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February 14, 2024

Via E-mail

City of San Jose Planning Commission Attn: Justin Lardinois, Chair Sylvia Ornelas-Wise, Vice Chair First Floor, City Hall Wing 200 East Santa Clara Street San José, CA 95113 planningsupportstaff@sanjoseca.gov

Toni Taber, City Clerk Office of the City Clerk 200 E. Santa Clara St. Tower 14th Floor San José, CA 95113 city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov Reema Mahamood, Environmental Project Manager City of San Jose Planning Department 200 E. Santa Clara St. Tower, 3rd Floor San José, CA 95113 reema.mahamood@sanjoseca.gov

Re: Comment on the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) prepared for 439 South Fourth Street Project (File No. H17-004 & ER20-262), February 14, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting Agenda Item 5.b.

Dear Chair Lardinois, Vice Chair Ornelas-Wise, Honorable City of San Jose Planning Commissioners, Clerk Taber, and Ms. Mahamood:

I am writing on behalf of the Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 270 and its members living in the City of San Jose ("LIUNA"), regarding the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report ("SEIR") prepared for the 439 South Fourth Street Project (File No. H17-004 & ER20-262), including all actions related or referring to the construction of a 25-story residential building with 210 residential units totaling 448,474 square feet and a five-level parking garage with one level underground and four levels above ground with a 20% parking reduction and an alternative parking arrangement, located at 439 South Fourth Street, in the City of San Jose ("Project").

After reviewing the SEIR, LIUNA is concerned that the SEIR fails to adequately analyze significant environmental impacts, and fails to mitigate significant impacts that will occur as a result of the Project. LIUNA requests that the Planning Commission refrain from recommending that the City of San Jose City Council adopt resolutions certifying the SEIR and approving the Site Development Permit for the Project at this time, and instead, request staff to reconsider the analyses and require additional mitigation measures in order to address the Project's significant air quality, greenhouse gas, energy, and noise impacts.

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This comment has been prepared with the assistance of indoor air quality expert Francis Offermann (Exhibit A), environmental consulting firm Soil/Water/Air Protection Enterprise ("SWAPE") (Exhibit B), and noise consulting firm Wilson Ihrig (Exhibit C). We incorporate the Offermann, SWAPE, and Wilson Ihrig comments herein by reference.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project consists of a Site Development Permit to allow the applicant to demolish the existing buildings and hardscape on the project site and to construct a 25-story, 448,474 square-foot multi-family residential building and a five-level parking garage with one level underground and four levels above ground. The project would provide up to 210 residential units. The proposed building would have a maximum height of 274 feet, and a floor area ratio (FAR) of approximately 18.7. The Project will also consist of the demolition of an existing single-family residence and 30-unit multifamily apartment building totaling approximately 21,792 square feet and the removal of 10 trees for the construction of a 25-story, 210-unit multifamily residential building with a 20% parking reduction and an alternative parking arrangement on an approximately 0.52-gross-acre site.

The project site is located at 439 South 4th Street, on the west side of South 4th Street approximately 170 feet south of East San Salvador Street. The site is bordered by multifamily residential uses on all sides. To facilitate the construction of the project, a Lot Line Adjustment is required to be approved to merge the two existing parcels into one parcel. The recordation of a Lot Line Adjustment is included as a condition of approval in the draft Site Development Permit Resolution.

The City of San José, as the lead agency for the project, prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report ("DSEIR") to the Downtown Strategy 2040 Environmental Impact Report (Resolution No. 78942). According to the DSEIR:

This Draft SEIR tiers from the Downtown Strategy 2040 FEIR because the project was included in the overall development that was analyzed for that document at a program level. An SEIR is required for this project because project-specific information was not available at the time the Downtown Strategy 2040 FEIR was prepared. An Initial Study prepared for the proposed project ... identified significant impacts to air quality, cultural resources, and noise and vibration. The other resources sections, including biological resources and land use and planning were included in the Draft SEIR because the project has the potential to result in impacts to these resource areas. Thus, this Draft SEIR to the Downtown Strategy 2040 FEIR has been prepared to address these potential new significant impacts. The SEIR process is outlined below.

(DSEIR, p. 1).

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More specifically, the Draft SEIR identified potential environmental impacts related to construction air quality, migratory nesting birds, and vibration from construction activities on fragile historic buildings. However, the DSEIR found that "with implementation of the mitigation measures specified in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) and prepared for the project, these impacts are reduced to less than significant levels. As part of the certification of the Final SEIR, the City Council will need to approve the associated MMRP for the project." (Staff Report (Feb. 14, 2024), p. 16.) Additionally, "[t]he Draft SEIR also found that the project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact from construction noise which would exceed the exterior threshold of 80 dBA at adjacent residential land uses. The mitigation measures to be adopted for the proposed project would not reduce this impact to below the significance threshold." (*Id.*)

LEGAL STANDARD

CEQA requires that an agency analyze the potential environmental impacts of its proposed actions in an environmental impact report ("EIR") (except in certain limited circumstances). (See, e.g., Pub. Res. Code ("PRC") § 21100.) "The 'foremost principle' in interpreting CEQA is that the Legislature intended the act to be read so as to afford the fullest possible protection to the environment within the reasonable scope of the statutory language." (Comms. for a Better Env't v. Calif. Resources Agency (2002) 103 Cal.App.4th 98, 109.)

CEQA has two primary purposes. First, CEQA is designed to inform decision makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of a project. (14 Cal. Code Regs. ("CEQA Guidelines") § 15002(a)(1).) "Its purpose is to inform the public and its responsible officials of the environmental consequences of their decisions before they are made. Thus, the EIR 'protects not only the environment but also informed self-government."" (Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors (1990) 52 Cal.3d 553, 564.) The EIR has been described as "an environmental 'alarm bell' whose purpose it is to alert the public and its responsible officials to environmental changes before they have reached ecological points of no return." (Berkeley Keep Jets Over the Bay v. Bd. of Port Comm'rs. (2001) 91 Cal.App.4th 1344, 1354 ("Berkeley Jets"); County of Inyo v. Yorty (1973) 32 Cal.App.3d 795, 810.)

Second, CEQA requires public agencies to avoid or reduce environmental damage when "feasible" by requiring "environmentally superior" alternatives and all feasible mitigation measures. (CEQA Guidelines § 15002(a)(2) & (3); see also Berkeley Jets, 91 Cal.App.4th at 1354; Citizens of Goleta Valley, 52 Cal.3d at 564.) The EIR serves to provide agencies and the public with information about the environmental impacts of a proposed project and to "identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced." (CEQA Guidelines § 15002(a)(2).) If the project will have a significant effect on the environment, the agency may approve the project only if it finds that it has "eliminated or substantially lessened all significant effects on the environment where feasible" and that any unavoidable significant effects on the environment are "acceptable due to overriding concerns." (PRC § 21081; CEQA Guidelines § 15092(b)(2)(A) & (B).)

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The EIR is the very heart of CEQA. (*Dunn-Edwards v. BAAQMD* (1992) 9 Cal.App.4th 644, 652.) CEQA requires that a lead agency analyze all potentially significant environmental impacts of its proposed actions in an EIR. (PRC § 21100(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines § 15126(a); *Berkeley Jets*, 91 Cal.App.4th 1344, 1354.) The EIR must not only identify the impacts, but must also provide "information about how adverse the impacts will be." (*Santiago County Water Dist. v. County of Orange* (1981) 118 Cal.App.3d 818, 831.) The lead agency may deem a particular impact to be insignificant only if it produces rigorous analysis and concrete substantial evidence justifying the finding. (*Kings County Farm Bureau v. City of Hanford* (1990) 221 Cal.App.3d 692.) "The 'foremost principle' in interpreting CEQA is that the Legislature intended the act to be read so as to afford the fullest possible protection to the environment within the reasonable scope of the statutory language." (*Communities for a Better Env't*, 103 Cal.App.4th at 109.)

While the courts review an EIR using an "abuse of discretion" standard, "the reviewing court is not to 'uncritically rely on every study or analysis presented by a project proponent in support of its position. A 'clearly inadequate or unsupported study is entitled to no judicial deference." (Berkeley Jets, 91 Cal.App.4th at 1355 (quoting, Laurel Heights Improvement Assn. v. Regents of Univ. of Cal. (1988) 47 Cal.3d 376, 391 409, fn. 12).) A prejudicial abuse of discretion occurs "if the failure to include relevant information precludes informed decisionmaking and informed public participation, thereby thwarting the statutory goals of the EIR process." (San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center v. County of Stanislaus (1994) 27 Cal. App. 4th 713, 722; Galante Vineyards v. Monterey Peninsula Water Management Dist. (1997) 60 Cal.App.4th 1109, 1117; County of Amador v. El Dorado County Water Agency (1999) 76 Cal. App. 4th 931, 946.) As discussed below and in the attached expert comment letters, the EIR for this Project fails to adequately analyze and mitigate the Project's impacts. Here, the SEIR tiers from the Downtown Strategy 2040 FEIR because the Project was included in the overall development that was analyzed for that document at a program level. Because projectspecific information was not available at the time the Downtown Strategy 2040 FEIR was prepared, the City prepared an SEIR for the Project. However, we found that the SEIR prepared by the City here is inadequate for several reasons set forth below.

DISCUSSION

- I. THE FINAL SEIR FAILS TO ADEQUATELY DISCLOSE, ANALYZE, AND MITIGATE ALL OF THE PROJECT'S POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS.
 - A. The SEIR Fails to Adequately Disclose, Analyze, and Mitigate the Project's Potentially Significant Indoor Air Quality Impacts.

Certified Industrial Hygienist, Francis Offermann, PE, CIH, has conducted a review of the proposed Project and relevant documents regarding the Project's indoor air emissions. Indoor Environmental Engineering Comments (February 13, 2024). Mr. Offermann concludes that it is likely that the Project will expose residents of the Project to significant impacts related to indoor air quality, and in particular, emissions of the cancer-causing chemical formaldehyde. Mr. Offermann is a leading expert on indoor air quality and has published extensively on the topic.

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Mr. Offermann's expert comments and curriculum vitae are attached as Exhibit A.

Mr. Offermann explains that many composite wood products used in building materials and furnishings commonly found in offices, warehouses, residences, and hotels contain formaldehyde-based glues which off-gas formaldehyde over a very long time period. He states, "[t]he primary source of formaldehyde indoors is composite wood products manufactured with urea-formaldehyde resins, such as plywood, medium density fiberboard, and particleboard. These materials are commonly used in building construction for flooring, cabinetry, baseboards, window shades, interior doors, and window and door trims." (Ex. A, p. 2-3.)

Formaldehyde is a known human carcinogen. Mr. Offermann states that future residents of the Project would be exposed to a 120 in one million cancer risk, *even assuming* all materials are compliant with the California Air Resources Board's formaldehyde airborne toxics control measure. (Ex. A, pp. 3-5.) This potential exposure level exceeds the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's ("BAAQMD") CEQA significance threshold for airborne cancer risk of 10 per million.

Mr. Offermann also notes that the high cancer risk that may be posed by the Project's indoor air emissions likely will be exacerbated by the additional cancer risk that exists as a result of the Project's location near roadways with moderate to high traffic (i.e., South 3rd Street, South 4th Street, South 5th Street, I-280, East San Salvador Street, South Market Street, etc.). (Ex. A, pp. 10-11.) Yet no analysis has been conducted of the significant cumulative health impacts that will result to residents living or working at the Project. Mr. Offermann provides several feasible mitigation measures to lessen the Project's significant impacts to air quality and human health due to indoor emissions formaldehyde; none of which have been included in the SEIR or implemented by the City for purposes of this Project. (*See id.*, pp. 11-13.)

For example, Mr. Offermann identifies mitigation measures that are available to reduce these significant health risks, including the installation of air filters and a requirement that the applicant use only composite wood materials (e.g. hardwood plywood, medium density fiberboard, particleboard) for all interior finish systems that are made with CARB approved no-added formaldehyde (NAF) resins or ultra-low emitting formaldehyde (ULEF) resins in the buildings' interiors. (Ex. A, pp. 11-13). These significant environmental impacts should be analyzed in a revised draft SEIR and mitigation measures should be imposed to reduce the risk of formaldehyde exposure.

B. The SEIR Fails to Properly Analyze the Project's Potentially Significant Air Quality Impacts.

Matt Hagemann, P.G., C.Hg., and Dr. Paul E. Rosenfeld, Ph.D., of the environmental consulting firm SWAPE reviewed the SEIR's analysis of the Project's impacts on air quality and greenhouse gases. SWAPE's comment letter and curricula vitae are attached as Exhibit B and their comments are briefly summarized here.

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1. The SEIR's air quality analysis is not based on substantial evidence because it fails to use substantiated input parameters to estimate project emissions.

SWAPE found that the SEIR incorrectly estimated the Project's constructional emissions and therefore cannot be relied upon to determine the significance of the Project's impacts on local and regional air quality. The SEIR relies on emissions calculated from the California Emissions Estimator Version CalEEMod 2020.4.0 ("CalEEMod"). (DSEIR, p. 26). This model, which is used to generate a project's construction and operational emissions, relies on recommended default values based on site specific information related to a number of factors. (Ex. B, pp. 1-2.) CEQA requires any changes to the default values to be justified by substantial evidence. (*Id.*).

SWAPE reviewed the SEIR's CalEEMod output files and found that several of the values input into the model were inconsistent with information provided in the EIR. (Ex. B, p. 2). Specifically, SWAPE found that the following values used in the DSEIR's air quality analysis were either inconsistent with information provided in the SEIR or otherwise unjustified:

- 1. Unsubstantiated Reduction to CO2 Intensity Factor. (Ex. B, pp. 2-3.)
- 2. Unsubstantiated Changes to Construction Equipment Fuel Types. (Ex. B, pp. 3-4.)
- 3. Unsubstantiated Changes to Wastewater System Treatment Percentages. (Ex. B, pp. 4-5.)
- 4. Underestimated Operational Sunday Daily Trips. (Ex. B, pp. 5-6.)

Based on the issues listed above, the SEIR's analysis of air quality cannot be relied upon to determine the significance of impacts and a revised draft SEIR must be prepared.

C. The SEIR Fails to Adequately Disclose, Analyze, and Mitigate the Project's Potentially Significant Greenhouse Gas Impacts.

The SEIR fails to analyze the Project's potential greenhouse gas ("GHG") impacts. As SWAPE notes:

According to the GHG Reduction Strategy Compliance Checklist, provided as Appendix G to the DSEIR, the Project would be consistent with the City's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy ("GHGRS"). However, the DSEIR fails to discuss the Project's [GHG] emissions whatsoever. As such, we are unable to verify that the Project would not have a significant GHG impact. An updated EIR should be prepared to include a GHG analysis which adequately evaluates the Project's emissions. Until such an analysis is prepared, the Project should not be approved. (Ex. B, p. 6.)

