

**CITY OF LATHROP, CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)
(Public Resources Code 21000-21177)
and the CEQA GUIDELINES
(California Code of Regulations, Title 14,
Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000-15387)

A. GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

1. **Project Title:** GPA 15-35, Amendment of Lathrop General Plan - Safety Element pursuant to Senate Bill 5 and Related 200-Year Flood Protection Legislation
2. **Project Entitlements:** City Council, Adoption of Proposed Amendment

Planning Commission, Recommendation to City Council
3. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** City of Lathrop
390 Towne Center Drive
Lathrop, CA 95330
(209) 941-7260
4. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Rebecca Willis, Community Development Director
(209) 941-7260
5. **Project Location:** The City of Lathrop is located in San Joaquin County at the intersection of Interstate 5, I-205 and SR 120, east and west of the San Joaquin River as it enters the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, near Paradise Cut and Old River. The City is approximately 65 miles east of San Francisco and 55 miles south of Sacramento. See Figures 1 and 2.
6. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Same as Lead Agency
7. **General Plan Designations and Zoning:** General Plan Designations: With the exception of planned parks and open space areas, the entire City is designated for various urban residential, commercial and industrial uses

Zoning: The City is likewise zoned for various urban residential, commercial and industrial uses, consistent with existing general plan designations.

8. Surrounding Land Uses: North: Agriculture, industrial, highway and service commercial
- East: City of Manteca, Sharpe Army Depot
- South: Agriculture, mining
- West: Agricultural
9. Other public agencies whose approval is required: None
10. Project Details
- The proposed project consists of City adoption and implementation of General Plan Amendment (GPA) #15-35, SB 5 200-Year Flood Protection, . The proposed amendment has been prepared in fulfillment of Senate Bill 5 and related 200-year floodplain legislation. The GPA incorporates available flood risk information and flood protection requirements imposed by the State legislation into the Lathrop General Plan, including new specific requirements for the content of Safety Elements. Among other things, the GPA includes the range of available information related to flooding risk, agencies responsible for flood management, and City of Lathrop goals, policies and implementation measures related to flood protection that fulfill the requirements of the State legislation. Importantly, the GPA incorporates provisions of the California Government Code and Water Code that together restrict development in areas exposed to flooding events by imposing new City planning and zoning requirements.
- The proposed GPA does not propose any physical action that could result in a direct or indirect effect on the environment. The GPA establishes new goals, policies, standards and implementation measures that would further restrict development in areas exposed to potential flooding, in accordance with provisions of state law. The GPA would not change any existing land use designations, or authorize or expand potential development in Lathrop as is already described in the Lathrop General Plan.
- Planned urban development provided for in the Lathrop General Plan and zoning has been considered in numerous prior certified EIRs including the Lathrop General Plan EIR and EIRs addressing each of the large-scale specific plans governing development in undeveloped portions of the City. These include EIRs

for the Crossroads, West Lathrop Specific Plan, River Islands, Mossdale Village and Lathrop Gateway Business Park projects. An additional EIR has been prepared for the South Lathrop Specific Plan area but is not yet certified.

The 200-year flood protection standards addressed in the GPA are already established in State law. In parallel with amendment of the general plan, and order to comply with these requirements, the City of Lathrop, the reclamation districts responsible for levees protecting the City and other agencies are conducting detailed levee investigations, and planning and engineering improvements needed to correct any levee deficiencies that would prevent the City from meeting the 200-year flood protection standards. Necessary levee improvements, once defined, will be addressed in environmental studies required under CEQA.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below were studied to determine if they would be subject to potentially significant environmental effects as a result of this project, as discussed in the following environmental checklist. The initial study found that impacts would be less than significant or no impact as a result of the project.

Aesthetics	Agriculture Resources	Air Quality
Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Geology /Soils
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards & Hazardous Materials	Hydrology/Water Quality
Land Use/Planning	Mineral Resources	Noise
Population/Housing	Public Services	Recreation
Transportation/Traffic	Utilities/Service Systems	Mandatory Findings of Significance

C. LEAD AGENCY DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions

in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

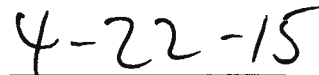
I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

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

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Rebecca Willis, Community Development Director
City of Lathrop



Date

D. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The foregoing environmental determination is based on the evaluation of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, as documented in the following checklist and supporting documentation. The checklist has been prepared in accordance with the following requirements:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant,

less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

- 4) "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where the analysis(es) are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of, and adequately analyzed in, an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated", describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

E. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST & NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

1. AESTHETICS

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

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

The City of Lathrop is a urban community in rural San Joaquin County that, since incorporation in 1991, has experienced substantial new industrial, commercial and residential development. Publicly-accessible views in the City and adjacent area include areas of previously-existing and new development, remnant agriculture and open space areas along the rivers.

The project would not have any direct or indirect effect on scenic vistas or scenic resources in the City of Lathrop. The GPA amends the existing Lathrop General Plan to add new goals, policies and standards that reflect SB 5 200-year flood protection requirements. These new requirements would apply to new development in Lathrop where applicable. The GPA would not result in any additional development or development that would involve any more aesthetic effect that is already permitted under existing City general plan designations and zoning. The project would have a no effect on aesthetic resources.

