be less than significant.

d) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City which could result in adverse impacts to movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species was addressed in the Final PEIR. As discussed under **a)** above, the proposed Housing Element is a policy-level document and while it proposes changes to existing land use zones and densities, as well as changes to land use regulations, it does not include any site-specific designs or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. The potential for the proposed Housing Element to impede native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or the uses of wildlife nursery sites cannot be determined as no specific details regarding future land use or development are provided. While additional impacts may result from the implementation of future individual residential projects in various areas of the City, environmental review would be required of these future proposals and would identify and provide mitigation for any impacts to native wildlife corridors and nursery sites. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Furthermore, future residential development projects will be required to comply with the General Plan policies related to biological resources. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

e) *No Impact.* The impact of development in the City which could conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources was addressed in the Final PEIR. Currently, the City's Land Use Code includes a Tree Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 9.58), as well as other ordinances, Agricultural Preservation – Right-to-Farm (Chapter 9.50), Resource Conservation (Chapter 9.54), and Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas Protection and Preservation (Chapter 9.59). However, as discussed under **a-d)** above, future residential development would be required to comply with General Plan policies related to biological resources. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

f) *No Impact.* There are a number of federal and state plans adopted in the vicinity of the City. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (USFWS, updated 2004) calls for

protection and enhancement of wetlands habitat. The Pacific Coast Joint Venture Strategic Plan (USFWS, 1996) in the Humboldt Bay Region calls for restoration of tidelands and floodplains and the creation and acquisition of wetlands. USFWS Coastal Program – Humboldt Bay North Coast Region Coastal Program (USFWS, 2005) promotes restoration of coastal habitats. The CDFG Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (Feb. 2004) contains the goal for the recovery of California Coho salmon in north coast watersheds. Additionally, a portion of the City is within the California Coastal Zone and is therefore subject to the requirements of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (California Public Resources Code Sections 30000–30900). Section 30230 states that marine resources shall be maintained, enhanced, and, where feasible, restored. Special protection shall be given to areas and species of special biological or economic significance.

All future residential development occurring in the City would be considered pursuant to the requirements of the management and strategy plans in the area, as well as California Coastal Zone requirements. These future residential projects would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not conflict with the above-mentioned management and strategic plans, or Coastal Zone requirements, and no impact would result.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The City has paleontological, archeological, and cultural resources.

The paleontological resources are primarily the fossilized remains of pre-historic organisms. Regional resources have been preserved primarily in the form of marine organisms and shells preserved in consolidated sedimentary sand layers, and occasionally brought to the surface by regional uplifting and as a result of geologic processes.

Archeological resources are centered on the early ethnographic inhabitants of the Humboldt Bay region. The Wiyot Indians were members of the Algonguin linguistic group. Within the Arcata Planning Area, they lived in semi-permanent settlements that were located along the lower Mad River, around Humboldt Bay, and the lower Eel River. There are currently 32 recorded archeological sites in the planning area. These are mostly situated along the margins of Humboldt Bay and the Arcata Bottom. Sites also tend to be located at the base of hills and on mid-slope terraces near sources of water. The most likely location for additional archeological sites is a band along the Humboldt Bay shoreline and the Mad River approximately 1,000 meters wide.

The Arcata area contains a multitude of historical resources beginning from the early 1850s. There are historical structures and sites on the lower slopes of Fickle Ridge, in the Arcata Bottom, and throughout the central core of Arcata that have been preserved and restored to maintain a Victorian appearance. Other historical features include the plaza, which dates from the City's beginnings, and the surrounding cluster of commercial and residential buildings. The Jacoby Storehouse and Camp Curtis are State Registered Historical Landmarks. In addition, the City maintains a local Historic Landmark inventory with 88 designations. A list of sites and structures that qualify as historical landmarks, but are not presently designated so, is also maintained.

To assure that modifications or alterations of older structures and new construction are harmonious with existing character, five neighborhood conservation areas have been designated in the City. Each neighborhood contains features which define its historical character. The neighborhood conservation areas are listed as Central Arcata, Arcata Heights, and Bayview Conservation Areas.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-d) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City which could result in a change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, or disturb any human remains was addressed in the Final PEIR. While the Housing Element encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels, it does not include any specific development designs or proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would adversely affect archaeological, paleontological, or historic resources. The Housing Element anticipates land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan Land Use

Element and Land Use Plan Map and anticipates that provisions of the City’s Land Use Code related to high-density, affordable, and special needs housing will continue to be implemented. The Housing Element does not involve the construction or expansion of any residential land uses. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and the Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal.

In the preparation of the Housing Element update for 2014, the City undertook an SB 18 Consultation circulating the Draft Element and the Initial Study to all affected Tribal Governments. Consultation was made through the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO’s). THPO’s for the Wyot, Bear River Rancheria, and Blue Lake Rancheria. Because the Element does not propose rezoning or other programs that would expand housing into areas not currently identified as residential, the THPO’s indicated there were no comments on the SB 18 consultation. In addition, the City consults on a project specific basis with each of the Tribal governments, as well as with the North West Information Center to ensure cultural and historic resources are addressed in the project’s environmental review.

The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, impacts to cultural resources, including archaeological, paleontological, and historic resources, as well as human remains, are considered less than significant.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS					
Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv)	Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The City of Arcata consists of approximately 10.2 square miles (6,528 acres) of land area. The City is located on the North Coast of California in Humboldt County. The area consists of a variety of geological features such as wetlands, farmland, hilly areas, wooded areas, and Humboldt Bay. The topography of the area is varied with relatively flat farmland to steep slopes of the eastern hills. There are several known earthquake faults in the planning area. Areas of high liquefaction are located near Humboldt Bay in the southwest section of the planning area. The area is susceptible to tsunamis due to its proximity to the Pacific Ocean and Humboldt Bay. Landslides are also possible in the City due to steep slopes and high rainfall. Active slide areas have been identified in various locations throughout the planning area, particularly along upper Jacoby Creek east of U.S. 101. The proposed zoning amendments do not change the impacts associated with the Housing Element.

