
SECTION 7: EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

7.1 - Introduction

This section is based on the most recent NOP issued for the project (dated December 26, 2007), as contained in Appendix A, and the analyses in Sections 4.1 through 4.10 in this DEIR. In the course of this evaluation, certain impacts were found to be less than significant because the nature of the Proposed Project could not create such impacts. This section provides a brief description of effects found not to be significant or less than significant based on the more detailed analysis conducted as part of the DEIR preparation process. Note that a number of impacts that are found to be less than significant are addressed in the various DEIR topical sections (Sections 4.1 through 4.10), to provide more comprehensive discussion of why impacts are less than significant in order to better inform decision makers and the public. The following effects were determined to be less than significant based on the applicable *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* using the applicable thresholds for significant impacts.

7.2 - Effects Found Not To Be Significant

7.2.1 - Agriculture Resources

Loss of Important Farmland

The park site is not mapped or designated as Important Farmland, nor does it contain any active farmland or agricultural operations. Therefore, the site would not cause the loss of any Important Farmland or convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use. No impacts would occur.

Conflicts With Williamson Act Contracts or Agricultural Zoning

The park site does not contain agricultural uses and, therefore, is not eligible for a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, no conflicts with a Williamson Act contract would occur. The property is zoned for a residential specific plan, and the surrounding land is designated for public facilities (either open space or flood control), so there are no conflicts with agricultural zoning. No impacts would occur.

Conversion of Neighboring Farmland to Non-Agricultural Use

No farmland is present on the project site. This precludes the possibility of the proposed project contributing to the conversion of neighboring farmland to non-agricultural use. No impacts would occur.

7.2.2 - Mineral Resources

Loss of Important Mineral Resources

No mineral extraction activities occur on the project site, nor are any known significant mineral deposits present on the project site, either at a regional or local level. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

7.2.3 - Land Use

Physically Divide an Existing Neighborhood

The park currently acts as a focal point or activity center for the surrounding neighborhoods. The proposed improvements would incrementally increase use of the park, which will provide more cohesion for the surrounding community. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Conflict with Applicable Land Use Regulations

The park site is zoned for open space and the proposed improvements would enhance use of the park. The uses fronting on the perimeter streets around the park are zoned for commercial uses, while residential uses are zoned further to the north, west, and south. Additional commercial uses are located further to the east toward the downtown area. The park would continue to provide a focal point for this mixed-use neighborhood. No impacts would occur.

Conflict with Habitat Conservation Plans

The project site is not located within the boundaries of any adopted HCP or NCCP. This condition precludes the possibility of adverse impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

7.2.4 - Population and Housing

Displacement of Housing

There is no occupied housing on the project site (i.e., one abandoned house structure); therefore, no housing would be displaced, and no replacement housing would need to be constructed elsewhere. No impacts would occur.

Displacement of People

No people reside on the project site; therefore, no people would be displaced, and no replacement housing would need to be constructed elsewhere. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

7.2.5 - Urban Decay

Physical Deterioration of Existing Commercial Uses

The Proposed Project will not introduce any new commercial or other uses that would cause or contribute to decay of existing commercial uses in the downtown area or adjacent to the project site. In fact, increased use of the park would incrementally increase patronage of existing commercial uses on surrounding streets. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

7.2.6 - Utilities

Degrade Utility Systems

The Proposed Project would connect to the existing City utility systems with approximately the same level of consumption (e.g., water, electricity, natural gas) or generation (wastewater, solid waste) as existing uses on the park site. The only increase in utility services will be an incremental increase in the use of electricity for the lighting on the soccer field. It is estimated the new lighting fixtures will

consume an additional 55,500 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year based on estimates from City Park staff (300 kW/day x 185 days). This additional usage is an incremental increase and does not represent a significant increase in electrical use or related air quality (area-wide or regional) impacts.

7.2.7 - Public Services

Degrade Service Levels or Facilities

Since the Proposed Project is a park project, there would be no potential for impacts on schools, library, or other community services. Potential impacts to police, fire, and recreational services are addressed in Section 4.9, Public Services.

7.2.8 - Cultural Resources

Destroy Archaeological or Paleontological Resources

MacArthur Park began when the City filled in swampland with topsoil to create Westlake Park was created in the late 1880s. The planned improvements to the park will only disturb the uppermost layers of soil. The deepest planned disturbance would be augered holes for the lighting standards for the renovated soccer field, which could go down approximately 10 feet. The remaining improvements would be internal to the Signal Building, Boathouse Building, or minor foundation and landscaping work that would disturb only the top 3 feet of soil onsite. With this limited amount and depth of disturbance, there is no potential for disturbing archaeological or paleontological resources.

7.2.9- Traffic and Circulation

Change Air Traffic Patterns

MacArthur Park is not within two miles of any public airport or private airstrip, and is not within the safety zones of any airport land use plan. Therefore, there would be no impacts in this regard.