Additionally, in an effort to reduce the Project's emissions, SWAPE recommends:

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[A]s it is policy of the State that eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 100% of retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2045, we emphasize the applicability of incorporating the maximum amount solar energy into the Project design. Until the feasibility of incorporating on-site renewable energy production is considered, the Project should not be approved. (*Id.*)

Because the SEIR fails to adequately disclose, analyze, and mitigate the Project's potential significant GHG impacts, a revised draft SEIR should be prepared and circulated that adequately addresses the Project's GHG emissions and mitigates such impacts accordingly.

D. The SEIR Fails to Adequately Analyze and Mitigate Significant Noise Impacts Related to Construction and Operation.

Expert noise consulting firm Wilson Ihrig reviewed the SEIR and found that its conclusions regarding less-than-significant noise impacts were incorrect. Wilson Ihrig's comment is attached as Exhibit C and summarized below.

First, Wilson Ihrig found that the SEIR's noise analysis shows a significant noise impact that the SEIR fails to mitigate. Specifically, Wilson Ihrig found:

Table 7 of Appendix E shows that "Existing Comm[erical receptor] – west" has a DNL of 57 dBA. This is most likely referring to the receptors immediately to the west – 420 and 452 Third Street. These are residential structures, meaning they would have to meet the City of San Jose General Plan criteria of 55 dBA called out in EC-1.3 on page 11 of Appendix E. As such, the SEIR should be revised to mitigate this impact, with a full analysis of mechanical room plans and potential mitigation options, such as acoustical treatment within the mechanical room. (Ex. C, p. 2.)

Second, according to Wilson Ihrig, the SEIR's analysis of construction and operational noise impacts is incomplete for several reasons. (*See* Ex. C, pp. 2-3.) These reasons include:

- 1. Incorrect Horizontal Geometry is Used in the Analysis. (Ex. C, pp. 2-3.)
- 2. Incorrect Vertical Geometry is Used in the Operational Analysis. (Ex. C, p. 3.)
- 3. Incorrect Vertical Geometry is Used in the Construction Analysis. (Ex. C, p. 3.)

Third, Wilson Ihrig's review of the SEIR's noise impact analysis found that the improper noise thresholds are applied to the Project. The SEIR states that because the City of San Jose has no applicable city or county noise limits, the Project's noise construction analysis must instead comply with the Federal Transit Administration's temporary construction noise criteria of 80 dBA. (Ex. C, p. 3.) However, Wilson Ihrig explains:

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Without further analysis, the FTA threshold could be too high, and the SEIR provides no discussion why the chosen 80 dBA construction noise threshold should be deemed acceptable. In fact, page 7 of the SEIR Appendix E states that "noise impacts would be considered significant if the project would result in ... Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project." Therefore, it is not accurate to characterize that the SEIR analysis has completely addressed CEQA standards. (Ex. C, pp. 3-4.)

As an example Wilson Ihrig points to the following:

The lowest daytime ambient noise level was determined to be 55 dBA in Appendix E. In Table 6 of SEIR Appendix E, the highest calculated noise level was determined to be 82 dBA. However, adjusting this to the correct distance of 5 feet, as opposed to the 80 ft in Table 6, gives a new level of 106 dB which would cause a 51 dB increase at the closest receptor. This shows the problems with relying solely on an 80 dB absolute limit, as a 10 dB increase is generally perceived as a doubling of loudness. Even at the wrong distances in the report, the levels that they predict are up to 37 dBA above ambient. As it currently stands, there are a few instances where construction noise exceeds the FTA threshold. However, the document underrepresents the widespread instances of significant ambient noise increases that create significant and unavoidable impact. (Ex. C, p. 4.)

Because there are several errors and omissions in the SEIR's noise analysis and since correcting these would potentially identify several significant impacts which require mitigation, a revised draft SEIR should be prepared to adequately analyze and mitigate these potential noise impacts from construction and operation.

E. The SEIR Fails to Adequately Disclose, Analyze, and Mitigate the Project's Potentially Significant Energy Impacts.

Contrary to the SEIR, the construction and operation of the Project could potentially cause wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy. (*See DSEIR*, pp. 4, 115.)

The standard under CEQA is whether the Project would result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Failing to undertake "an investigation into renewable energy options that might be available or appropriate for a project" violates CEQA. (California Clean Energy Committee v. City of Woodland (2014) 225 Cal.App.4th 173, 213.) Energy conservation under CEQA is defined as the "wise and efficient use of energy." (CEQA Guidelines, app. F, § I.) The "wise and efficient use of energy" is achieved by "(1) decreasing overall per capita energy consumption, (2) decreasing reliance on fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas and oil, and (3) increasing reliance on renewable energy resources." (Id.)

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Noting compliance with CALGreen requirements, the City's Council Policy 6-32, and the City's Green Building Ordinance does not constitute an adequate analysis of energy. (*Ukiah Citizens for Safety First v. City of Ukiah* (2016) 248 Cal.App.4th 256, 264-65.) Similarly, the Court *in City of Woodland* held as unlawful an energy analysis that relied on compliance with Title 24, that failed to assess transportation energy impacts, and that failed to address renewable energy impacts. (*City of Woodland*, 225 Cal.App.4th at pp. 209-13.) As such, the SEIR's reliance on compliance with CALGreen, City's Council Policy 6-32, and the City's Green Building Ordinance does not satisfy the requirements for an adequate discussion of the Project's energy impacts.

The SEIR summarily concludes that the Project would not result in the inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy. There is no discussion of the Project's cost effectiveness in terms of energy requirements. There is no discussion of energy consuming equipment and processes that will be used during the construction or operation of the Project. The Project's energy use efficiencies by amount and fuel type for each stage of the project including construction, operation, and maintenance were not identified. The effect of the Project on peak and base period demands for electricity has not been addressed. The lack of an adequate greenhouse gas (GHG) discussion in the SEIR results in its failure to address GHG emissions resulting from energy production and energy savings measures, as well energy conservation. As such, the SEIR's conclusions are unsupported by the necessary discussions of the Project's energy impacts under CEQA.

As noted above, the effect of the Project on peak and base period demands for electricity has not been addressed. This is of particular concern given recent years where California's electric grid has been significantly impacted by high energy demand as a result of prolonged, record-breaking heat waves that have affected the entire State of California for multiple days. For example, at the start of September 2022, California experienced extreme heat, with temperatures across the state 10 to 20 degrees hotter than normal, driving up energy demand and straining power generation equipment as people ran their air conditioning. On September 6, 2022, as a result of electricity supplies running low in the face of record heat and demand, the California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO) issued an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) 3, the highest energy alert, authorizing the grid operator to order rotating power outages to lower demand and stabilize the system if necessary. As grid conditions worsened, energy supplies were determined to be insufficient to cover demand and reserves, and an EEA 3 was declared, meaning controlled power outages were imminent or in process according to each utility's emergency plan. The EEA 3 was in response to an evening peak electricity demand that was forecasted at more than 52,000 megawatts, which Cal-ISO stated was "a new historic all-time high for the grid, as the state endured the hottest day in this prolonged, record-breaking heat wave." Here, the SEIR fails to adequately analyze energy conservation. As such, the SEIR's conclusions are unsupported by the necessary discussions of the Project's energy impacts under CEQA.

Moreover, under *League to Save Lake Tahoe*, the agency has to implement all feasible energy mitigation measures unless it has substantial evidence to show that the proposed measures are infeasible. (*Save Lake Tahoe*, 75 Cal.App.5th at 166-168; *see also, id.*, pp. 159-

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163.) An example of a feasible mitigation measure, which has recently been adopted as a new ordinance in San Francisco, and recently under consideration as a new ordinance by the San Jose City Council, is the requirement that 100% of parking spaces have electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Since requiring all parking stalls to be EV stalls is likely feasible, the City must implement it as an energy efficient mitigation measure for the proposed Project, instead of its current proposal to include 168 parking spaces without any EV charging stations, or, at minimum, provide substantial evidence that implementing such a mitigation measure is unfeasible. As such, the EIR's conclusion is unsupported by the necessary discussions of the Project's energy impacts under CEQA.

In conclusion, because the SEIR failed to adequately analyze and mitigate the Project's potentially wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy, an SEIR should be prepared to address the Project's potential significant energy impacts, and to mitigate those impacts accordingly.

II. THE CITY SHOULD PREPARE AND RECIRCULATE A REVISED DRAFT SEIR.

A revised draft SEIR ("RDSEIR") should be prepared and circulated for full public review to address the impacts identified above and to propose feasible mitigation measures. CEQA requires recirculation of an EIR when significant new information is added to the EIR following public review but before certification. (PRC § 21092.1.) The CEQA Guidelines clarify that new information is significant if "the EIR is changed in a way that deprives the public of a meaningful opportunity to comment upon a substantial adverse environmental effect of the project" including, for example, "a disclosure showing that ... [a] new significant environmental impact would result from the project." (14 CCR § 15088.5.) The above significant environmental impacts have not been analyzed in the EIR and must be addressed in a RDSEIR that is recirculated for public review.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Final SEIR is inadequate. LIUNA urges the City to make the above changes, and recirculate a revised DSEIR to the public for review. The SEIR should analyze all feasible mitigation measures to reduce or avoid the Project's significant adverse environmental impacts. LIUNA reserves the right to supplement these comments, including but not limited to at public hearings concerning the Project. (*Galante Vineyards v. Monterey Peninsula Water Management Dist.*, 60 Cal. App. 4th 1109, 1121 (1997).)

Sincerely, Victorial part

Victoria Yundt

LOZEAU | DRURY LLP

EXHIBIT A

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Date: February 13, 2024

To: Michael Lozeau

Lozeau | Drury LLP

1939 Harrison Street, Suite 150 Oakland, California 94612

From: Francis J. Offermann PE CIH

Subject: Indoor Air Quality: South Fourth Street Project, San Jose, CA

(IEE File Reference: P-4738)

Pages: 18

Indoor Air Quality Impacts

Indoor air quality (IAQ) directly impacts the comfort and health of building occupants, and the achievement of acceptable IAQ in newly constructed and renovated buildings is a well-recognized design objective. For example, IAQ is addressed by major high-performance building rating systems and building codes (California Building Standards Commission, 2014; USGBC, 2014). Indoor air quality in homes is particularly important because occupants, on average, spend approximately ninety percent of their time indoors with the majority of this time spent at home (EPA, 2011). Some segments of the population that are most susceptible to the effects of poor IAQ, such as the very young and the elderly, occupy their homes almost continuously. Additionally, an increasing number of adults are working from home at least some of the time during the workweek. Indoor air quality also is a serious concern for workers in hotels, offices and other business establishments.

The concentrations of many air pollutants often are elevated in homes and other buildings relative to outdoor air because many of the materials and products used indoors contain and release a variety of pollutants to air (Hodgson et al., 2002; Offermann and Hodgson,

2011). With respect to indoor air contaminants for which inhalation is the primary route of exposure, the critical design and construction parameters are the provision of adequate ventilation and the reduction of indoor sources of the contaminants.

Indoor Formaldehyde Concentrations Impact. In the California New Home Study (CNHS) of 108 new homes in California (Offermann, 2009), 25 air contaminants were measured, and formaldehyde was identified as the indoor air contaminant with the highest cancer risk as determined by the California Proposition 65 Safe Harbor Levels (OEHHA, 2017a), No Significant Risk Levels (NSRL) for carcinogens. The NSRL is the daily intake level calculated to result in one excess case of cancer in an exposed population of 100,000 (i.e., ten in one million cancer risk) and for formaldehyde is 40 μg/day. The NSRL concentration of formaldehyde that represents a daily dose of 40 μg is 2 μg/m³, assuming a continuous 24-hour exposure, a total daily inhaled air volume of 20 m³, and 100% absorption by the respiratory system. All of the CNHS homes exceeded this NSRL concentration of 2 μg/m³. The median indoor formaldehyde concentration was 36 μg/m³, and ranged from 4.8 to 136 μg/m³, which corresponds to a median exceedance of the 2 μg/m³ NSRL concentration of 18 and a range of 2.3 to 68.

Therefore, the cancer risk of a resident living in a California home with the median indoor formaldehyde concentration of $36 \mu g/m^3$, is 180 per million as a result of formaldehyde alone. The CEQA significance threshold for airborne cancer risk is 10 per million, as established by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD, 2017).

Besides being a human carcinogen, formaldehyde is also a potent eye and respiratory irritant. In the CNHS, many homes exceeded the non-cancer reference exposure levels (RELs) prescribed by California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA, 2017b). The percentage of homes exceeding the RELs ranged from 98% for the Chronic REL of $9 \mu g/m^3$ to 28% for the Acute REL of $55 \mu g/m^3$.

The primary source of formaldehyde indoors is composite wood products manufactured with urea-formaldehyde resins, such as plywood, medium density fiberboard, and

particleboard. These materials are commonly used in building construction for flooring, cabinetry, baseboards, window shades, interior doors, and window and door trims.

In January 2009, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted an airborne toxics control measure (ATCM) to reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products, including hardwood plywood, particleboard, medium density fiberboard, and also furniture and other finished products made with these wood products (California Air Resources Board 2009). While this formaldehyde ATCM has resulted in reduced emissions from composite wood products sold in California, they do not preclude that homes built with composite wood products meeting the CARB ATCM will have indoor formaldehyde concentrations below cancer and non-cancer exposure guidelines.

A follow up study to the California New Home Study (CNHS) was conducted in 2016-2018 (Singer et. al., 2019), and found that the median indoor formaldehyde in new homes built after 2009 with CARB Phase 2 Formaldehyde ATCM materials had lower indoor formaldehyde concentrations, with a median indoor concentrations of 22.4 μ g/m³ (18.2 ppb) as compared to a median of 36 μ g/m³ found in the 2007 CNHS. Unlike in the CNHS study where formaldehyde concentrations were measured with pumped DNPH samplers, the formaldehyde concentrations in the HENGH study were measured with passive samplers, which were estimated to under-measure the true indoor formaldehyde concentrations by approximately 7.5%. Applying this correction to the HENGH indoor formaldehyde concentrations results in a median indoor concentration of 24.1 μ g/m³, which is 33% lower than the 36 μ g/m³ found in the 2007 CNHS.

Thus, while new homes built after the 2009 CARB formaldehyde ATCM have a 33% lower median indoor formaldehyde concentration and cancer risk, the median lifetime cancer risk is still 120 per million for homes built with CARB compliant composite wood products. This median lifetime cancer risk is more than 12 times the OEHHA 10 in a million cancer risk threshold (OEHHA, 2017a).

With respect to South Fourth Street Project, San Jose, CA, the buildings consist of residential spaces.

The residential occupants will potentially have continuous exposure (e.g., 24 hours per day, 52 weeks per year). These exposures are anticipated to result in significant cancer risks resulting from exposures to formaldehyde released by the building materials and furnishing commonly found in residential construction.