Natural Hazards

Seismicity

Special Publication 42 is published by the California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey. This publication is revised when new Earthquake Fault Zone Maps are issued or when changes are made to the Alquist-Priolo Act. Special Publication 42 contains a detailed index map showing 544 Official Earthquake Fault Zone maps issued by the State Geologist. Included in this publication is a list of counties and cities located in a fault zone. Arcata is in within the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a seismically active area.

Onshore earthquakes have recurred about every 20 years and, when centered near populated areas, have caused major damage. These earthquakes historically have had magnitudes of up to 7.1 on the Richter scale. Nine major thrust faults are exposed along the Humboldt County coastline. A strong earthquake along one of these faults could cause surface rupture and produce stronger ground shaking than any historic earthquake.

Offshore earthquakes are the center of the majority of North Coast earthquakes in historic times. Offshore earthquakes originate from two sources: the Mendocino Fault, which forms the plate boundary between the Pacific and Gorda plates, and faults within the Gorda plate. These earthquakes have had magnitudes of up to 7.5 and cause some damage to coastal communities every few years.

There is an Alquist-Priolo special study zone within the city boundaries. An Alquist-Priolo special study zone is a state-designated seismic hazard zone along traces of potentially and recently active faults, in which specialized geologic investigations must be prepared prior to approval of residential development.

Landslides

A combination of unstable soils and steep slopes, primarily on the forested hillsides of Arcata, create slope instability, which can lead to landslides. Steep slopes and high rainfall are major contributing factors to landslides. Slopes of 15 percent or more are found primarily in the area east of U.S. 101 and Humboldt State University. In addition, active slide areas have been identified in various locations in the City, particularly along upper Jacoby Creek east of U.S. 101. Less steep areas with alluvial soils and high groundwater, primarily in the west and south portions of the City, are susceptible to liquefaction during seismic events. Landslides and soil movement are often triggered by earthquakes, but can occur at other times.

Landslides are complex dynamic phenomena. Factors affecting landslide potential vary according to the geological conditions, drainage characteristics, slope gradient and configuration, vegetation, removal of underlying support, and other conditions specific to each landslide-related category.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) i-iii) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City which could in increased exposure of people and structures to seismic hazards, including rupture of a fault, strong seismic shaking, and seismic-related ground failure, was addressed in the Final PEIR. Future residential development projects would be required to comply with General Plan Noise and Public Safety Element Policy PS-2 related to seismic hazards. The objectives under Policy PS-2 include requirements for development projects to conduct site-specific geotechnical reports that identify measures necessary to ensure stable soil conditions. Furthermore, the City of Arcata has adopted the Uniform Building Code (UBC), and all future residential developments would be required to conform to UBC requirements that are intended to be sufficient to prevent significant damage from ground shaking during seismic events.

The Housing Element is a policy-level document that encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels rather than identifying any specific designs or development proposals. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, impacts related to seismic hazards would be considered less than significant.

iv) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City which could in result in landslides or mudslides was addressed in the Final PEIR. Placement of residential structures or other improvements on or below a landslide slope or on steep slopes can affect slope stability and could expose persons and property to danger or destruction. While Housing Element does not propose any specific residential development projects, all residential development is subject to the seismic, geotechnical review, grading standards, hillside development standards, and the uniform building code process before it are approved. This requires that projects meet certain standards in order to assure the safety of the residents and buildings. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, impacts as a result of landslides or mudflow hazards are considered to have a less than significant impact.

b) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City which could in result soil erosion or the loss of topsoil was addressed in the Final PEIR. Future construction in the City would result in the moving and grading of topsoil, which would lead to disturbed soils that are more likely to suffer from erosion from a variety of sources, such as wind and water. As discussed under **a) i-iii)** above, the proposed Housing Element does not propose any specific development and does not directly result in adverse impacts associated with substantial loss of topsoil or erosion. The Arcata General Plan requires development projects to conduct site-specific geotechnical reports that identify measures necessary to ensure stable soil conditions. In addition to General Plan policies, any future residential developments would be subject to the City's Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (Chapter 9.64 of the City's Land Use Code), which establishes administrative procedures, minimum standards of review, and

implementation and enforcement procedures for controlling grading, erosion, sedimentation, and other pollutant runoff. Since the proposed Housing Element does not involve the construction or expansion of any residential land uses, identification of environmental impacts associated with specific future developments or policies would be speculative at this time. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, erosion impacts resulting from the proposed Housing Element would be less than significant.

c-d) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City which could result unstable or expansive soils was addressed in the Final PEIR. The Arcata General Plan requires development projects to conduct site-specific geotechnical reports that identify measures necessary to ensure stable soil conditions. In addition to General Plan policies, any future residential developments would be subject to the City's Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (Chapter 9.64 of the City's Land Use Code), which establishes administrative procedures, minimum standards of review, and implementation and enforcement procedures for controlling grading, erosion, sedimentation, and other pollutant runoff.

As discussed under **a) i-iii)** above, the 2014 Housing Element does not propose any specific development. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, impacts resulting from the proposed Housing Element associated with unstable and/or expansive soils would be less than significant.

e) *No Impact.* The impact of development in the City on wastewater disposal systems was addressed in the Final PEIR. Arcata's wastewater is treated by the City's wastewater treatment plant and marsh. The City regulates wastewater disposal. No septic or alternative wastewater systems would be installed as a result of the proposed Housing Element. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

In 2011, the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (Air District) adopted Rule 111 (Federal Permitting Requirements for Sources of Greenhouse Gases) into the District rules, to establish a threshold above which New Source Review (NSR) and federal Title V permitting applies, and to establish federally enforceable limits on potential to emit greenhouse gases for stationary sources. These are considered requirements for stationary sources and should not be used as a threshold of significance for non-stationary source projects. The Air District has not adopted standards that would affect home construction.

Under AB 32, the state must reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels, or lower, by 2020. The City has not adopted local thresholds; however, the City does have a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan ("Plan", 2006) that identifies best practices and policy direction to meet the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 20% below year 2000 baseline by 2010. Many of the measures identified in the plan have been implemented. Notably, the City's affordable housing program emphasizes the energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies of the Plan. In addition, the zoning amendments recognized by the Plan as "cross cutting" measures have largely been implemented. Notwithstanding, the plan does not establish thresholds of significance.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) Less Than Significant Impact. The Housing Element is a General Plan policy document that addresses housing need in the City; no actual development or rezoning/re-designation of land is proposed as part of the Housing Element. Therefore, its adoption would not, in itself, generate greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the Housing Element in large measure does not propose changes to the City's adopted housing-related policies and programs adopted in the 2007-2014 Housing Element. The projected housing anticipated under the planning cycle is well below the maximum build out projected in the General Plan and analyzed in the PEIR.

The City has adopted the Green Building Code and runs its affordable housing programs with an emphasis on energy efficiency and renewable energy. The zoning ordinance and building codes require energy efficiency, waste reduction, and water conservation. Projects permitted under the current codes and standards will reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared with baseline conditions. Individual projects subject to CEQA will be analyzed at permitting. The approximately 211 units of principally permitted residential housing units projected in the 2014 Housing Element that would not be subject to further CEQA analysis is considered *less than significant* for contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

b) No Impact. The Housing Element is not inconsistent with AB32, the Air Districts regulations, or any local policy regarding greenhouse gas emissions.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
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 for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a federal, state, or local agency, or if it has characteristics defined as hazardous by such an agency. According to California Health and Safety Code Section 25501(o), "Hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. Hazardous materials include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. The Humboldt County Health Department administers the hazardous waste management plan in the area. Humboldt County is involved in the system of state and federal

regulations regarding hazardous material management. In addition to managing hazardous materials on land, the County manages hazardous materials in Humboldt Bay.

In addition to industrial uses, hazardous materials in smaller quantities are stored, used, and disposed of in commercial operations, in households, and in public facilities throughout the City. There are currently regulatory, inspection, and information programs in place for the safe storage, use, and disposal of these materials. The City's Environmental Services Department conduct outreach efforts to encourage the use of nonhazardous alternatives and inform the public of correct ways to store, use, and dispose of hazardous materials.

Searches of the Department of Toxic Substance Control's EnviroStor database and the State Water Resources Control Board Geotracker database identified 22 hazardous material sites with an "open" cleanup status in the City of Arcata that are associated with a hazardous material related release or occurrence (DTSC, 2009; SWRCB, 2009).

There are no air-related facilities in the city limits of the City of Arcata. The Arcata-Eureka Airport lies on a 200-foot plateau overlooking the Pacific Ocean. It is located approximately 7 miles north of the City of Arcata, and 15 miles north of the City of Eureka. The nearest community is McKinleyville, an unincorporated town with residential development bordering the airport's north, east, and southeast sides (HCOAG, 2008). The City of Arcata is located outside of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) boundaries of the Arcata-Eureka Airport Compatibility Zones (Humboldt County ALUC, 1993).

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-d) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City associated with hazardous materials was addressed in the Final PEIR. Future residential development projects associated with the proposed Housing Element will be required to comply with General Plan policies related to safety and hazardous materials (Policy PS-6 of the General Plan Public Safety Element) and Land Use Code standards regarding hazardous materials, as well as Humboldt County Health Department requirements regarding allowed land uses and placement of compatible land uses which are designed to safeguard the public from potential adverse impacts associated with certain land uses, including those that are associated with the use, disposal, and transportation of hazardous materials. Additionally, residential developments do not generally include the routine transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials that could create a significant hazard to the public. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment regarding the transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials.

e-f) *No Impact.* Airport-related hazards are generally associated with aircraft accidents, particularly during takeoffs and landings. Airport operation hazards include incompatible land uses, power transmission lines, wildlife hazards (e.g., bird strikes), and tall structures that penetrate the imaginary surfaces surrounding an airport. The City of Arcata is outside of the

Arcata-Eureka Airport Compatibility Zone and is approximately 7 miles from the airport. Therefore, there would be no impacts resulting from the proposed Housing Element associated with airport-related hazards.

g) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City associated with emergency response to the release of hazardous materials was addressed in the Final PEIR. Subsequent to the writing of the Final PEIR in 2000, the City is now a participant in the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan for emergency response or evacuation planning. Humboldt County assumed the leadership role of this planning process by securing grant funding and selecting contractor assistance to facilitate the planning process (Humboldt County, 2007). Humboldt County manages the following programs in support of emergency response and evacuation planning: Fire Coordination Program, Hazardous Materials Area Plan, Emergency Preparedness Program, and Emergency Response Program. As discussed under **a-d)** above, the proposed Housing Element does not propose any specific development. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, impacts resulting from inconsistencies with adopted emergency response plans would be less than significant.

h) No Impact. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Natural Hazard Disclosure (Fire) map shows that the City does not contain any land designated as "Wildland Area That May Contain Substantial Forest Fire Risks and Hazards" or as a "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone – AB 337" (Cal-Fire, 2006). Therefore, no wildland fire impacts would occur.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Arcata's water resources include a number of creeks, the Mad River, numerous wetlands, tidal waters of Arcata Bay, and groundwater aquifers.