Because these residences will be constructed with CARB Phase 2 Formaldehyde ATCM materials and be ventilated with the minimum code required amount of outdoor air, the indoor residential formaldehyde concentrations are likely similar to those concentrations observed in residences built with CARB Phase 2 Formaldehyde ATCM materials, which is a median of $24.1 \,\mu\text{g/m}^3$ (Singer et. al., 2020).

Assuming that the residential occupants inhale $20~\text{m}^3$ of air per day, the average 70-year lifetime formaldehyde daily dose is $482~\mu\text{g}/\text{day}$ for continuous exposure in the residences. This exposure represents a cancer risk of 120 per million, which is more than 12 times the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million. For occupants that do not have continuous exposure, the cancer risk will be proportionally less but still substantially over the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million (e.g., for 12/hour/day occupancy, more than 6 times the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million).

In addition, we note that the average outdoor air concentration of formaldehyde in California is 3 ppb, or $3.7 \mu g/m^3$, (California Air Resources Board, 2004), and thus represents an average pre-existing background airborne cancer risk of 1.85 per million. Thus, the indoor air formaldehyde exposures describe above exacerbate this pre-existing risk resulting from outdoor air formaldehyde exposures.

Appendix A, Indoor Formaldehyde Concentrations and the CARB Formaldehyde ATCM, provides analyses that show utilization of CARB Phase 2 Formaldehyde ATCM materials will not ensure acceptable cancer risks with respect to formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products.

Even composite wood products manufactured with CARB certified ultra low emitting formaldehyde (ULEF) resins do not insure that the indoor air will have concentrations of

formaldehyde the meet the OEHHA cancer risks that substantially exceed 10 per million. The permissible emission rates for ULEF composite wood products are only 11-15% lower than the CARB Phase 2 emission rates. Only use of composite wood products made with no-added formaldehyde resins (NAF), such as resins made from soy, polyvinyl acetate, or methylene diisocyanate can insure that the OEHHA cancer risk of 10 per million is met.

The following describes a method that should be used, prior to construction in the environmental review under CEQA, for determining whether the indoor concentrations resulting from the formaldehyde emissions of specific building materials/furnishings selected exceed cancer and non-cancer guidelines. Such a design analyses can be used to identify those materials/furnishings prior to the completion of the City's CEQA review and project approval, that have formaldehyde emission rates that contribute to indoor concentrations that exceed cancer and non-cancer guidelines, so that alternative lower emitting materials/furnishings may be selected and/or higher minimum outdoor air ventilation rates can be increased to achieve acceptable indoor concentrations and incorporated as mitigation measures for this project.

Pre-Construction Building Material/Furnishing Formaldehyde Emissions Assessment

This formaldehyde emissions assessment should be used in the environmental review under CEQA to <u>assess</u> the indoor formaldehyde concentrations from the proposed loading of building materials/furnishings, the area-specific formaldehyde emission rate data for building materials/furnishings, and the design minimum outdoor air ventilation rates. This assessment allows the applicant (and the City) to determine, before the conclusion of the environmental review process and the building materials/furnishings are specified, purchased, and installed, if the total chemical emissions will exceed cancer and non-cancer guidelines, and if so, allow for changes in the selection of specific material/furnishings and/or the design minimum outdoor air ventilations rates such that cancer and non-cancer guidelines are not exceeded.

1.) <u>Define Indoor Air Quality Zones</u>. Divide the building into separate indoor air quality zones, (IAQ Zones). IAQ Zones are defined as areas of well-mixed air. Thus, each ventilation system with recirculating air is considered a single zone, and each room or

group of rooms where air is not recirculated (e.g. 100% outdoor air) is considered a separate zone. For IAQ Zones with the same construction material/furnishings and design minimum outdoor air ventilation rates. (e.g. hotel rooms, apartments, condominiums, etc.) the formaldehyde emission rates need only be assessed for a single IAQ Zone of that type.

- 2.) <u>Calculate Material/Furnishing Loading</u>. For each IAQ Zone, determine the building material and furnishing loadings (e.g., m² of material/m² floor area, units of furnishings/m² floor area) from an inventory of <u>all</u> potential indoor formaldehyde sources, including flooring, ceiling tiles, furnishings, finishes, insulation, sealants, adhesives, and any products constructed with composite wood products containing urea-formaldehyde resins (e.g., plywood, medium density fiberboard, particleboard).
- 3.) Calculate the Formaldehyde Emission Rate. For each building material, calculate the formaldehyde emission rate (μ g/h) from the product of the area-specific formaldehyde emission rate (μ g/m²-h) and the area (m²) of material in the IAQ Zone, and from each furnishing (e.g. chairs, desks, etc.) from the unit-specific formaldehyde emission rate (μ g/unit-h) and the number of units in the IAQ Zone.

NOTE: As a result of the high-performance building rating systems and building codes (California Building Standards Commission, 2014; USGBC, 2014), most manufacturers of building materials furnishings sold in the United States conduct chemical emission rate tests using the California Department of Health "Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions for Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers," (CDPH, 2017), or other equivalent chemical emission rate testing methods. Most manufacturers of building furnishings sold in the United States conduct chemical emission rate tests using ANSI/BIFMA M7.1 Standard Test Method for Determining VOC Emissions (BIFMA, 2018), or other equivalent chemical emission rate testing methods.

CDPH, BIFMA, and other chemical emission rate testing programs, typically certify that a material or furnishing does not create indoor chemical concentrations in excess of the maximum concentrations permitted by their certification. For instance, the CDPH emission rate testing requires that the measured emission rates when input into an office, school, or

residential model do not exceed one-half of the OEHHA Chronic Exposure Guidelines (OEHHA, 2017b) for the 35 specific VOCs, including formaldehyde, listed in Table 4-1 of the CDPH test method (CDPH, 2017). These certifications themselves do not provide the actual area-specific formaldehyde emission rate (i.e., $\mu g/m^2$ -h) of the product, but rather provide data that the formaldehyde emission rates do not exceed the maximum rate allowed for the certification. Thus, for example, the data for a certification of a specific type of flooring may be used to calculate that the area-specific emission rate of formaldehyde is less than 31 $\mu g/m^2$ -h, but not the actual measured specific emission rate, which may be 3, 18, or 30 $\mu g/m^2$ -h. These area-specific emission rates determined from the product certifications of CDPH, BIFA, and other certification programs can be used as an initial estimate of the formaldehyde emission rate.

If the actual area-specific emission rates of a building material or furnishing is needed (i.e. the initial emission rates estimates from the product certifications are higher than desired), then that data can be acquired by requesting from the manufacturer the complete chemical emission rate test report. For instance if the complete CDPH emission test report is requested for a CDHP certified product, that report will provide the actual area-specific emission rates for not only the 35 specific VOCs, including formaldehyde, listed in Table 4-1 of the CDPH test method (CDPH, 2017), but also all of the cancer and reproductive/developmental chemicals listed in the California Proposition 65 Safe Harbor Levels (OEHHA, 2017a), all of the toxic air contaminants (TACs) in the California Air Resources Board Toxic Air Contamination List (CARB, 2011), and the 10 chemicals with the greatest emission rates.

Alternatively, a sample of the building material or furnishing can be submitted to a chemical emission rate testing laboratory, such as Berkeley Analytical Laboratory (https://berkeleyanalytical.com), to measure the formaldehyde emission rate.

4.) <u>Calculate the Total Formaldehyde Emission Rate.</u> For each IAQ Zone, calculate the total formaldehyde emission rate (i.e. μg/h) from the individual formaldehyde emission rates from each of the building material/furnishings as determined in Step 3.

5.) <u>Calculate the Indoor Formaldehyde Concentration</u>. For each IAQ Zone, calculate the indoor formaldehyde concentration ($\mu g/m^3$) from Equation 1 by dividing the total formaldehyde emission rates (i.e. $\mu g/h$) as determined in Step 4, by the design minimum outdoor air ventilation rate (m^3/h) for the IAQ Zone.

$$C_{in} = \frac{E_{total}}{Q_{oa}}$$
 (Equation 1)

where:

 C_{in} = indoor formaldehyde concentration ($\mu g/m^3$)

 $E_{total} = total \ formaldehyde \ emission \ rate \ (\mu g/h) \ into \ the \ IAQ \ Zone.$

 Q_{oa} = design minimum outdoor air ventilation rate to the IAQ Zone (m³/h)

The above Equation 1 is based upon mass balance theory, and is referenced in Section 3.10.2 "Calculation of Estimated Building Concentrations" of the California Department of Health "Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions for Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers", (CDPH, 2017).

- 6.) <u>Calculate the Indoor Exposure Cancer and Non-Cancer Health Risks</u>. For each IAQ Zone, calculate the cancer and non-cancer health risks from the indoor formaldehyde concentrations determined in Step 5 and as described in the OEHHA Air Toxics Hot Spots Program Risk Assessment Guidelines; Guidance Manual for Preparation of Health Risk Assessments (OEHHA, 2015).
- 7.) <u>Mitigate Indoor Formaldehyde Exposures of exceeding the CEQA Cancer and/or Non-Cancer Health Risks</u>. In each IAQ Zone, provide mitigation for any formaldehyde exposure risk as determined in Step 6, that exceeds the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million or the CEQA non-cancer Hazard Quotient of 1.0.

Provide the source and/or ventilation mitigation required in all IAQ Zones to reduce the health risks of the chemical exposures below the CEQA cancer and non-cancer health risks.

Source mitigation for formaldehyde may include:

1.) reducing the amount materials and/or furnishings that emit formaldehyde

2.) substituting a different material with a lower area-specific emission rate of formaldehyde

Ventilation mitigation for formaldehyde emitted from building materials and/or furnishings may include:

1.) increasing the design minimum outdoor air ventilation rate to the IAQ Zone.

NOTE: Mitigating the formaldehyde emissions through use of less material/furnishings, or use of lower emitting materials/furnishings, is the preferred mitigation option, as mitigation with increased outdoor air ventilation increases initial and operating costs associated with the heating/cooling systems.

Further, we are not asking that the builder "speculate" on what and how much composite materials be used, but rather at the design stage to select composite wood materials based on the formaldehyde emission rates that manufacturers routinely conduct using the California Department of Health "Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions for Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers," (CDPH, 2017), and use the procedure described earlier above (i.e. Pre-Construction Building Material/Furnishing Formaldehyde Emissions Assessment) to insure that the materials selected achieve acceptable cancer risks from material off gassing of formaldehyde.

Outdoor Air Ventilation Impact. Another important finding of the CNHS, was that the outdoor air ventilation rates in the homes were very low. Outdoor air ventilation is a very important factor influencing the indoor concentrations of air contaminants, as it is the primary removal mechanism of all indoor air generated contaminants. Lower outdoor air exchange rates cause indoor generated air contaminants to accumulate to higher indoor air concentrations. Many homeowners rarely open their windows or doors for ventilation as a result of their concerns for security/safety, noise, dust, and odor concerns (Price, 2007). In the CNHS field study, 32% of the homes did not use their windows during the 24-hour Test Day, and 15% of the homes did not use their windows during the entire preceding week. Most of the homes with no window usage were homes in the winter field session. Thus, a

substantial percentage of homeowners never open their windows, especially in the winter season. The median 24-hour measurement was 0.26 air changes per hour (ach), with a range of 0.09 ach to 5.3 ach. A total of 67% of the homes had outdoor air exchange rates below the minimum California Building Code (2001) requirement of 0.35 ach. Thus, the relatively tight envelope construction, combined with the fact that many people never open their windows for ventilation, results in homes with low outdoor air exchange rates and higher indoor air contaminant concentrations.

According to the Draft Supplementary Environmental Impact Report - South Fourth Street Project, San Jose, CA (City of San Jose. 2022), the Project is close to roads with moderate to high traffic (e.g., South 3rd Street, South 4th Street, South 5th Street, I-280, East San Salvador Street, South Market Street, etc.).

In Table 3.5-2 of the Draft Supplementary Environmental Impact Report - South Fourth Street Project, San Jose, CA (City of San Jose. 2022), the existing ambient noise levels in 2015 ranged from 62-69 dBA DNL.

In order to design the building for this Project such that interior noise levels are acceptable, an acoustic study with actual on-site measurements of the existing 2022 ambient noise levels and modeled future ambient noise levels needs to be conducted. The acoustic study of the existing ambient noise levels should be conducted over a one-week period. and report the dBA CNEL or Ldn. This study will allow for the selection of a building envelope and windows with a sufficient STC such that the indoor noise levels are acceptable. A mechanical supply of outdoor air ventilation to allow for a habitable interior environment with closed windows and doors will also be requires. Such a ventilation system would allow windows and doors to be kept closed at the occupant's discretion to control exterior noise within building interiors.

<u>PM_{2.5} Outdoor Concentrations Impact</u>. An additional impact of the nearby motor vehicle traffic associated with this project, are the outdoor concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$. According to the Draft Supplementary Environmental Impact Report - South Fourth Street Project, San

Jose, CA, (City of San Jose. 2022) the Project is located in the San Francisco Bay Area Basin, which is a State and Federal non-attainment area for PM_{2.5}.

An air quality analyses should be conducted to determine the concentrations of PM_{2.5} in the outdoor and indoor air that people inhale each day. This air quality analyses needs to consider the cumulative impacts of the project related emissions, existing and projected future emissions from local PM_{2.5} sources (e.g., stationary sources, motor vehicles, and airport traffic) upon the outdoor air concentrations at the Project site. If the outdoor concentrations are determined to exceed the California and National annual average PM_{2.5} exceedence concentration of 12 μ g/m³, or the National 24-hour average exceedence concentration of 35 μ g/m³, then the buildings need to have a mechanical supply of outdoor air that has air filtration with sufficient removal efficiency, such that the indoor concentrations of outdoor PM_{2.5} particles is less than the California and National PM_{2.5} annual and 24-hour standards.

It is my experience that based on the projected high traffic noise levels, the annual average concentration of PM_{2.5} will exceed the California and National PM_{2.5} annual and 24-hour standards and warrant installation of high efficiency air filters (i.e., MERV 13 or higher) in all mechanically supplied outdoor air ventilation systems.

Indoor Air Quality Impact Mitigation Measures

The following are recommended mitigation measures to minimize the impacts upon indoor quality:

Indoor Formaldehyde Concentrations Mitigation. Use only composite wood materials (e.g. hardwood plywood, medium density fiberboard, particleboard) for all interior finish systems that are made with CARB approved no-added formaldehyde (NAF) resins (CARB, 2009). CARB Phase 2 certified composite wood products, or ultra-low emitting formaldehyde (ULEF) resins, do not insure indoor formaldehyde concentrations that are below the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million. Only composite wood products manufactured with CARB approved no-added formaldehyde (NAF) resins, such as resins

made from soy, polyvinyl acetate, or methylene diisocyanate can insure that the OEHHA cancer risk of 10 per million is met.

Alternatively, conduct the previously described Pre-Construction Building Material/Furnishing Chemical Emissions Assessment, to determine that the combination of formaldehyde emissions from building materials and furnishings do not create indoor formaldehyde concentrations that exceed the CEQA cancer and non-cancer health risks.