Streams

Except for small areas of the City that drain directly into Arcata Bay or the Mad River, the majority of storm runoff flows into a number of small creeks which have much of their watersheds within the City. These creeks have their headwaters in the hills on the east side of the City and run through Arcata into Arcata Bay. The condition of the creeks is dependent on the activities conducted within the City. Runoff in the Arcata area results from seasonal rainfall. Consequently, stream flows are typically high in the winter and many of Arcata's small streams have very little or no flow in late summer.

Only a small section of the Mad River is adjacent to the City of Arcata. However, the Mad River is an important part of the City's water resources. The river provides Arcata's primary water supply. Ruth Lake, in Trinity County approximately 70 miles upstream from Arcata, stores Mad River water to provide water to Arcata during the summer and fall.

Tidal Waters

Arcata's tidal waters include areas of Arcata Bay and sloughs connected to the bay. Waterfront marshlands, mud flats, and open waters within the city limits are owned by the state, but management of the land has been granted to the City as a trustee. The City uses the land for municipal facilities (including a wastewater treatment plant, corporation yard, and Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary), natural resource protection, and aquaculture.

Wetlands

Wetlands are an important hydrological and biological resource. Arcata's wetlands include managed constructed wetlands, abandoned log ponds, tidal marshes, diked former tidelands, agricultural wetlands, riparian wetlands, springs, seeps and bogs, and other small wetlands.

Groundwater

Important groundwater resources in Arcata include several aquifers under the Mad River delta that is now the Arcata Bottom. In 1994, the City investigated the use of groundwater as a backup source of water. The investigation indicated that shallow aquifers in the low areas west and north of downtown Arcata supply numerous wells that are generally less than 100 feet deep. A proposed confined (isolated from the surface by an impermeable layer) aquifer site in north Arcata, which could be used as a City water source, was found at depths of 150 to 250 feet.

Flooding

Arcata is subject to relatively frequent and extensive high flows in several small creeks in the area. Drainage problems vary among creeks. The worst flooding occurs in Janes Creek as it has been extensively straightened, is confined to culverts in some areas, has much sediment accumulation, and its outflow to the bay is restricted by tide gates. The City's ability to relieve these problems has been limited because little land is available for sediment traps or other improvements. Most of Arcata is not subject to extensive major floods because high creek flows drain directly into Arcata Bay, which does not rise and hinder creek runoff during heavy rainfall. However, high tides can inundate the bayfront and other low-lying areas.

Water Supply

The municipal water system uses about 2.5 million gallons per day, serving about 7,340 water meters. This supply is purchased from the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) and distributed by the City. The water is obtained from the Mad River between Blue Lake and Arcata. The City fluoridates the water and boosts the chlorine concentration (previously chlorinated by HBMWD) to prevent bacteria contamination in distribution pipes. An emergency backup water supply is being developed using groundwater wells in northern Arcata.

Tsunamis

Tsunamis are another natural hazard with the potential to impact Arcata. A tsunami is a series of sea waves most commonly caused by offshore earthquakes. In the open ocean, tsunami waves travel at speeds of up to 600 miles per hour. As the waves enter shallow water, they may rise to several feet or, in rare cases tens of feet, and can cause great loss of life and property damage where they come ashore. The first wave is often not the largest; successive waves may be spaced far apart and continue arriving for a number of hours.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) and f) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City associated with water quality and discharge standards was addressed in the Final PEIR. Future residential developments would be subject to Arcata General Plan policies intended to reduce impacts associated with hydrology and water quality (Policies RC-2, RC-3, RC-4, and RC-7 of the General Plan Resource Conservation and Management Element). In addition, all new development projects in the City are subject to the requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Permit and enforced by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The permit requires that the City impose water quality and watershed protection measures for all development projects and prohibits discharges from causing violations of applicable water quality standards or from resulting in conditions that create a nuisance or water quality impairment in receiving waters. The City's Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (Chapter 9.64 of the City's Land Use Code) establishes administrative procedures, standards for review, and implementation and enforcement procedures for controlling grading, erosion, sedimentation, other pollutant runoff, and the disruption of existing drainage and related environmental damage. The ordinance requires that prior to grading activities, a detailed set of plans be developed that include measures to minimize erosion, sediment, and dust created by improvement activities. Compliance with the provisions of the NPDES and the City's Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Control Ordinance would reduce the impacts of future residential development.

The proposed Housing Element does not include any specific design or development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Therefore, identification and analysis of water quality impacts associated with the proposed Housing Element would be speculative at this time. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, water quality and waste discharge impacts would be less than significant.

b) No Impact. The impacts to the water system, including groundwater, are addressed in the Arcata General Plan: 2020 and its Final Program PEIR, including mitigations to water supply impacts. In addition, future development projects will be subject to environmental review. The proposed Housing Element does not promote growth (e.g., population and housing units) in excess of population and housing needs accommodated in the City's General Plan and Land Use Code. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would have no impacts to groundwater quantity and public water supplies.

c-e) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City associated with drainage systems was addressed in the Final PEIR. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations. These regulations

include compliance with General Plan policies related to hydrology and water quality and Land Use Code requirements associated with creeks and other natural drainage courses/tributary standards. In addition, all new development projects in the City are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Stormwater Permit enforced by RWQCB. There are several regulations/procedures in place that implement the water quality measures, including the City's Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (Chapter 9.64 of the City's Land Use Code) and construction standards. Compliance with the provisions of the NPDES, best management practices, and the City's Grading, Erosion Control and Sediment Control Ordinance would reduce the impacts of future development.

Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not result in significant impacts to drainage or runoff as no development is proposed and future development envisioned by the Housing Element would be subject to the regulations discussed above.

g-h) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City located within the FEMA-designated 100-year flood zone was addressed in the Final PEIR. However, as discussed under **a-f)** above, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Future development projects would be subject to General Plan policies, which include provisions for protection of human safety and property damage within flood-prone areas as determined by FEMA (Public Safety Element Policy PS-4c). Any development in the floodplain must be consistent with City floodplain zoning regulations. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not place structures within a 100-year flood zone and impacts would be less than significant.

i) *No Impact.* Areas in the City that include levees or dams are wetlands areas including managed constructed wetlands, abandoned log ponds, tidal marshes, diked former tidelands, agricultural wetlands, riparian wetlands, springs, seeps and bogs, and other small wetlands. In California, the Department of Water Resources, Division of Dam Safety is responsible for ensuring that all dams meeting certain criteria must satisfy stringent design criteria covering all possible conditions that could affect the dam, including earthquakes and flood events, without considering probability factors. Therefore, dams are designed to withstand the largest and strongest earthquake that could conceivably affect them. Similarly, dams are required to withstand the largest possible flood that could occur, which is referred to as the maximum probable flood. Since the 2014 Housing Element would not otherwise affect the structural integrity of an existing dam's structure or substantially add to the risk of dam failure, no impact is expected to occur.

j) *Less Than Significant Impact.* The City of Arcata General Plan: 2020 Final PEIR discusses the potential subsequent impact from a tsunami, seiche, or mudflow. The Housing Element anticipates that residential development would occur on sites already planned and zoned for such uses. Furthermore, the proposed Housing Element would not change the development

potential. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. The City’s General Plan requires an emergency preparedness and response program that reduces potential exposure to tsunamis, seiches, and mudflows to a less than significant impact.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Arcata’s residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural/natural resource, and community facility uses are similar to those found in other communities. It is Arcata’s mixture of history, the diversity of uses within those land use categories, and the value placed on the history and diversity that make the City unique. While the plaza area is the commercial, cultural, social, and civic center of the community, there are several other distinct neighborhood activity centers that provide employment and services for local residents. These neighborhood centers are:

The Valley West Neighborhood Center, in the northern part of the City between State Routes 101 and 299. This area includes a shopping center, visitor-serving commercial areas along Valley West Boulevard, a mix of businesses along Giuntoli Lane, and nearby residential areas.

The Westwood/Sunset Neighborhood Center, in the western part of the City. It includes a shopping center and commercial businesses along Alliance Road, Sunset School, and surrounding residential areas.

The Sunny Brae Neighborhood Center, in the southwestern part of the City. This area includes Sunny Brae shopping center and adjacent professional offices, the Sunny Brae School, and surrounding residential areas.

The Bayside Neighborhood Center, in the southern part of the City. It includes several commercial businesses, the Jacoby Creek School, the Bayside Post Office and Grange, and surrounding low-density residential area.

The West End Employment Center, in the northeastern part of the City. This area has a mix of general and limited industrial uses, including the Aldergrove Industrial Park.

The Samoa Boulevard Employment Center, in the southern part of the City. This area includes general and limited industrial, general commercial businesses on both sides of Samoa Boulevard, vacant land west of "K" Street, and a proposed business park site south of Samoa Boulevard.

Areas considered for annexation are addressed in the Growth Management Element of the GP: 2020 under Policy GM-3. The effects of annexation were considered under the Final PEIR. The City's procedures for annexation are outlined in the General Plan and the Land Use Code (9.94.050).

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-b) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City in relation to land use conflicts or potential conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project was addressed in the Final PEIR. Future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to land use and Land Use Code requirements associated with zoning districts, allowable uses, and development standards. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Land Use Code. The Housing Element is consistent with the land uses envisioned in the General Plan and would not remove policies that currently protect environmental resources.

The Housing Element anticipates land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan Land Use Element and Land Use Plan Map and anticipates that provisions of the City's Land Use Code related to high-density, affordable, and special needs housing will continue to be implemented. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, land use impacts would be less than significant.

c) No Impact. As discussed in Section IV, Biological Resources, **f)**, there are a number of federal and state plans adopted in the vicinity of the City. All future residential development

occurring in the City would be considered pursuant to the requirements of the management and strategy plans in the area, as well as California Coastal Zone requirements. These future residential projects would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would have no impact on the above-mentioned management and strategic plans or Coastal Zone requirements.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES	Potential ly Significa nt Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporat ed	Less Than Significa nt Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The mineral resources in the planning area are primarily aggregate deposits found along the Mad River and in the Arcata Bottom. Areas along the Mad River, within and upstream of the City's Sphere of Influence, are currently used for aggregate resource extraction (gravel). The Arcata Bottom is not an aggregate reserve. No mineral of state importance has been identified in or near the planning area.

The Division of Mines and Geology has noted that the Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands per SMARA (Surface Mining and Reclamation Act) Section 2790 Minerals of Regional Significance and associated mapping have not occurred for Humboldt County and other than in-stream gravel resources and rock quarries, have not identified any mineral resources needing protection from incompatible land uses.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-b) No Impact. The impact of development in the City in relation to mineral resources was addressed in the Final PEIR. No significant mineral resources have been identified in the City of Arcata, nor does the City contain any mineral extraction activities. The City is not designated as containing any minerals of regional or local importance. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, no impact to mineral resources would occur.