It is important to note that we are not asking that the builder "speculate" on what and how much composite materials be used, but rather at the design stage to select composite wood materials based on the formaldehyde emission rates that manufacturers routinely conduct using the California Department of Health "Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions for Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers", (CDPH, 2017), and use the procedure described above (i.e. Pre-Construction Building Material/Furnishing Formaldehyde Emissions Assessment) to insure that the materials selected achieve acceptable cancer risks from material off gassing of formaldehyde.

Outdoor Air Ventilation Mitigation. Provide each habitable room with a continuous mechanical supply of outdoor air that meets or exceeds the California 2016 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (California Energy Commission, 2015) requirements of the greater of 15 cfm/occupant or 0.15 cfm/ft² of floor area. Following installation of the system conduct testing and balancing to insure that required amount of outdoor air is entering each habitable room and provide a written report documenting the outdoor airflow rates. Do not use exhaust only mechanical outdoor air systems, use only balanced outdoor air supply and exhaust systems or outdoor air supply only systems. Provide a manual for the occupants or maintenance personnel, that describes the purpose of the mechanical outdoor air system and the operation and maintenance requirements of the system.

 $\underline{PM_{2.5}}$ Outdoor Air Concentration Mitigation. Install air filtration with sufficient $\underline{PM_{2.5}}$ removal efficiency (e.g. MERV 13 or higher) to filter the outdoor air entering the mechanical outdoor air supply systems, such that the indoor concentrations of outdoor $\underline{PM_{2.5}}$

particles are less than the California and National PM_{2.5} annual and 24-hour standards. Install the air filters in the system such that they are accessible for replacement by the occupants or maintenance personnel. Include in the mechanical outdoor air ventilation system manual instructions on how to replace the air filters and the estimated frequency of replacement.

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APPENDIX A

INDOOR FORMALDEHYDE CONCENTRATIONS AND THE CARB FORMALDEHYDE ATCM

With respect to formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products, the CARB ATCM regulations of formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products, do not assure healthful indoor air quality. The following is the stated purpose of the CARB ATCM regulation - The purpose of this airborne toxic control measure is to "reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products, and finished goods that contain composite wood products, that are sold, offered for sale, supplied, used, or manufactured for sale in California". In other words, the CARB ATCM regulations do not "assure healthful indoor air quality", but rather "reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products".

Just how much protection do the CARB ATCM regulations provide building occupants from the formaldehyde emissions generated by composite wood products? Definitely some, but certainly the regulations do not "assure healthful indoor air quality" when CARB Phase 2 products are utilized. As shown in the Chan 2019 study of new California homes, the median indoor formaldehyde concentration was of 22.4 µg/m³ (18.2 ppb), which corresponds to a cancer risk of 112 per million for occupants with continuous exposure, which is more than 11 times the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million.

Another way of looking at how much protection the CARB ATCM regulations provide building occupants from the formaldehyde emissions generated by composite wood products is to calculate the maximum number of square feet of composite wood product that can be in a residence without exceeding the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million for occupants with continuous occupancy.

For this calculation I utilized the floor area (2,272 ft²), the ceiling height (8.5 ft), and the number of bedrooms (4) as defined in Appendix B (New Single-Family Residence Scenario) of the Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions for Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1, 2017, California Department of Public Health,

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/

Richmond, CA.

DEODC/EHLB/IAQ/Pages/VOC.aspx.

For the outdoor air ventilation rate I used the 2019 Title 24 code required mechanical ventilation rate (ASHRAE 62.2) of 106 cfm (180 m³/h) calculated for this model residence. For the composite wood formaldehyde emission rates I used the CARB ATCM Phase 2 rates.

The calculated maximum number of square feet of composite wood product that can be in a residence, without exceeding the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million for occupants with continuous occupancy are as follows for the different types of regulated composite wood products.

Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) -15 ft^2 (0.7% of the floor area), or Particle Board -30 ft^2 (1.3% of the floor area), or Hardwood Plywood -54 ft^2 (2.4% of the floor area), or Thin MDF -46 ft^2 (2.0 % of the floor area).

For offices and hotels the calculated maximum amount of composite wood product (% of floor area) that can be used without exceeding the CEQA cancer risk of 10 per million for occupants, assuming 8 hours/day occupancy, and the California Mechanical Code minimum outdoor air ventilation rates are as follows for the different types of regulated composite wood products.

Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) -3.6 % (offices) and 4.6% (hotel rooms), or Particle Board -7.2 % (offices) and 9.4% (hotel rooms), or Hardwood Plywood -13 % (offices) and 17% (hotel rooms), or Thin MDF -11 % (offices) and 14 % (hotel rooms)

Clearly the CARB ATCM does not regulate the formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products such that the potentially large areas of these products, such as for flooring, baseboards, interior doors, window and door trims, and kitchen and bathroom cabinetry, could be used without causing indoor formaldehyde concentrations that result in CEQA

cancer risks that substantially exceed 10 per million for occupants with continuous occupancy.

Even composite wood products manufactured with CARB certified ultra low emitting formaldehyde (ULEF) resins do not insure that the indoor air will have concentrations of formaldehyde the meet the OEHHA cancer risks that substantially exceed 10 per million. The permissible emission rates for ULEF composite wood products are only 11-15% lower than the CARB Phase 2 emission rates. Only use of composite wood products made with no-added formaldehyde resins (NAF), such as resins made from soy, polyvinyl acetate, or methylene diisocyanate can insure that the OEHHA cancer risk of 10 per million is met.

If CARB Phase 2 compliant or ULEF composite wood products are utilized in construction, then the resulting indoor formaldehyde concentrations should be determined in the design phase using the specific amounts of each type of composite wood product, the specific formaldehyde emission rates, and the volume and outdoor air ventilation rates of the indoor spaces, and all feasible mitigation measures employed to reduce this impact (e.g. use less formaldehyde containing composite wood products and/or incorporate mechanical systems capable of higher outdoor air ventilation rates). See the procedure described earlier (i.e. Pre-Construction Building Material/Furnishing Formaldehyde Emissions Assessment) to insure that the materials selected achieve acceptable cancer risks from material off gassing of formaldehyde.

Alternatively, and perhaps a simpler approach, is to use only composite wood products (e.g. hardwood plywood, medium density fiberboard, particleboard) for all interior finish systems that are made with CARB approved no-added formaldehyde (NAF) resins.

EXHIBIT B



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February 12, 2024

Mike Lozeau Lozeau | Drury LLP 1939 Harrison Street, Suite 150 Oakland, CA 94618

Subject: Comments on the 439 South Fourth Street Project (SCH No. 2022020588)

Dear Mr. Lozeau,

We have reviewed the April 2023 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report ("DSEIR") for the 439 South Fourth Street Project ("Project") located in the City of San Jose ("City"). The Project proposes to construct 210 residential units and 168 parking spaces on the 0.52-acre site.

Our review concludes that the DSEIR fails to adequately evaluate the Project's air quality and greenhouse gas impacts. As a result, emissions and health risk impacts associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project may be underestimated and inadequately addressed. A revised Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") should be prepared to adequately assess and mitigate the potential air quality and greenhouse gas impacts that the project may have on the environment.

Air Quality

Unsubstantiated Input Parameters Used to Estimate Project Emissions

The DSEIR's air quality analysis relies on emissions calculated with California Emissions Estimator Model ("CalEEMod") Version 2020.4.0 (p. 26). ¹ CalEEMod provides recommended default values based on site-specific information, such as land use type, meteorological data, total lot acreage, project type and typical equipment associated with project type. If more specific project information is known, the user can change the default values and input project-specific values, but the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that such changes be justified by substantial evidence. Once all of the values are inputted into the model, the Project's construction and operational emissions are calculated, and

¹ "CalEEMod Version 2020.4.0." California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), May 2021, available at: http://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/download-model.

"output files" are generated. These output files disclose to the reader what parameters are utilized in calculating the Project's air pollutant emissions and make known which default values are changed as well as provide justification for the values selected.

When reviewing the Project's CalEEMod output files, provided in the Air Quality Assessment ("AQ Assessment") as Appendix B to the DSEIR, we found that several model inputs are not consistent with information disclosed in the DSEIR. As a result, the Project's construction and operational emissions may be underestimated. An EIR should be prepared to include an updated air quality analysis that adequately evaluates the impacts that construction and operation of the Project will have on local and regional air quality.

Unsubstantiated Reduction to CO2 Intensity Factor

Review of the CalEEMod output files demonstrates that the "439 & 451 South 4th Street Apartments" model includes a manual reduction to the default CO_2 intensity factor (see excerpt below) (Appendix B, pp. 53).

Table Name	Column Name	Default Value	New Value
tblProjectCharacteristics	CO2IntensityFactor	807.98	178

As demonstrated above, the CO₂ intensity factor is decreased from the default value of 807.98 to 178-pounds per megawatt hour ("lbs/MWh"). As previously mentioned, the CalEEMod User's Guide requires any changes to model defaults be justified.² According to the "User Entered Comments & Non-Default Data" table, the justification provided for this change is:

However, this justification is insufficient, as the AQ Assessment fails to provide an adequate source that demonstrates how the revised CO₂ intensity factor was calculated. Furthermore, the DSEIR fails to mention or justify the revised CO₂ intensity factor whatsoever. This is incorrect, as according to the CalEEMod User's Guide:

"CalEEMod was also designed to allow the user to change the defaults to reflect site- or project-specific information, when available, provided that the information is supported by substantial evidence as required by CEQA." ³

Here, as the DSEIR and associated documents fail to provide substantial evidence to support the revised CO₂ intensity factor, we cannot verify the reduction.

² "CalEEMod User's Guide." California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), May 2021, *available at:* https://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/user's-guide, p. 1, 14.

³ "CalEEMod User's Guide." California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), May 2021, *available at:* https://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/user's-guide, p. 13, 14.

This unsubstantiated reduction presents an issue, as CalEEMod uses the CO_2 intensity factor to calculate the Project's GHG emissions associated with electricity use. ⁴ By including an unsubstantiated reduction to the default CO_2 intensity factor, the model may underestimate the Project's potential GHG emissions and should not be relied upon to determine Project significance.

Unsubstantiated Changes to Construction Equipment Fuel Types

Review of the CalEEMod output files demonstrates that the "439 & 451 South 4th Street Apartments" model includes several changes to the default construction equipment fuel types (see excerpt below) (Appendix B, pp. 50).

Table Name	Column Name	Default Value	New Value
tblConstEquipMitigation	FuelType	Diesel	Electrical
tblConstEquipMitigation	FuelType	Diesel	Electrical
tblConstEquipMitigation	FuelType	Diesel	Electrical
tblConstEquipMitigation	FuelType	Diesel	Electrical
tblConstEquipMitigation	FuelType	Diesel	Electrical
tblConstEquipMitigation	FuelType	Diesel	Electrical

As previously mentioned, the CalEEMod User's Guide requires any changes to model defaults be justified. ⁵ According to the "User Entered Comments & Non-Default Data" table, the justification provided for these changes is:

"Enhanced BMPs, Tier 4 final mitigation, electric portable, aerial lifts, and crane Fleet Mix - EMFAC2021 fleet mix Santa Clara Co 2025" (Appendix A, pp. 50).

Furthermore, the DSEIR incorporates mitigation measure ("MM") Air-1.1 which states:

"All diesel-powered off-road equipment (larger than 25 horsepower) operating on-site for more than two days continuously or 20 hours total shall, at a minimum, meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Tier 4 final emission standards for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and Coarse Particulate Matter (PM10).

o Alternatively, equipment that meet U.S. EPA emissions for Tier 3 engines and is equipped with California Air Resources Board-certified Level 3 Diesel Particulate Filters that altogether achieve a 90 percent reduction in diesel particulate matter emissions would meet this requirement.

o <u>Use of alternatively fueled or electric equipment</u>" (emphasis added) (p. iv).

⁴ "CalEEMod User's Guide." California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), May 2021, *available at:* https://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/user's-guide, p. 17.

⁵ "CalEEMod User's Guide." California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), May 2021, *available at:* https://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/user's-guide, p. 1, 14.

However, the changes remain unsubstantiated, as the mitigation measure fails to specify what time of electric equipment would be used, or what kind of alternative fuel would be used. As a result, we cannot verify that the above changes are accurate.

These unsubstantiated changes present an issue, as CalEEMod uses the off-road equipment input parameters to calculate the emissions associated with off-road construction equipment. ⁶ By including unsubstantiated changes to the default off-road construction equipment fuel types, the models may underestimate the Project's construction-related emissions and should not be relied upon to determine Project significance.

Unsubstantiated Changes to Wastewater System Treatment Percentages

Review of the CalEEMod output files demonstrates that the "439 & 451 South 4th Street Apartments" model includes several changes to the default wastewater treatment system percentage (see excerpt below) (Appendix B, pp. 70).

Table Name	Column Name	Default Value	New Value
tblWater	AerobicPercent	87.46	100.00
tblWater	AerobicPercent	87.46	100.00
tblWater	AnaerobicandFacultativeLagoonsPercent	2.21	0.00
tblWater	AnaerobicandFacultativeLagoonsPercent	2.21	0.00
tblWater	SepticTankPercent	10.33	0.00
tblWater	SepticTankPercent	10.33	0.00

As demonstrated in the excerpt above, the model assumes that the Project's wastewater would be treated 100% aerobically. As previously mentioned, the CalEEMod User's Guide requires any changes to model defaults be justified. ⁷ According to the "User Entered Comments & Non-Default Data" table, the justification provided for these changes is:

"Wastewater treatment 100% aerobic, no lagoons or septic tanks" (Appendix B, pp. 50).

Regarding wastewater, the AQ Assessment states:

"Water/wastewater use was changed to 100% aerobic conditions to represent wastewater treatment plant conditions" (p. 19).

However, review of the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facilities treatment process reveals the use of anaerobic bacteria in the digesters phase of wastewater treatment. Specifically, the City states:

⁶ "CalEEMod User's Guide." California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), May 2021, *available at:* https://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/user's-guide, p. 33, 34.

⁷ "CalEEMod User's Guide." California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), May 2021, *available at:* https://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/user's-guide, p. 1, 14.

"In the digester tanks, naturally occurring anaerobic bacteria digest sludge and produce methane gas that helps meet 60 percent of the Facility's energy needs." 8

As such, the assumption that the Project's wastewater would be treated 100% aerobically is incorrect.

These unsubstantiated changes present an issue, as each type of wastewater treatment system is associated with different GHG emission factors, which are used by CalEEMod to calculate the Project's total GHG emissions. By including unsubstantiated changes to the default wastewater treatment system percentages, the model may underestimate the Project's GHG emissions and should not be relied upon to determine Project significance.

Underestimated Operational Sunday Daily Trips

Review of the CalEEMod output files demonstrates that the "439 & 451 South 4th Street Apartments" model includes several changes to default daily vehicle trip rates (see excerpt below) (Appendix B, pp. 54).