XII. NOISE	Potential ly Significa nt Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporat ed	Less Than Significa nt Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

A community noise survey was conducted to document the noise exposure in residential areas, parks, and schools in the City as a part of the General Plan update process. This noise survey determined that typical noise levels in noise-sensitive areas of the City range from 46 dB to 63 dB L_{dn}. Traffic, local roadways, major roadways (including State Routes 101, 299, and 255), railroad operations, industrial activities, and neighborhood activities are the primary sources of background noise levels. Some residences have outdoor activity areas directly exposed to major

noise sources (such as the railroad tracks, major roadways, and industrial areas) that exceed generally acceptable noise exposure criteria.

As urbanization and development have intensified globally, regionally, and locally in Arcata, noise levels have also increased. Studies have shown that increased noise levels have a direct adverse impact on the quality of home, work, and recreational environments.

In recognition of these adverse impacts, the Arcata City Council passed a Plaza Area Noise Ordinance (City Ordinance #1249) prohibiting unnecessary, excessive, and annoying noise from all sources. The Noise Ordinance states that excessive noise levels, offensive noise, and unreasonably disturbing noise are detrimental to the public health, welfare, and safety and are contrary to the public interest. Detrimental noises interfere with sleep, communication, relaxation, and the full use of private property; use and enjoyment of the Arcata Plaza by the general public; noise-sensitive land uses, particularly residential apartments and lodging; and productive commerce. Detrimental noises contribute to hearing impairment and a range of adverse physiological stress conditions and adversely affect the value of real property.

It is the intent of the Noise Ordinance to protect the public health, comfort, convenience, safety, welfare, prosperity, peace, and quiet by reducing excessive noise levels and by prohibiting the generation of offensive, or unreasonably disturbing, noise.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-d) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City associated with noise levels was addressed in the Final PEIR. Housing is not considered a major source of noise in the City, but placing housing adjacent to major sources of noise could expose people to temporary or permanent noise levels in excess of standards established in the City General Plan. However, future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to noise and vibration standards. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Land Use Code. The proposed Housing Element encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, adverse impacts related to a temporary or permanent increase in noise levels would be less than significant.

E-f) No Impact. As discussed under **a-d)** above, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would expose people to excessive noise levels. The City is not located within an airport land use plan or in the vicinity of a private airstrip; therefore, there would be no impact as a result of noise impacts from aircraft.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING	Potential ly Significa nt Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporat ed	Less Than Significa nt Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The City of Arcata is located on the Northern California coast, in the west-central portion of Humboldt County, 6 miles north of the City of Eureka, the county seat. Arcata is located on U.S. Highway 101. Arcata is at the western terminus of State Highway 299, which connects Arcata to Redding to the east. The majority of the City's growth has been, and is planned to be, located within the present city boundary and concentrated around the downtown area, existing neighborhood commercial centers, and Humboldt State University. Growth is directed to these areas because they have existing urban services and infrastructure. There are currently about 8,200 students enrolled at Humboldt State University, with maximum enrollment limited to 8,500 (full-time equivalent) students (HSU 2014). This potential enrollment increase will also impact the size and characteristics of the City.

In 2010, the population in Arcata was 17,231, as determined by the U.S. Census. Estimates of the population growth between 2000 and 2008 indicate that the City's population has increased by 5.6 percent, or about 0.7 percent annually. According to the Department of Finance (DOF), the estimated population in 2008 was 17,588, an increase of 937 persons since 2000. Looking at long-term trends in the population growth in the City, the DOF population estimates project an increase of 971 persons between 2000 and 2020. In order to prepare for the demands of an increased population, the City's General Plan includes an assumption of low population growth, to about 20,000 persons, by the year 2020.

The City currently has enough suitable land to accommodate planned growth. The City's policies focus on infill development, but the process for annexation is outlined in the growth

management sections of the General Plan: 2020 and the Land Use Code. The effects of annexation were considered under the Final PEIR.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City associated with population growth was addressed in the Final PEIR. The proposed Housing Element contains housing goals intended to encourage housing to meet the City's affordable housing needs and would therefore accommodate growth rather than induce it. The Housing Element anticipates land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan Land Use Element and Land Use Plan Map and anticipates that provisions of the City's Land Use Code related to high-density, affordable, and special needs housing will continue to be implemented. Future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to population growth in the City. The Housing Element does not involve the construction or expansion of any residential land uses. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, growth-inducing impacts would be less than significant.

b-c) *No Impact.* The proposed Housing Element encourages the provision and preservation of a range of housing types and affordability levels to meet the City's housing needs. Implementation of the Housing Element would not displace or decrease housing units in the City. Therefore, no impact would occur.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The Arcata City Police Department (APD), Humboldt State University Police (UPD), and California Highway Patrol (CHP) provide the City's law enforcement. The APD's primary jurisdiction is within the city limits while the UPD is on university grounds. The CHP holds primary responsibility for law enforcement on state and federal highways. The CHP also assists the APD with technical traffic assistance and officer backup.

Arcata's fire protection is provided by the Arcata Fire Department, made up of 20 career employees and a fluctuating number (approximately 40) of volunteer firefighters. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating for the Fire District is a class 4 for areas with hydrants and class 8 for areas without hydrants.

Arcata has four different school districts: Arcata Elementary School District, Jacoby Creek School District, Northern Humboldt Union High School District, and Pacific Union School District. These districts combine for seven schools including two high schools. There are also several private preschools and kindergarten schools, six private elementary and middle schools, and one private high school.

Park and recreation services in the City are discussed under the Recreation section below.

The zoning change does not affect the need for governmental services.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-e) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City associated with increased demand for public services was addressed in the Final PEIR. The proposed Housing Element includes policies and programs designed to facilitate the construction and conservation of housing to meet the City's affordable housing needs. Subsequent residential development projects could result in an increase in demand for public services. However, the Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Additionally, future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to the provision of public services. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, impacts associated with an increased demand for public services would be less than significant.

XV. RECREATION				
Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

The City of Arcata Parks Division maintains a network of parks and open spaces that include:

Arcata Rotary Park	Ennes Park	Redwood Park
Bloomfield Park	Greenview Park	Stewart Park
Cahill Park	Larson Park	Sunny Brae Park
Chevret-Vassaide Park	Mountain View Park	Valley West Park
City Plaza	Pacific Union Park	Vinum Park
Bayside Park	Westwood Manor Park	

These parks are distributed throughout the City. The Environmental Services Department manages several open space areas including Aldergrove Marsh, Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, and Shay Park.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-b) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City which would increase the use of recreational facilities was addressed in the Final PEIR. Future residential development consistent with the 2014 Housing Element could increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities and require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. However, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would result in an increase demand for park and recreational facilities. The zoning change does not affect the density levels proposed in the Housing Element. Since there are no specific proposed residential developments, the demand and requirements for specific parkland acreages, park facilities, financing, and timing associated with the proposed Housing Element cannot be established at this time.

The Housing Element does not involve the construction or expansion of any residential land uses. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, impacts to park and recreation facilities and services would be less than significant.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Arcata's pattern of streets and highways is similar to many small and rural communities. The central business district has a traditional grid pattern of streets, with a one-way couplet system comprising the primary arterial. A non-grid series of arterial and collector streets surrounds the central business district and serves outlying residential subdivisions, neighborhood shopping centers, Humboldt State University, and industrial areas. On the outer edges of Arcata, the

transportation system comprises rural roads and highways serving isolated farms and residences. U.S. Highway 101 bisects Arcata.

Arcata's bicycle transportation system consists of Class II bike lanes and Class III bike routes on public streets. Class II bike lanes are on-street facilities delineated from motor vehicle travel lanes by pavement striping and markings. Class III bike routes are specially designed corridors in which the travel lanes are shared by motor vehicles and bicycles. Arcata presently provides a comprehensive bike lane system connecting most major areas of the City on primary arterial streets.

Arcata has a railroad mainline managed by the North Coast Railroad Authority, with spurs serving industrial properties. Although most rail service was suspended following damage to tracks caused by storms in 1997, the mainline and many spurs in Arcata were active prior to that time. Currently, the mainline and spurs are inactive, but maintain the capability of serving passenger travel and several industrial uses.

There are no airports within the existing city limits; however, the Arcata-Eureka Airport is located approximately 7 miles north of the City in McKinleyville.

The Arcata & Mad River Transit System (A&MRTS) and Humboldt Transit Authority are the two transit systems providing service in the City of Arcata. Transit services are offered along major streets in the City and to major inter-route transfer points including the Arcata Transit Center and Humboldt State University. The Humboldt Transit Authority provides regional public transportation through the Redwood Transit System (RTS). This fixed-route system serves cities along the Highway 101 corridor from Trinidad to Scotia. The RTS has four stops in Arcata including Humboldt State University and the Arcata Transit Center. The City of Arcata contributes to the funding for RTS. The Arcata Transit Center, located on "F" Street between 9th and 10th streets, provides a centralized transit facility for buses operated by A&MRTS, RTS, Greyhound, and Amtrak. The Transit Center provides a park-and-ride lot and secure bicycle facilities.

Discussion/Conclusion:

a-b) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City associated with increased traffic affecting the street and highway system levels of service was addressed in the Final PEIR. The proposed Housing Element includes policies and programs designed to facilitate the construction and conservation of housing to meet the City's affordable housing needs. Subsequent residential development projects could result in an increase in traffic on City roadways and a decrease in level of service (LOS) on those roadways. However, the Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development

proposal. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, impacts associated with an increased demand for public services would be less than significant.

c) No Impact. There are no public or private airports or airstrips located in the City. Therefore, no impact would occur relative to an increase in air traffic.

d-f) Less than Significant Impact. As discussed under **a-b)** above, the proposed Housing Element and the proposed zoning amendment do not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would affect the site design, emergency access, or parking of any developments. Future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to traffic and circulation. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

g) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City associated with alternative transportation was addressed in the Final PEIR. As discussed under **a-b)** above, the proposed Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Future residential development would be required to comply with General Plan policies related to alternative transportation. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances supporting alternative transportation.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS				
Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting:

Utilities located in the City include water and sewer services provided by the City, electricity and natural gas provided by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and the City, and telephone services provided by AT&T. Solid waste services are provided by Humboldt Waste Management Authority. Solid waste collected in the City is transported to a transfer station and then to a landfill facility. Storm drainage facilities in Arcata are maintained by the City. Arcata's wastewater is treated by the City's wastewater treatment plant and marsh. The City regulates wastewater disposal, including industrial pretreatment standards. The municipal water supply is purchased from the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) and distributed by the City.

a-b); d-e) Less than Significant Impact. The impact of development in the City on water and wastewater services was addressed in the Final PEIR. Future residential development in the

City would require adequate municipal wastewater service and adequate domestic municipal water service, including adequate water supplies and wastewater treatment capacity. Increased demand for wastewater and water service can also result in exceedance of wastewater treatment requirements and the need for new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Future residential development projects will require compliance with General Plan policies related to public services and facilities, and future development proposals would be reviewed by the appropriate service agencies as part of the development application review process in order to ensure that sufficient capacity in all public services and facilities would be available on time to maintain desired service levels.