Table Name	Column Name	Default Value	New Value	
tblVehicleTrips	ST_TR	4.53	3.12	
tblVehicleTrips	SU_TR	3.59	2.47	
tblVehicleTrips	WD_TR	4.45	3.07	

As a result of these changes, the model includes the following daily trip rates (see excerpt below) (Appendix B, pp. 94).

	Average Daily Trip Rate		
Land Use	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Apartments High Rise	644.70	655.20	518.70
Enclosed Parking with Elevator	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	644.70	655.20	518.70

As previously mentioned, the CalEEMod User's Guide requires any changes to model defaults be justified. ¹⁰ According to the "User Entered Comments & Non-Default Data" table, the justification provided for these changes is:

"Traffic provided trip gen w/ reductions" (Appendix B, pp. 50).

Regarding daily trip rates, the DSEIR states:

"The proposed project would generate 644 new daily trips" (p. 33).

⁸ "Treatment Process." San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility, *available at:* https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/environmental-services/water-utilities/regional-wastewater-facility/treatment-process.

⁹ "CalEEMod User's Guide." California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), May 2021, *available at:* https://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/user's-guide, p. 45.

¹⁰ "CalEEMod User's Guide." California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), May 2021, *available at:* https://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/user's-guide, p. 1, 14.

As demonstrated above, the model should include a daily trip rate of at least 644 as described in the DSEIR. However, the model incorrectly underestimates the Sunday daily trip rate by 125.3 trips per day. ¹¹ As such, the Sunday trip rates are inconsistent with the information provided by the DSEIR.

These inconsistencies present an issue, as CalEEMod uses the operational vehicle trip rates to calculate the emissions associated with the operational on-road vehicles. ¹² By including underestimated Sunday operational vehicle trips, the model underestimates the Project's mobile-source operational emissions and should not be relied upon to determine Project significance.

Greenhouse Gas

Failure to Adequately Evaluate Greenhouse Gas Impacts

According to the GHG Reduction Strategy Compliance Checklist, provided as Appendix G to the DSEIR, the Project would be consistent with the City's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy ("GHGRS"). However, the DSEIR fails to discuss the Project's greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions whatsoever. As such, we are unable to verify that the Project would not have a significant GHG impact. An updated EIR should be prepared to include a GHG analysis which adequately evaluates the Project's emissions. Until such an analysis is prepared, the Project should not be approved.

Furthermore, as it is policy of the State that eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 100% of retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers by December 31, 2045, we emphasize the applicability of incorporating the maximum amount solar energy into the Project design. Until the feasibility of incorporating on-site renewable energy production is considered, the Project should not be approved.

Disclaimer

SWAPE has received limited discovery regarding this project. Additional information may become available in the future; thus, we retain the right to revise or amend this report when additional information becomes available. Our professional services have been performed using that degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised, under similar circumstances, by reputable environmental consultants practicing in this or similar localities at the time of service. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the scope of work, work methodologies and protocols, site conditions, analytical testing results, and findings presented. This report reflects efforts which were limited to information that was reasonably accessible at the time of the work, and may contain informational gaps, inconsistencies, or otherwise be incomplete due to the unavailability or uncertainty of information obtained or provided by third parties.

 $^{^{11}}$ Calculated: 644 proposed daily vehicle trips – 518.7 modeled daily vehicle trips = 125.3 daily vehicle trips underestimated.

¹² "CalEEMod User's Guide." California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), May 2021, *available at:* https://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/user's-guide, p. 36.

Sincerely,

Matt Hagemann, P.G., C.Hg.

M Hurm

Paul E. Rosenfeld, Ph.D.

Attachment A: Matt Hagemann CV Attachment B: Paul Rosenfeld CV



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Matt Hagemann, P.G, C.Hg. (949) 887-9013 mhagemann@swape.com

Matthew F. Hagemann, P.G., C.Hg., QSD, QSP

Geologic and Hydrogeologic Characterization Investigation and Remediation Strategies Litigation Support and Testifying Expert Industrial Stormwater Compliance CEQA Review

Education:

M.S. Degree, Geology, California State University Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, 1984. B.A. Degree, Geology, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA, 1982.

Professional Certifications:

California Professional Geologist
California Certified Hydrogeologist
Qualified SWPPP Developer and Practitioner

Professional Experience:

Matt has 30 years of experience in environmental policy, contaminant assessment and remediation, stormwater compliance, and CEQA review. He spent nine years with the U.S. EPA in the RCRA and Superfund programs and served as EPA's Senior Science Policy Advisor in the Western Regional Office where he identified emerging threats to groundwater from perchlorate and MTBE. While with EPA, Matt also served as a Senior Hydrogeologist in the oversight of the assessment of seven major military facilities undergoing base closure. He led numerous enforcement actions under provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and directed efforts to improve hydrogeologic characterization and water quality monitoring. For the past 15 years, as a founding partner with SWAPE, Matt has developed extensive client relationships and has managed complex projects that include consultation as an expert witness and a regulatory specialist, and a manager of projects ranging from industrial stormwater compliance to CEQA review of impacts from hazardous waste, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Positions Matt has held include:

- Founding Partner, Soil/Water/Air Protection Enterprise (SWAPE) (2003 present);
- Geology Instructor, Golden West College, 2010 2104, 2017;
- Senior Environmental Analyst, Komex H2O Science, Inc. (2000 -- 2003);

- Executive Director, Orange Coast Watch (2001 2004);
- Senior Science Policy Advisor and Hydrogeologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1989– 1998);
- Hydrogeologist, National Park Service, Water Resources Division (1998 2000);
- Adjunct Faculty Member, San Francisco State University, Department of Geosciences (1993 1998);
- Instructor, College of Marin, Department of Science (1990 1995);
- Geologist, U.S. Forest Service (1986 1998); and
- Geologist, Dames & Moore (1984 1986).

Senior Regulatory and Litigation Support Analyst:

With SWAPE, Matt's responsibilities have included:

- Lead analyst and testifying expert in the review of over 300 environmental impact reports and negative declarations since 2003 under CEQA that identify significant issues with regard to hazardous waste, water resources, water quality, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and geologic hazards. Make recommendations for additional mitigation measures to lead agencies at the local and county level to include additional characterization of health risks and implementation of protective measures to reduce worker exposure to hazards from toxins and Valley Fever.
- Stormwater analysis, sampling and best management practice evaluation at more than 100 industrial facilities.
- Expert witness on numerous cases including, for example, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
 contamination of groundwater, MTBE litigation, air toxins at hazards at a school, CERCLA
 compliance in assessment and remediation, and industrial stormwater contamination.
- Technical assistance and litigation support for vapor intrusion concerns.
- Lead analyst and testifying expert in the review of environmental issues in license applications for large solar power plants before the California Energy Commission.
- Manager of a project to evaluate numerous formerly used military sites in the western U.S.
- Manager of a comprehensive evaluation of potential sources of perchlorate contamination in Southern California drinking water wells.
- Manager and designated expert for litigation support under provisions of Proposition 65 in the review of releases of gasoline to sources drinking water at major refineries and hundreds of gas stations throughout California.

With Komex H2O Science Inc., Matt's duties included the following:

- Senior author of a report on the extent of perchlorate contamination that was used in testimony by the former U.S. EPA Administrator and General Counsel.
- Senior researcher in the development of a comprehensive, electronically interactive chronology of MTBE use, research, and regulation.
- Senior researcher in the development of a comprehensive, electronically interactive chronology of perchlorate use, research, and regulation.
- Senior researcher in a study that estimates nationwide costs for MTBE remediation and drinking
 water treatment, results of which were published in newspapers nationwide and in testimony
 against provisions of an energy bill that would limit liability for oil companies.
- Research to support litigation to restore drinking water supplies that have been contaminated by MTBE in California and New York.

- Expert witness testimony in a case of oil production-related contamination in Mississippi.
- Lead author for a multi-volume remedial investigation report for an operating school in Los Angeles that met strict regulatory requirements and rigorous deadlines.
- Development of strategic approaches for cleanup of contaminated sites in consultation with clients and regulators.

Executive Director:

As Executive Director with Orange Coast Watch, Matt led efforts to restore water quality at Orange County beaches from multiple sources of contamination including urban runoff and the discharge of wastewater. In reporting to a Board of Directors that included representatives from leading Orange County universities and businesses, Matt prepared issue papers in the areas of treatment and disinfection of wastewater and control of the discharge of grease to sewer systems. Matt actively participated in the development of countywide water quality permits for the control of urban runoff and permits for the discharge of wastewater. Matt worked with other nonprofits to protect and restore water quality, including Surfrider, Natural Resources Defense Council and Orange County CoastKeeper as well as with business institutions including the Orange County Business Council.

Hydrogeology:

As a Senior Hydrogeologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Matt led investigations to characterize and cleanup closing military bases, including Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, Treasure Island Naval Station, Alameda Naval Station, Moffett Field, Mather Army Airfield, and Sacramento Army Depot. Specific activities were as follows:

- Led efforts to model groundwater flow and contaminant transport, ensured adequacy of monitoring networks, and assessed cleanup alternatives for contaminated sediment, soil, and groundwater.
- Initiated a regional program for evaluation of groundwater sampling practices and laboratory analysis at military bases.
- Identified emerging issues, wrote technical guidance, and assisted in policy and regulation development through work on four national U.S. EPA workgroups, including the Superfund Groundwater Technical Forum and the Federal Facilities Forum.

At the request of the State of Hawaii, Matt developed a methodology to determine the vulnerability of groundwater to contamination on the islands of Maui and Oahu. He used analytical models and a GIS to show zones of vulnerability, and the results were adopted and published by the State of Hawaii and County of Maui.

As a hydrogeologist with the EPA Groundwater Protection Section, Matt worked with provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act and NEPA to prevent drinking water contamination. Specific activities included the following:

- Received an EPA Bronze Medal for his contribution to the development of national guidance for the protection of drinking water.
- Managed the Sole Source Aquifer Program and protected the drinking water of two communities through designation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. He prepared geologic reports, conducted

- public hearings, and responded to public comments from residents who were very concerned about the impact of designation.
- Reviewed a number of Environmental Impact Statements for planned major developments, including large hazardous and solid waste disposal facilities, mine reclamation, and water transfer.

Matt served as a hydrogeologist with the RCRA Hazardous Waste program. Duties were as follows:

- Supervised the hydrogeologic investigation of hazardous waste sites to determine compliance with Subtitle C requirements.
- Reviewed and wrote "part B" permits for the disposal of hazardous waste.
- Conducted RCRA Corrective Action investigations of waste sites and led inspections that formed
 the basis for significant enforcement actions that were developed in close coordination with U.S.
 EPA legal counsel.
- Wrote contract specifications and supervised contractor's investigations of waste sites.

With the National Park Service, Matt directed service-wide investigations of contaminant sources to prevent degradation of water quality, including the following tasks:

- Applied pertinent laws and regulations including CERCLA, RCRA, NEPA, NRDA, and the Clean Water Act to control military, mining, and landfill contaminants.
- Conducted watershed-scale investigations of contaminants at parks, including Yellowstone and Olympic National Park.
- Identified high-levels of perchlorate in soil adjacent to a national park in New Mexico and advised park superintendent on appropriate response actions under CERCLA.
- Served as a Park Service representative on the Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee, a national workgroup.
- Developed a program to conduct environmental compliance audits of all National Parks while serving on a national workgroup.
- Co-authored two papers on the potential for water contamination from the operation of personal watercraft and snowmobiles, these papers serving as the basis for the development of nationwide policy on the use of these vehicles in National Parks.
- Contributed to the Federal Multi-Agency Source Water Agreement under the Clean Water Action Plan.

Policy:

Served senior management as the Senior Science Policy Advisor with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9.

Activities included the following:

- Advised the Regional Administrator and senior management on emerging issues such as the
 potential for the gasoline additive MTBE and ammonium perchlorate to contaminate drinking
 water supplies.
- Shaped EPA's national response to these threats by serving on workgroups and by contributing
 to guidance, including the Office of Research and Development publication, Oxygenates in
 Water: Critical Information and Research Needs.
- Improved the technical training of EPA's scientific and engineering staff.
- Earned an EPA Bronze Medal for representing the region's 300 scientists and engineers in negotiations with the Administrator and senior management to better integrate scientific

- principles into the policy-making process.
- Established national protocol for the peer review of scientific documents.

Geology:

With the U.S. Forest Service, Matt led investigations to determine hillslope stability of areas proposed for timber harvest in the central Oregon Coast Range. Specific activities were as follows:

- Mapped geology in the field, and used aerial photographic interpretation and mathematical models to determine slope stability.
- Coordinated his research with community members who were concerned with natural resource protection.
- Characterized the geology of an aquifer that serves as the sole source of drinking water for the city of Medford, Oregon.

As a consultant with Dames and Moore, Matt led geologic investigations of two contaminated sites (later listed on the Superfund NPL) in the Portland, Oregon, area and a large hazardous waste site in eastern Oregon. Duties included the following:

- Supervised year-long effort for soil and groundwater sampling.
- Conducted aguifer tests.
- Investigated active faults beneath sites proposed for hazardous waste disposal.

Teaching:

From 1990 to 1998, Matt taught at least one course per semester at the community college and university levels:

- At San Francisco State University, held an adjunct faculty position and taught courses in environmental geology, oceanography (lab and lecture), hydrogeology, and groundwater contamination.
- Served as a committee member for graduate and undergraduate students.
- Taught courses in environmental geology and oceanography at the College of Marin.

Matt is currently a part time geology instructor at Golden West College in Huntington Beach, California where he taught from 2010 to 2014 and in 2017.

Invited Testimony, Reports, Papers and Presentations:

Hagemann, M.F., 2008. Disclosure of Hazardous Waste Issues under CEQA. Presentation to the Public Environmental Law Conference, Eugene, Oregon.

Hagemann, M.F., 2008. Disclosure of Hazardous Waste Issues under CEQA. Invited presentation to U.S. EPA Region 9, San Francisco, California.

Hagemann, M.F., 2005. Use of Electronic Databases in Environmental Regulation, Policy Making and Public Participation. Brownfields 2005, Denver, Coloradao.

Hagemann, M.F., 2004. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River and Impacts to Drinking Water in Nevada and the Southwestern U.S. Presentation to a meeting of the American Groundwater Trust, Las Vegas, NV (served on conference organizing committee).

Hagemann, M.F., 2004. Invited testimony to a California Senate committee hearing on air toxins at schools in Southern California, Los Angeles.

Brown, A., Farrow, J., Gray, A. and **Hagemann, M.**, 2004. An Estimate of Costs to Address MTBE Releases from Underground Storage Tanks and the Resulting Impact to Drinking Water Wells. Presentation to the Ground Water and Environmental Law Conference, National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2004. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River and Impacts to Drinking Water in Arizona and the Southwestern U.S. Presentation to a meeting of the American Groundwater Trust, Phoenix, AZ (served on conference organizing committee).