The proposed Housing Element includes policies designed to facilitate the construction and conservation of housing to meet the City's affordable housing needs. However, the Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, impacts associated with a significant increase in demand for wastewater and water services would be less than significant.

c) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City on stormwater drainage facilities was addressed in the Final PEIR. The future development of housing consistent with the 2014 Housing Element could increase runoff and alter normal drainage patterns on project sites. As discussed under **a-b); d-e)** above, the Housing Element does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Any future residential development in the City would be subject to further CEQA review. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, impacts associated with the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities is considered less than significant.

f-g) *Less than Significant Impact.* The impact of development in the City on solid waste services was addressed in the Final PEIR. As discussed under **a-b); d-e)** above, the proposed Housing Element includes policies and programs designed to facilitate the construction and conservation of housing to meet the City's affordable housing needs but does not include any specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development. Any future residential development would increase the demand for solid waste services in the area and would increase the amount of solid waste generated and sent to local landfills. Solid waste collection and disposal for single-family and multi-family residential units would be contracted for recycling, collection, and processing, in order to help meet and exceed the state diversion goal. The landfill serving the City has permitted capacity to serve future development consistent with the General Plan. Assembly Bill 939 and the City Integrated Waste Management Plan, which require recycling programs that result in a 50 percent diversion away from landfills, would apply to new development. The 2014 Housing Element will not result in impacts beyond those analyzed in the PEIR. Therefore, solid waste impacts would be less than significant.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

NOTE: If there are significant environmental impacts which cannot be mitigated and no feasible project alternatives are available, then complete the mandatory findings of significance and attach to this initial study as an appendix. This is the first step for starting the environmental impact report (PEIR) process.

Does the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion/Conclusion:

a) - c) Less than Significant Impact. The Housing Element is a policy-level document. While the Housing Element encourages the provision of a range of housing types and affordability levels, it does not include specific development proposals, nor does it grant any entitlements for development that would have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment or to

adversely affect human beings. The Housing Element anticipates land uses that are consistent with the land use designations established by the General Plan Land Use Element and Land Use Plan Map and anticipates that provisions of the City's Land Use Code related to high-density, affordable, and special needs housing will continue to be implemented. The Housing Element does not involve the construction or expansion of any residential land uses. All future residential development occurring in the City would be required to be in accordance with local regulations, including the General Plan and Land Use Code. Environmental impacts of subsequent development projects would also be considered pursuant to CEQA on a case-by-case basis following submittal of a specific development proposal. Future residential development projects would require compliance with General Plan policies and other City codes and ordinances intended to protect the environment. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element would result in less than significant adverse impacts to the environment or to human beings as a result of environmental degradation.

REFERENCES

- California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2009. *Air Quality Data Statistics*.
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/adam/welcome.html> (accessed February 25, 2014).
- California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2009. *Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program*.
http://redirect.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/product_page.asp (accessed February 25, 2014).
- California Department of Finance (DOF). 2009. *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2009, with 2000 Benchmark*.
<http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/ReportsPapers/ReportsPapers.php> (accessed February 25, 2014).
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal-Fire). 2006. *Humboldt County Natural Hazard Disclosure (Fire)*. <http://www.fire.ca.gov/ab6/nhd12.pdf> (accessed February 25, 2014).
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2009. Envirostor.
<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/> (accessed February 25, 2014).
- City of Arcata. 2000. *Arcata General Plan 2020: Final Program Environmental Impact Report*. City of Arcata, CA.
- City of Arcata. 2006. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. August 2006.
http://www.cityofarcata.org/sites/default/files/files/document_center/Environmental%20Services/Energy/Greenhouse%20Gas%20Reduction%20Plan.pdf
- City of Arcata. 2006. *Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Arcata Baylands Enhancement/Restoration Project*. May 5, 2006.
http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/sccbb/0606bb/0606Board05_Arcata_Baylands_Ex7.pdf (accessed February 25, 2014).
- City of Arcata. 2008. Initial Study and Checklist for the General Plan and Zoning Amendments and Land Use Code. City of Arcata, CA.
- Humboldt County Department of Agriculture. 2006. *2006 Humboldt County's Crop and Livestock Report*. https://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/ag/pdf/2006_CropReport.pdf (accessed February 25, 2014).
- Humboldt County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC). 1993. *Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, Humboldt County Airports*.
<https://co.humboldt.ca.us/board/agenda/questys/MG161681/AS161718/AS161719/AI161842/DO161844/BOSAgendaItem.pdf> (accessed February 25, 2014).

Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCOAG). 2008. *2008 Regional Transportation Plan, Aviation Systems Element*.

<http://hcaog.net/sites/default/files/Complete%202008%20Humboldt%20RTP.pdf>

(accessed February 26, 2014).

Humboldt County Community Development Services. 2007. *Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan*. http://hazardmitigation.calema.ca.gov/docs/lhmp/Humboldt_County.pdf

(accessed February 25, 2014).

Humboldt State University (HSU). 2014. Email response to inquiry regarding demographics.

North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District. 1995. *Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) Attainment Plan*. Available online at:

<http://www.ncuaqmd.org/files/NCUAQMD%20Attainment%20Plan%205-95.pdf>

(accessed February 25, 2014).

North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District. Air Quality Planning And CEQA.

<http://www.ncuaqmd.org/index.php?page=aqplanning.ceqa>

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2009. Geotracker. Available online at:

<https://geotracker.swrcb.ca.gov/> (accessed February 25, 2014).