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River and Impacts to Drinking Water in the Southwestern U.S. Invited presentation to a special committee meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, Irvine, CA.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River. Invited presentation to a tribal EPA meeting, Pechanga, CA.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River. Invited presentation to a meeting of tribal repesentatives, Parker, AZ.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Impact of Perchlorate on the Colorado River and Associated Drinking Water Supplies. Invited presentation to the Inter-Tribal Meeting, Torres Martinez Tribe.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. The Emergence of Perchlorate as a Widespread Drinking Water Contaminant. Invited presentation to the U.S. EPA Region 9.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. A Deductive Approach to the Assessment of Perchlorate Contamination. Invited presentation to the California Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Hagemann, M.F., 2003. Perchlorate: A Cold War Legacy in Drinking Water. Presentation to a meeting of the National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. From Tank to Tap: A Chronology of MTBE in Groundwater. Presentation to a meeting of the National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. A Chronology of MTBE in Groundwater and an Estimate of Costs to Address Impacts to Groundwater. Presentation to the annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. An Estimate of the Cost to Address MTBE Contamination in Groundwater (and Who Will Pay). Presentation to a meeting of the National Groundwater Association.

Hagemann, M.F., 2002. An Estimate of Costs to Address MTBE Releases from Underground Storage Tanks and the Resulting Impact to Drinking Water Wells. Presentation to a meeting of the U.S. EPA and State Underground Storage Tank Program managers.

Hagemann, M.F., 2001. From Tank to Tap: A Chronology of MTBE in Groundwater. Unpublished report.

Hagemann, M.F., 2001. Estimated Cleanup Cost for MTBE in Groundwater Used as Drinking Water. Unpublished report.

Hagemann, M.F., 2001. Estimated Costs to Address MTBE Releases from Leaking Underground Storage Tanks. Unpublished report.

Hagemann, M.F., and VanMouwerik, M., 1999. Potential Water Quality Concerns Related to Snowmobile Usage. Water Resources Division, National Park Service, Technical Report.

Van Mouwerik, M. and **Hagemann**, M.F. 1999, Water Quality Concerns Related to Personal Watercraft Usage. Water Resources Division, National Park Service, Technical Report.

Hagemann, M.F., 1999, Is Dilution the Solution to Pollution in National Parks? The George Wright Society Biannual Meeting, Asheville, North Carolina.

Hagemann, M.F., 1997, The Potential for MTBE to Contaminate Groundwater. U.S. EPA Superfund Groundwater Technical Forum Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Hagemann, M.F., and Gill, M., 1996, Impediments to Intrinsic Remediation, Moffett Field Naval Air Station, Conference on Intrinsic Remediation of Chlorinated Hydrocarbons, Salt Lake City.

Hagemann, M.F., Fukunaga, G.L., 1996, The Vulnerability of Groundwater to Anthropogenic Contaminants on the Island of Maui, Hawaii. Hawaii Water Works Association Annual Meeting, Maui, October 1996.

Hagemann, M. F., Fukanaga, G. L., 1996, Ranking Groundwater Vulnerability in Central Oahu, Hawaii. Proceedings, Geographic Information Systems in Environmental Resources Management, Air and Waste Management Association Publication VIP-61.

Hagemann, M.F., 1994. Groundwater Characterization and Cleanup at Closing Military Bases in California. Proceedings, California Groundwater Resources Association Meeting.

Hagemann, M.F. and Sabol, M.A., 1993. Role of the U.S. EPA in the High Plains States Groundwater Recharge Demonstration Program. Proceedings, Sixth Biennial Symposium on the Artificial Recharge of Groundwater.

Hagemann, M.F., 1993. U.S. EPA Policy on the Technical Impracticability of the Cleanup of DNAPL-contaminated Groundwater. California Groundwater Resources Association Meeting.

Hagemann, M.F., 1992. Dense Nonaqueous Phase Liquid Contamination of Groundwater: An Ounce of Prevention... Proceedings, Association of Engineering Geologists Annual Meeting, v. 35.

Other Experience:

Selected as subject matter expert for the California Professional Geologist licensing examinations, 2009-2011.



SOIL WATER AIR PROTECTION ENTERPRISE

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Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D.

Chemical Fate and Transport & Air Dispersion Modeling

Principal Environmental Chemist

Risk Assessment & Remediation Specialist

Education

Ph.D. Soil Chemistry, University of Washington, 1999. Dissertation on volatile organic compound filtration.

M.S. Environmental Science, U.C. Berkeley, 1995. Thesis on organic waste economics.

B.A. Environmental Studies, U.C. Santa Barbara, 1991. Focus on wastewater treatment.

Professional Experience

Dr. Rosenfeld has over 25 years of experience conducting environmental investigations and risk assessments for evaluating impacts to human health, property, and ecological receptors. His expertise focuses on the fate and transport of environmental contaminants, human health risk, exposure assessment, and ecological restoration. Dr. Rosenfeld has evaluated and modeled emissions from oil spills, landfills, boilers and incinerators, process stacks, storage tanks, confined animal feeding operations, industrial, military and agricultural sources, unconventional oil drilling operations, and locomotive and construction engines. His project experience ranges from monitoring and modeling of pollution sources to evaluating impacts of pollution on workers at industrial facilities and residents in surrounding communities. Dr. Rosenfeld has also successfully modeled exposure to contaminants distributed by water systems and via vapor intrusion.

Dr. Rosenfeld has investigated and designed remediation programs and risk assessments for contaminated sites containing lead, heavy metals, mold, bacteria, particulate matter, petroleum hydrocarbons, chlorinated solvents, pesticides, radioactive waste, dioxins and furans, semi- and volatile organic compounds, PCBs, PAHs, creosote, perchlorate, asbestos, per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFOA/PFOS), unusual polymers, fuel oxygenates (MTBE), among other pollutants. Dr. Rosenfeld also has experience evaluating greenhouse gas emissions from various projects and is an expert on the assessment of odors from industrial and agricultural sites, as well as the evaluation of odor nuisance impacts and technologies for abatement of odorous emissions. As a principal scientist at SWAPE, Dr. Rosenfeld directs air dispersion modeling and exposure assessments. He has served as an expert witness and testified about pollution sources causing nuisance and/or personal injury at sites and has testified as an expert witness on numerous cases involving exposure to soil, water and air contaminants from industrial, railroad, agricultural, and military sources.

Professional History:

Soil Water Air Protection Enterprise (SWAPE); 2003 to present; Principal and Founding Partner

UCLA School of Public Health; 2007 to 2011; Lecturer (Assistant Researcher)

UCLA School of Public Health; 2003 to 2006; Adjunct Professor

UCLA Environmental Science and Engineering Program; 2002-2004; Doctoral Intern Coordinator

UCLA Institute of the Environment, 2001-2002; Research Associate

Komex H₂O Science, 2001 to 2003; Senior Remediation Scientist

National Groundwater Association, 2002-2004; Lecturer

San Diego State University, 1999-2001; Adjunct Professor

Anteon Corp., San Diego, 2000-2001; Remediation Project Manager

Ogden (now Amec), San Diego, 2000-2000; Remediation Project Manager

Bechtel, San Diego, California, 1999 – 2000; Risk Assessor

King County, Seattle, 1996 – 1999; Scientist

James River Corp., Washington, 1995-96; Scientist

Big Creek Lumber, Davenport, California, 1995; Scientist

Plumas Corp., California and USFS, Tahoe 1993-1995; Scientist

Peace Corps and World Wildlife Fund, St. Kitts, West Indies, 1991-1993; Scientist

Publications:

Rosenfeld P. E., Spaeth K., Hallman R., Bressler R., Smith, G., (2022) Cancer Risk and Diesel Exhaust Exposure Among Railroad Workers. *Water Air Soil Pollution.* **233**, 171.

Remy, L.L., Clay T., Byers, V., **Rosenfeld P. E.** (2019) Hospital, Health, and Community Burden After Oil Refinery Fires, Richmond, California 2007 and 2012. *Environmental Health*. 18:48

Simons, R.A., Seo, Y. **Rosenfeld, P.**, (2015) Modeling the Effect of Refinery Emission On Residential Property Value. Journal of Real Estate Research. 27(3):321-342

Chen, J. A, Zapata A. R., Sutherland A. J., Molmen, D.R., Chow, B. S., Wu, L. E., **Rosenfeld, P. E.,** Hesse, R. C., (2012) Sulfur Dioxide and Volatile Organic Compound Exposure To A Community In Texas City Texas Evaluated Using Aermod and Empirical Data. *American Journal of Environmental Science*, 8(6), 622-632.

Rosenfeld, P.E. & Feng, L. (2011). The Risks of Hazardous Waste. Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing.

Cheremisinoff, N.P., & Rosenfeld, P.E. (2011). Handbook of Pollution Prevention and Cleaner Production: Best Practices in the Agrochemical Industry, Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing.

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- Tam L. K.., Wu C. D., Clark J. J. and **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (2008). A Statistical Analysis Of Attic Dust And Blood Lipid Concentrations Of Tetrachloro-p-Dibenzodioxin (TCDD) Toxicity Equivalency Quotients (TEQ) In Two Populations Near Wood Treatment Facilities. *Organohalogen Compounds*, 70, 002252-002255.
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- **Rosenfeld, P. E.,** M. Suffet. (2007). The Anatomy Of Odour Wheels For Odours Of Drinking Water, Wastewater, Compost And The Urban Environment. *Water Science & Technology* 55(5), 335-344.
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- Rosenfeld, P.E., and Suffet I.H. (2004). Control of Compost Odor Using High Carbon Wood Ash. *Water Science and Technology*. 49(9),171-178.
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- Rosenfeld, P.E., and Suffet I.H. (2004). Control of Compost Odor Using High Carbon Wood Ash, *Water Science and Technology*, 49(9), 171-178.
- **Rosenfeld, P.** E., Grey, M. A., Sellew, P. (2004). Measurement of Biosolids Odor and Odorant Emissions from Windrows, Static Pile and Biofilter. *Water Environment Research*. 76(4), 310-315.
- **Rosenfeld, P.E.,** Grey, M and Suffet, M. (2002). Compost Demonstration Project, Sacramento California Using High-Carbon Wood Ash to Control Odor at a Green Materials Composting Facility. *Integrated Waste Management Board Public Affairs Office*, Publications Clearinghouse (MS–6), Sacramento, CA Publication #442-02-008.
- **Rosenfeld, P.E.**, and C.L. Henry. (2001). Characterization of odor emissions from three different biosolids. *Water Soil and Air Pollution*. 127(1-4), 173-191.
- **Rosenfeld, P.E.,** and Henry C. L., (2000). Wood ash control of odor emissions from biosolids application. *Journal of Environmental Quality*. 29, 1662-1668.
- **Rosenfeld**, **P.E.**, C.L. Henry and D. Bennett. (2001). Wastewater dewatering polymer affect on biosolids odor emissions and microbial activity. *Water Environment Research*. 73(4), 363-367.
- **Rosenfeld, P.E.,** and C.L. Henry. (2001). Activated Carbon and Wood Ash Sorption of Wastewater, Compost, and Biosolids Odorants. *Water Environment Research*, 73, 388-393.

- **Rosenfeld, P.E.,** and Henry C. L., (2001). High carbon wood ash effect on biosolids microbial activity and odor. *Water Environment Research*. 131(1-4), 247-262.
- Chollack, T. and **P. Rosenfeld.** (1998). Compost Amendment Handbook For Landscaping. Prepared for and distributed by the City of Redmond, Washington State.
- Rosenfeld, P. E. (1992). The Mount Liamuiga Crater Trail. Heritage Magazine of St. Kitts, 3(2).
- **Rosenfeld, P. E.** (1993). High School Biogas Project to Prevent Deforestation On St. Kitts. *Biomass Users Network*, 7(1).
- **Rosenfeld, P. E.** (1998). Characterization, Quantification, and Control of Odor Emissions From Biosolids Application To Forest Soil. Doctoral Thesis. University of Washington College of Forest Resources.
- Rosenfeld, P. E. (1994). Potential Utilization of Small Diameter Trees on Sierra County Public Land. Masters thesis reprinted by the Sierra County Economic Council. Sierra County, California.
- **Rosenfeld, P. E.** (1991). How to Build a Small Rural Anaerobic Digester & Uses Of Biogas In The First And Third World. Bachelors Thesis. University of California.

Presentations:

- **Rosenfeld, P.E.**, "The science for Perfluorinated Chemicals (PFAS): What makes remediation so hard?" Law Seminars International, (May 9-10, 2018) 800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 101 Seattle, WA.
- Rosenfeld, P.E., Sutherland, A; Hesse, R.; Zapata, A. (October 3-6, 2013). Air dispersion modeling of volatile organic emissions from multiple natural gas wells in Decatur, TX. 44th Western Regional Meeting, American Chemical Society. Lecture conducted from Santa Clara, CA.
- Sok, H.L.; Waller, C.C.; Feng, L.; Gonzalez, J.; Sutherland, A.J.; Wisdom-Stack, T.; Sahai, R.K.; Hesse, R.C.; **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (June 20-23, 2010). Atrazine: A Persistent Pesticide in Urban Drinking Water. *Urban Environmental Pollution*. Lecture conducted from Boston, MA.
- Feng, L.; Gonzalez, J.; Sok, H.L.; Sutherland, A.J.; Waller, C.C.; Wisdom-Stack, T.; Sahai, R.K.; La, M.; Hesse, R.C.; **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (June 20-23, 2010). Bringing Environmental Justice to East St. Louis, Illinois. *Urban Environmental Pollution*. Lecture conducted from Boston, MA.
- **Rosenfeld, P.E.** (April 19-23, 2009). Perfluoroctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluoroactane Sulfonate (PFOS) Contamination in Drinking Water From the Use of Aqueous Film Forming Foams (AFFF) at Airports in the United States. 2009 Ground Water Summit and 2009 Ground Water Protection Council Spring Meeting, Lecture conducted from Tuscon, AZ.
- Rosenfeld, P.E. (April 19-23, 2009). Cost to Filter Atrazine Contamination from Drinking Water in the United States" Contamination in Drinking Water From the Use of Aqueous Film Forming Foams (AFFF) at Airports in the United States. 2009 Ground Water Summit and 2009 Ground Water Protection Council Spring Meeting. Lecture conducted from Tuscon, AZ.
- Wu, C., Tam, L., Clark, J., **Rosenfeld, P**. (20-22 July, 2009). Dioxin and furan blood lipid concentrations in populations living near four wood treatment facilities in the United States. Brebbia, C.A. and Popov, V., eds., *Air Pollution XVII: Proceedings of the Seventeenth International Conference on Modeling, Monitoring and Management of Air Pollution*. Lecture conducted from Tallinn, Estonia.
- **Rosenfeld, P. E.** (October 15-18, 2007). Moss Point Community Exposure To Contaminants From A Releasing Facility. *The 23rd Annual International Conferences on Soils Sediment and Water*. Platform lecture conducted from University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA.

- **Rosenfeld, P. E.** (October 15-18, 2007). The Repeated Trespass of Tritium-Contaminated Water Into A Surrounding Community Form Repeated Waste Spills From A Nuclear Power Plant. *The 23rd Annual International Conferences on Soils Sediment and Water*. Platform lecture conducted from University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA.
- **Rosenfeld, P. E.** (October 15-18, 2007). Somerville Community Exposure To Contaminants From Wood Treatment Facility Emissions. The 23rd Annual International Conferences on Soils Sediment and Water. Lecture conducted from University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA.
- **Rosenfeld P. E.** (March 2007). Production, Chemical Properties, Toxicology, & Treatment Case Studies of 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP). *The Association for Environmental Health and Sciences (AEHS) Annual Meeting*. Lecture conducted from San Diego, CA.
- **Rosenfeld P. E.** (March 2007). Blood and Attic Sampling for Dioxin/Furan, PAH, and Metal Exposure in Florala, Alabama. *The AEHS Annual Meeting*. Lecture conducted from San Diego, CA.
- Hensley A.R., Scott, A., Rosenfeld P.E., Clark, J.J.J. (August 21 25, 2006). Dioxin Containing Attic Dust And Human Blood Samples Collected Near A Former Wood Treatment Facility. *The 26th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants DIOXIN2006*. Lecture conducted from Radisson SAS Scandinavia Hotel in Oslo Norway.
- Hensley A.R., Scott, A., Rosenfeld P.E., Clark, J.J.J. (November 4-8, 2006). Dioxin Containing Attic Dust And Human Blood Samples Collected Near A Former Wood Treatment Facility. *APHA 134 Annual Meeting & Exposition*. Lecture conducted from Boston Massachusetts.
- **Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D.** (October 24-25, 2005). Fate, Transport and Persistence of PFOA and Related Chemicals. Mealey's C8/PFOA. *Science, Risk & Litigation Conference*. Lecture conducted from The Rittenhouse Hotel, Philadelphia, PA.
- **Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D**. (September 19, 2005). Brominated Flame Retardants in Groundwater: Pathways to Human Ingestion, *Toxicology and Remediation PEMA Emerging Contaminant Conference*. Lecture conducted from Hilton Hotel, Irvine California.
- **Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D**. (September 19, 2005). Fate, Transport, Toxicity, And Persistence of 1,2,3-TCP. *PEMA Emerging Contaminant Conference*. Lecture conducted from Hilton Hotel in Irvine, California.
- **Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D**. (September 26-27, 2005). Fate, Transport and Persistence of PDBEs. *Mealey's Groundwater Conference*. Lecture conducted from Ritz Carlton Hotel, Marina Del Ray, California.
- **Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D.** (June 7-8, 2005). Fate, Transport and Persistence of PFOA and Related Chemicals. *International Society of Environmental Forensics: Focus On Emerging Contaminants*. Lecture conducted from Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- **Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D.** (July 21-22, 2005). Fate Transport, Persistence and Toxicology of PFOA and Related Perfluorochemicals. 2005 National Groundwater Association Ground Water And Environmental Law Conference. Lecture conducted from Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor, Baltimore Maryland.
- **Paul Rosenfeld Ph.D**. (July 21-22, 2005). Brominated Flame Retardants in Groundwater: Pathways to Human Ingestion, Toxicology and Remediation. 2005 National Groundwater Association Ground Water and Environmental Law Conference. Lecture conducted from Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor, Baltimore Maryland.
- **Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D.** and James Clark Ph.D. and Rob Hesse R.G. (May 5-6, 2004). Tert-butyl Alcohol Liability and Toxicology, A National Problem and Unquantified Liability. *National Groundwater Association. Environmental Law Conference*. Lecture conducted from Congress Plaza Hotel, Chicago Illinois.

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D. (March 2004). Perchlorate Toxicology. *Meeting of the American Groundwater Trust*. Lecture conducted from Phoenix Arizona.

Hagemann, M.F., **Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D.** and Rob Hesse (2004). Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River. *Meeting of tribal representatives*. Lecture conducted from Parker, AZ.

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D. (April 7, 2004). A National Damage Assessment Model For PCE and Dry Cleaners. Drycleaner Symposium. California Ground Water Association. Lecture conducted from Radison Hotel, Sacramento, California.

Rosenfeld, P. E., Grey, M., (June 2003) Two stage biofilter for biosolids composting odor control. Seventh International In Situ And On Site Bioremediation Symposium Battelle Conference Orlando, FL.

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D. and James Clark Ph.D. (February 20-21, 2003) Understanding Historical Use, Chemical Properties, Toxicity and Regulatory Guidance of 1,4 Dioxane. *National Groundwater Association. Southwest Focus Conference. Water Supply and Emerging Contaminants.*. Lecture conducted from Hyatt Regency Phoenix Arizona.

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D. (February 6-7, 2003). Underground Storage Tank Litigation and Remediation. *California CUPA Forum*. Lecture conducted from Marriott Hotel, Anaheim California.

Paul Rosenfeld, Ph.D. (October 23, 2002) Underground Storage Tank Litigation and Remediation. *EPA Underground Storage Tank Roundtable*. Lecture conducted from Sacramento California.

Rosenfeld, P.E. and Suffet, M. (October 7- 10, 2002). Understanding Odor from Compost, *Wastewater and Industrial Processes. Sixth Annual Symposium On Off Flavors in the Aquatic Environment. International Water Association*. Lecture conducted from Barcelona Spain.

Rosenfeld, P.E. and Suffet, M. (October 7- 10, 2002). Using High Carbon Wood Ash to Control Compost Odor. *Sixth Annual Symposium On Off Flavors in the Aquatic Environment. International Water Association*. Lecture conducted from Barcelona Spain.

Rosenfeld, P.E. and Grey, M. A. (September 22-24, 2002). Biocycle Composting For Coastal Sage Restoration. *Northwest Biosolids Management Association*. Lecture conducted from Vancouver Washington..

Rosenfeld, P.E. and Grey, M. A. (November 11-14, 2002). Using High-Carbon Wood Ash to Control Odor at a Green Materials Composting Facility. *Soil Science Society Annual Conference*. Lecture conducted from Indianapolis, Maryland.

Rosenfeld. P.E. (September 16, 2000). Two stage biofilter for biosolids composting odor control. *Water Environment Federation*. Lecture conducted from Anaheim California.

Rosenfeld. P.E. (October 16, 2000). Wood ash and biofilter control of compost odor. *Biofest*. Lecture conducted from Ocean Shores, California.

Rosenfeld, P.E. (2000). Bioremediation Using Organic Soil Amendments. *California Resource Recovery Association*. Lecture conducted from Sacramento California.

Rosenfeld, P.E., C.L. Henry, R. Harrison. (1998). Oat and Grass Seed Germination and Nitrogen and Sulfur Emissions Following Biosolids Incorporation With High-Carbon Wood-Ash. *Water Environment Federation 12th Annual Residuals and Biosolids Management Conference Proceedings*. Lecture conducted from Bellevue Washington.

Rosenfeld, P.E., and C.L. Henry. (1999). An evaluation of ash incorporation with biosolids for odor reduction. *Soil Science Society of America*. Lecture conducted from Salt Lake City Utah.

Rosenfeld, P.E., C.L. Henry, R. Harrison. (1998). Comparison of Microbial Activity and Odor Emissions from Three Different Biosolids Applied to Forest Soil. *Brown and Caldwell*. Lecture conducted from Seattle Washington.

Rosenfeld, P.E., C.L. Henry. (1998). Characterization, Quantification, and Control of Odor Emissions from Biosolids Application To Forest Soil. *Biofest*. Lecture conducted from Lake Chelan, Washington.

Rosenfeld, P.E, C.L. Henry, R. Harrison. (1998). Oat and Grass Seed Germination and Nitrogen and Sulfur Emissions Following Biosolids Incorporation With High-Carbon Wood-Ash. Water Environment Federation 12th Annual Residuals and Biosolids Management Conference Proceedings. Lecture conducted from Bellevue Washington.

Rosenfeld, P.E., C.L. Henry, R. B. Harrison, and R. Dills. (1997). Comparison of Odor Emissions From Three Different Biosolids Applied to Forest Soil. *Soil Science Society of America*. Lecture conducted from Anaheim California.

Teaching Experience:

UCLA Department of Environmental Health (Summer 2003 through 20010) Taught Environmental Health Science 100 to students, including undergrad, medical doctors, public health professionals and nurses. Course focused on the health effects of environmental contaminants.

National Ground Water Association, Successful Remediation Technologies. Custom Course in Sante Fe, New Mexico. May 21, 2002. Focused on fate and transport of fuel contaminants associated with underground storage tanks.

National Ground Water Association; Successful Remediation Technologies Course in Chicago Illinois. April 1, 2002. Focused on fate and transport of contaminants associated with Superfund and RCRA sites.

California Integrated Waste Management Board, April and May, 2001. Alternative Landfill Caps Seminar in San Diego, Ventura, and San Francisco. Focused on both prescriptive and innovative landfill cover design.

UCLA Department of Environmental Engineering, February 5, 2002. Seminar on Successful Remediation Technologies focusing on Groundwater Remediation.

University Of Washington, Soil Science Program, Teaching Assistant for several courses including: Soil Chemistry, Organic Soil Amendments, and Soil Stability.

U.C. Berkeley, Environmental Science Program Teaching Assistant for Environmental Science 10.

Academic Grants Awarded:

California Integrated Waste Management Board. \$41,000 grant awarded to UCLA Institute of the Environment. Goal: To investigate effect of high carbon wood ash on volatile organic emissions from compost. 2001.

Synagro Technologies, Corona California: \$10,000 grant awarded to San Diego State University. Goal: investigate effect of biosolids for restoration and remediation of degraded coastal sage soils. 2000.

King County, Department of Research and Technology, Washington State. \$100,000 grant awarded to University of Washington: Goal: To investigate odor emissions from biosolids application and the effect of polymers and ash on VOC emissions. 1998.

Northwest Biosolids Management Association, Washington State. \$20,000 grant awarded to investigate effect of polymers and ash on VOC emissions from biosolids. 1997.

James River Corporation, Oregon: \$10,000 grant was awarded to investigate the success of genetically engineered Poplar trees with resistance to round-up. 1996.

United State Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest: \$15,000 grant was awarded to investigating fire ecology of the Tahoe National Forest. 1995.

Kellogg Foundation, Washington D.C. \$500 grant was awarded to construct a large anaerobic digester on St. Kitts in West Indies. 1993

Deposition and/or Trial Testimony:

In the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Bernardino

Billy Wildrick, Plaintiff vs. BNSF Railway Company

Case No. CIVDS1711810

Rosenfeld Deposition 10-17-2022

In the State Court of Bibb County, State of Georgia

Richard Hutcherson, Plaintiff vs Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Case No. 10-SCCV-092007

Rosenfeld Deposition 10-6-2022

In the Civil District Court of the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana

Millard Clark, Plaintiff vs. Dixie Carriers, Inc. et al.

Case No. 2020-03891

Rosenfeld Deposition 9-15-2022

In The Circuit Court of Livingston County, State of Missouri, Circuit Civil Division

Shirley Ralls, Plaintiff vs. Canadian Pacific Railway and Soo Line Railroad

Case No. 18-LV-CC0020

Rosenfeld Deposition 9-7-2022

In The Circuit Court of the 13th Judicial Circuit Court, Hillsborough County, Florida Civil Division

Jonny C. Daniels, Plaintiff vs. CSX Transportation Inc.

Case No. 20-CA-5502

Rosenfeld Deposition 9-1-2022

In The Circuit Court of St. Louis County, State of Missouri

Kieth Luke et. al. Plaintiff vs. Monsanto Company et. al.

Case No. 19SL-CC03191

Rosenfeld Deposition 8-25-2022

In The Circuit Court of the 13th Judicial Circuit Court, Hillsborough County, Florida Civil Division

Jeffery S. Lamotte, Plaintiff vs. CSX Transportation Inc.

Case No. NO. 20-CA-0049

Rosenfeld Deposition 8-22-2022

In State of Minnesota District Court, County of St. Louis Sixth Judicial District

Greg Bean, Plaintiff vs. Soo Line Railroad Company

Case No. 69-DU-CV-21-760

Rosenfeld Deposition 8-17-2022

In United States District Court Western District of Washington at Tacoma, Washington

John D. Fitzgerald Plaintiff vs. BNSF

Case No. 3:21-cv-05288-RJB

Rosenfeld Deposition 8-11-2022

In Circuit Court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Macon Illinois

Rocky Bennyhoff Plaintiff vs. Norfolk Southern

Case No. 20-L-56

Rosenfeld Deposition 8-3-2022

In Court of Common Pleas, Hamilton County Ohio

Joe Briggins Plaintiff vs. CSX

Case No. A2004464

Rosenfeld Deposition 6-17-2022

In the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Kern

George LaFazia vs. BNSF Railway Company.

Case No. BCV-19-103087

Rosenfeld Deposition 5-17-2022

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois

Bobby Earles vs. Penn Central et. al.

Case No. 2020-L-000550

Rosenfeld Deposition 4-16-2022

In United States District Court Easter District of Florida

Albert Hartman Plaintiff vs. Illinois Central

Case No. 2:20-cv-1633

Rosenfeld Deposition 4-4-2022

In the Circuit Court of the 4th Judicial Circuit, in and For Duval County, Florida

Barbara Steele vs. CSX Transportation

Case No.16-219-Ca-008796

Rosenfeld Deposition 3-15-2022

In United States District Court Easter District of New York

Romano et al. vs. Northrup Grumman Corporation

Case No. 16-cv-5760

Rosenfeld Deposition 3-10-2022

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois

Linda Benjamin vs. Illinois Central

Case No. No. 2019 L 007599

Rosenfeld Deposition 1-26-2022

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois

Donald Smith vs. Illinois Central

Case No. No. 2019 L 003426

Rosenfeld Deposition 1-24-2022

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois

Jan Holeman vs. BNSF

Case No. 2019 L 000675

Rosenfeld Deposition 1-18-2022

In the State Court of Bibb County State of Georgia

Dwayne B. Garrett vs. Norfolk Southern

Case No. 20-SCCV-091232

Rosenfeld Deposition 11-10-2021

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois

Joseph Ruepke vs. BNSF Case No. 2019 L 007730

Rosenfeld Deposition 11-5-2021

In the United States District Court For the District of Nebraska

Steven Gillett vs. BNSF Case No. 4:20-cv-03120

Rosenfeld Deposition 10-28-2021

In the Montana Thirteenth District Court of Yellowstone County

James Eadus vs. Soo Line Railroad and BNSF

Case No. DV 19-1056

Rosenfeld Deposition 10-21-2021

In the Circuit Court Of The Twentieth Judicial Circuit, St Clair County, Illinois

Martha Custer et al.cvs. Cerro Flow Products, Inc.

Case No. 0i9-L-2295

Rosenfeld Deposition 5-14-2021

Trial October 8-4-2021

In the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois

Joseph Rafferty vs. Consolidated Rail Corporation and National Railroad Passenger Corporation d/b/a AMTRAK,

Case No. 18-L-6845

Rosenfeld Deposition 6-28-2021

In the United States District Court For the Northern District of Illinois

Theresa Romcoe vs. Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation d/b/a METRA Rail

Case No. 17-cv-8517

Rosenfeld Deposition 5-25-2021

In the Superior Court of the State of Arizona In and For the Cunty of Maricopa

Mary Tryon et al. vs. The City of Pheonix v. Cox Cactus Farm, L.L.C., Utah Shelter Systems, Inc.

Case No. CV20127-094749

Rosenfeld Deposition 5-7-2021

In the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas Beaumont Division

Robinson, Jeremy et al vs. CNA Insurance Company et al.

Case No. 1:17-cv-000508

Rosenfeld Deposition 3-25-2021

In the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Bernardino

Gary Garner, Personal Representative for the Estate of Melvin Garner vs. BNSF Railway Company.

Case No. 1720288

Rosenfeld Deposition 2-23-2021

In the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Spring Street Courthouse

Benny M Rodriguez vs. Union Pacific Railroad, A Corporation, et al.

Case No. 18STCV01162

Rosenfeld Deposition 12-23-2020

In the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri

Karen Cornwell, Plaintiff, vs. Marathon Petroleum, LP, Defendant.

Case No. 1716-CV10006

Rosenfeld Deposition 8-30-2019

In the United States District Court For The District of New Jersey

Duarte et al, Plaintiffs, vs. United States Metals Refining Company et. al. Defendant.

Case No. 2:17-cv-01624-ES-SCM

Rosenfeld Deposition 6-7-2019

In the United States District Court of Southern District of Texas Galveston Division

M/T Carla Maersk vs. Conti 168., Schiffahrts-GMBH & Co. Bulker KG MS "Conti Perdido" Defendant.

Case No. 3:15-CV-00106 consolidated with 3:15-CV-00237

Rosenfeld Deposition 5-9-2019

In The Superior Court of the State of California In And For The County Of Los Angeles - Santa Monica

Carole-Taddeo-Bates et al., vs. Ifran Khan et al., Defendants

Case No. BC615636

Rosenfeld Deposition 1-26-2019

In The Superior Court of the State of California In And For The County Of Los Angeles - Santa Monica

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments et al. vs El Adobe Apts. Inc. et al., Defendants

Case No. BC646857

Rosenfeld Deposition 10-6-2018; Trial 3-7-19

In United States District Court For The District of Colorado

Bells et al. Plaintiffs vs. The 3M Company et al., Defendants

Case No. 1:16-cv-02531-RBJ

Rosenfeld Deposition 3-15-2018 and 4-3-2018

In The District Court Of Regan County, Texas, 112th Judicial District

Phillip Bales et al., Plaintiff vs. Dow Agrosciences, LLC, et al., Defendants

Cause No. 1923

Rosenfeld Deposition 11-17-2017

In The Superior Court of the State of California In And For The County Of Contra Costa

Simons et al., Plaintifs vs. Chevron Corporation, et al., Defendants

Cause No. C12-01481

Rosenfeld Deposition 11-20-2017

In The Circuit Court Of The Twentieth Judicial Circuit, St Clair County, Illinois

Martha Custer et al., Plaintiff vs. Cerro Flow Products, Inc., Defendants

Case No.: No. 0i9-L-2295

Rosenfeld Deposition 8-23-2017

In United States District Court For The Southern District of Mississippi

Guy Manuel vs. The BP Exploration et al., Defendants

Case No. 1:19-cv-00315-RHW

Rosenfeld Deposition 4-22-2020

In The Superior Court of the State of California, For The County of Los Angeles

Warrn Gilbert and Penny Gilber, Plaintiff vs. BMW of North America LLC

Case No. LC102019 (c/w BC582154)

Rosenfeld Deposition 8-16-2017, Trail 8-28-2018

In the Northern District Court of Mississippi, Greenville Division

Brenda J. Cooper, et al., Plaintiffs, vs. Meritor Inc., et al., Defendants

Case No. 4:16-cv-52-DMB-JVM

Rosenfeld Deposition July 2017

In The Superior Court of the State of Washington, County of Snohomish

Michael Davis and Julie Davis et al., Plaintiff vs. Cedar Grove Composting Inc., Defendants

Case No. 13-2-03987-5

Rosenfeld Deposition, February 2017

Trial March 2017

In The Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda

Charles Spain., Plaintiff vs. Thermo Fisher Scientific, et al., Defendants

Case No. RG14711115

Rosenfeld Deposition September 2015

In The Iowa District Court In And For Poweshiek County

Russell D. Winburn, et al., Plaintiffs vs. Doug Hoksbergen, et al., Defendants

Case No. LALA002187

Rosenfeld Deposition August 2015

In The Circuit Court of Ohio County, West Virginia

Robert Andrews, et al. v. Antero, et al.

Civil Action No. 14-C-30000

Rosenfeld Deposition June 2015

In The Iowa District Court for Muscatine County

Laurie Freeman et. al. Plaintiffs vs. Grain Processing Corporation, Defendant

Case No. 4980

Rosenfeld Deposition May 2015

In the Circuit Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit, in and For Broward County, Florida

Walter Hinton, et. al. Plaintiff, vs. City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a Municipality, Defendant.

Case No. CACE07030358 (26)

Rosenfeld Deposition December 2014

In the County Court of Dallas County Texas

Lisa Parr et al, Plaintiff, vs. Aruba et al, Defendant.

Case No. cc-11-01650-E

Rosenfeld Deposition: March and September 2013

Rosenfeld Trial April 2014

In the Court of Common Pleas of Tuscarawas County Ohio

John Michael Abicht, et al., Plaintiffs, vs. Republic Services, Inc., et al., Defendants

Case No. 2008 CT 10 0741 (Cons. w/ 2009 CV 10 0987)

Rosenfeld Deposition October 2012

In the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division

James K. Benefield, et al., Plaintiffs, vs. International Paper Company, Defendant.

Civil Action No. 2:09-cv-232-WHA-TFM

Rosenfeld Deposition July 2010, June 2011

In the Circuit Court of Jefferson County Alabama

Jaeanette Moss Anthony, et al., Plaintiffs, vs. Drummond Company Inc., et al., Defendants

Civil Action No. CV 2008-2076

Rosenfeld Deposition September 2010

In the United States District Court, Western District Lafayette Division

Ackle et al., Plaintiffs, vs. Citgo Petroleum Corporation, et al., Defendants.

Case No. 2:07CV1052

Rosenfeld Deposition July 2009

EXHIBIT C



CALIFORNIA WASHINGTON NEW YORK

February 12th, 2024

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SUBJECT: 439 South Fourth Street, Comments on the Noise Analysis

Dear Ms. Yundt,

Per your request, we have reviewed the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for 439 South Street development in the City of San Jose. The proposed project would construct a 25-story 209-unit apartment building south of Downtown San Jose. The site is surrounded by sensitive uses, most notably multi-family residences directly adjacent to the site both to the west and the north, as well as a single-family residence directly to the south. All comments are based on the following document, prepared by Illingworth and Rodkin, Inc, which is found in the SEIR as Appendix E.:

439 & 451 SOUTH 4TH STREET PROJECT NOISE AND VIBRATION ASSESSMENT

Adverse Effects of Noise¹

Although the health effects of noise are not taken as seriously in the United States as they are in other countries, they are real and, in many parts of the country, pervasive.

Noise-Induced Hearing Loss. If a person is repeatedly exposed to loud noises, he or she may experience noise-induced hearing impairment or loss. In the United States, both the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) promote standards and regulations to protect the hearing of people exposed to high levels of industrial noise.

Speech Interference. Another common problem associated with noise is speech interference. In addition to the obvious issues that may arise from misunderstandings, speech interference also leads to problems with concentration fatigue, irritation, decreased working capacity, and automatic stress reactions. For complete speech intelligibility, the sound level of the speech should be 15 to 18 dBA higher than the background noise. Typical indoor speech levels are 45 to 50 dBA at 1 meter, so any noise above 30 dBA begins to interfere with speech intelligibility. The common reaction to higher background noise levels is to raise one's voice. If this is required persistently for long periods of time, stress reactions and irritation will likely result.

¹ More information on these and other adverse effects of noise may be found in *Guidelines for Community Noise*, eds B Berglund, T Lindvall, and D Schwela, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 1999. (https://www.who.int/docstore/peh/noise/Comnoise-1.pdf)

Sleep Disturbance. Noise can disturb sleep by making it more difficult to fall asleep, by waking someone after they are asleep, or by altering their sleep stage, e.g., reducing the amount of rapid eye movement (REM) sleep. Noise exposure for people who are sleeping has also been linked to increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, increase in body movements, and other physiological effects. Not surprisingly, people whose sleep is disturbed by noise often experience secondary effects such as increased fatigue, depressed mood, and decreased work performance.

Cardiovascular and Physiological Effects. Human's bodily reactions to noise are rooted in the "fight or flight" response that evolved when many noises signaled imminent danger. These include increased blood pressure, elevated heart rate, and vasoconstriction. Prolonged exposure to acute noises can result in permanent effects such as hypertension and heart disease.

Impaired Cognitive Performance. Studies have established that noise exposure impairs people's abilities to perform complex tasks (tasks that require attention to detail or analytical processes), and it makes reading, paying attention, solving problems, and memorizing more difficult. Therefore, there are standards for classroom background noise levels and why offices and libraries are designed to provide quiet work environments. One societal change brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic is that many people now routinely work and learn from home, and this has given rise to more noise complaints from loud activities such as construction work.

Analysis Shows Significant Impact without Mitigation.

Table 7 of Appendix E shows that "Existing Comm[erical receptor] – west" has a DNL of 57 dBA. This is most likely referring to the receptors immediately to the west – 420 and 452 Third Street. These are residential structures, meaning they would have to meet the City of San Jose General Plan criteria of 55 dBA called out in EC-1.3 on page 11 of Appendix E. As such, the SEIR should be revised to mitigate this impact, with a full analysis of mechanical room plans and potential mitigation options, such as acoustical treatment within the mechanical room.

Impact Analysis is Incomplete.

Incorrect Horizontal Geometry is Used in the Analysis

The distances between noise sources and sensitives receptors in Appendix E of the SIER are greatly underestimated. For example, Table 6 in Appendix E states that the closest receiver to the north is 95 feet away – in actuality it is 5 feet – which Appendix E even cites correctly in figure 5. Table 1 below shows a summary of all distances used in the analysis, along with estimations of the proper distances, based on different scenarios. The 'Demolished Building' scenario was taken from Table 10 of Appendix E.

Table 1: Distances Used in SEIR Compared to Measured Distances

	Direction from Project	Distance in Table 6	Distance in Figure 5	Measured Distance to Main Receptor Structure from	
Receptor				Edge of Construction	Demolished
				Site	Building
405 S 4 th Street	North	95 ft	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft
420 S 3 rd Street	West	80 ft	n/a	10 ft	20 ft
459 S 4 th Street	South	85 ft	n/a	5 ft	10 ft

Receptor	Direction from Project	Distance in Table 6	Distance in Figure 5	Measured Distance to Main Receptor Structure from	
				Edge of Construction	Demolished
				Site	Building
442 S 4 th Street	East	140 ft	n/a	95 ft	100 ft

These incorrect distances can wildly underestimate levels – for example the construction noise at 405 S 4th Street could be as high as 106 dBA, instead of the 82 dBA listed in the report. The SEIR should be amended with proper screening distances to accurately reflect the noise and vibration environment.

<u>Incorrect Vertical Geometry is Used in the Operational Analysis</u>

Table 7 in Appendix E of the SIER shows Distance from Center of the Rooftop Equipment to the mechanical room of the proposed project. However, The Mark Residential apartments, approved in July 2021 (see table 3.0-1 in the SEIR), will be 23 stories high and adjacent to the property. This means the distance between the rooftop equipment and closest receptor could be as close as 35 feet, based on the two-story difference and an estimation of 25 feet horizontal space between the two buildings.

Table 7 establishes that an hourly Leq is 7 dBA below the corresponding DNL, which is used as a significance threshold at 55 dBA. Performing distance attenuation calculations, translating the source level of 69 dBA in the document from 3 feet to 35 feet gives a new level right at this threshold of 55 dBA DNL. As such, the evaluation should be re-calculated with the approved residential building, with a full analysis of mechanical room plans and potential mitigation options, such as acoustical treatment within the mechanical room.

<u>Incorrect Vertical Geometry is Used in the Construction Analysis</u>

Mitigation Measure 1a states the project should construct "solid plywood fences around construction sites adjacent to operational business, residences, or other noise-sensitive land uses" and that a "temporary 8-foot noise barrier shall be constructed along the south property line" However, the presence of multistory buildings may reduce the effectiveness of this sound barrier at higher elevations that can see over the barrier. The adjacent apartment complex to the north is 3 stories tall – meaning the top story can see over the barrier into the center of construction site with no reduction effects and may reduce the effectiveness of Mitigation Measure 1a.

Improper Noise Thresholds are Applied to Project

Appendix E of the SEIR states that since there are no applicable city or county noise limits, the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*² is used as an applicable limit. The cited FTA Manual is a guidance document, and it discourages projects against using its absolute criteria values without consideration of local conditions stating, "Project construction noise criteria should account for the existing noise environment" (FTA page 179). Without further analysis, the FTA threshold could be too high, and the SEIR provides no discussion

 $^{^2\} https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/research-innovation/118131/transit-noise-and-vibration-impact-assessment-manual-fta-report-no-0123_0.pdf$

why the chosen 80 dBA construction noise threshold should be deemed acceptable. In fact, page 7 of the SEIR Appendix E states that "noise impacts would be considered significant if the project would result in … Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project." Therefore, it is not accurate to characterize that the SEIR analysis has completely addressed CEQA standards.

The lowest daytime ambient noise level was determined to be 55 dBA in Appendix E. In Table 6 of SEIR Appendix E, the highest calculated noise level was determined to be 82 dBA. However, adjusting this to the correct distance of 5 feet, as opposed to the 80 ft in Table 6, gives a new level of 106 dB which would cause a 51 dB increase at the closest receptor. This shows the problems with relying solely on an 80 dB absolute limit, as a 10 dB increase is generally perceived as a doubling of loudness³. Even at the wrong distances in the report, the levels that they predict are up to 37 dBA above ambient. As it currently stands, there are a few instances where construction noise exceeds the FTA threshold. However, the document underrepresents the widespread instances of significant ambient noise increases that create significant and unavoidable impact.

Conclusions

There are several errors and omissions in the noise analysis. Correcting these would potentially identify several significant impacts which require mitigation.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions on this information.

Very truly yours,

WILSON IHRIG

Jack Meighan Associate

³ https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/environmental-analysis/documents/env/tens-sep2013-a11y.pdf Page 6-5