Levee improvements needed to provide flood protection required by State law may have aesthetic effects; these potential effects will be explored in the separate future CEQA environmental analysis for those projects.

2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? X
- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? X
- c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))? X
- d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? X
- e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

The City of Lathrop was historically a farming and railroad-oriented community. Since its incorporation in 1991, the City has developed steadily, and as a result few active agricultural areas remain in the City limits. Lathrop has committed virtually all lands within the City boundaries to urban development, first through adoption of the general plan in 1991, then through subsequent specific plan approvals. Loss of agricultural lands has been considered in the general plan and each of the specific plan EIRs and accepted as an unavoidable consequence of planned urban development. As a result, urban growth and displacement of remaining agricultural lands in Lathrop will continue into the foreseeable future. There are no forest lands or forestry activities within the City of Lathrop.

The SB 5 GPA will not have any direct or indirect effect on agriculture. The proposed flood protection goals, policies and standards would apply to new development in Lathrop where authorized by existing plans and zoning. The GPA would not result in any additional development, agricultural land conversion or effects on Williamson Act lands that have not already been authorized in existing plans, zoning and environmental determinations. The project would have a no effect on agricultural or forestry resources.

The levee improvements needed to provide 200-year flood protection required by State law, which is a separate project, may have some but as yet undefined effects on agricultural lands; these potential effects, if any, will be explored in a separate future CEQA environmental analysis for those improvements.

3. AIR QUALITY

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Attainment Plan? X

- b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? X
- c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? X
- d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? X
- e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

The City of Lathrop is located in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). Air quality management in the SJVAB under the federal and state Clean Air Acts is the responsibility of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). The SJVAB is non-attainment for ozone and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) under federal and/or state ambient air quality standards (AAQS). C

The SB 5 GPA will not have any direct or indirect effect on air quality. The proposed flood protection goals, policies and standards would apply to new development in Lathrop where it is already authorized by existing plans and zoning. The GPA would not result in any additional development, construction or land use that has not already been authorized in existing plans, zoning and environmental determinations. The project would have a no effect on air quality.

The levee improvements needed to provide 200-year flood protection required by State law - a separate project - will have some future construction effect on air quality but no long-term air quality effect. Air quality effects, if any, will be explored in future CEQA environmental analysis for the levee improvements.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Adversely impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, any endangered, rare, or threatened species, as listed in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (Sections 670.2 or 670.5) or in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (Sections 17.11 or 17.12)?				X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
d) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not				X

limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

- e) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? X
- f) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? X
- g) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? X

The City of Lathrop and vicinity support a range of important biological resources including federally- and state-protected plants and wildlife, and wetlands and riparian areas along the rivers. The City of Lathrop is a participant in the San Joaquin County Open Space and Habitat Conservation Plan (SJMSCP).

The SB 5 GPA will not have any direct or indirect effect on biological resources. The GPA's proposed goals, policies and standards for flood protection would apply to new development that is already authorized by existing plans and zoning. The GPA would not result in any additional development or disturbance that has not already been accounted for in approved plans and environmental determinations. Mitigation measures designed to avoid significant biological effects associated with development have been defined and are being implemented in conjunction with development projects. The project would have a no effect on biological resources.

The levee improvements needed to provide the 200-year flood protection for Lathrop urban areas as required by State law - a separate project - will involve future disturbance of biological resources along the rivers and will require mitigation measures to reduce or avoid biological effects; these effects will be explored in the environmental analysis for the levee improvements.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?				X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource (i.e., an artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions, has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest or best available example of its type, or is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person)?				X
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X

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

X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

In later pre-history the Lathrop area was occupied by the Yokuts people. The San Joaquin River and vicinity are relatively sensitive for the discovery of prehistoric cultural resources; significant cultural deposits have been recorded in the area. The Lathrop area was first explored by Europeans in the 1700s and settled in the mid-1800s. The area includes important locations with respect to historical railroad and other transportation development. Today, the community remains a transportation hub.

The SB 5 GPA will not have any direct or indirect effect on cultural resources. The GPA's proposed goals, policies and standards for flood protection would apply to new development that is already authorized by existing plans and zoning. The GPA would not result in any additional development or disturbance that has not already been accounted for in approved plans and environmental determinations, and mitigation measures designed to avoid significant cultural effects associated with development will be implemented in conjunction with development projects. The project would have a no effect on cultural resources.

The levee improvements needed to provide the 200-year flood protection for Lathrop urban areas as required by State law - a separate project - will involve future land disturbance of along the rivers that may impact cultural resources require mitigation measures to reduce or avoid cultural resource effects; these effects will be explored in the environmental analysis for the levee improvements.

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
iv) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X
c) Be located on strata or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property?				X

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

The City of Lathrop is located within the alluvial Great (Central) Valley geomorphic province in the immediate vicinity of the San Joaquin River. The Lathrop area is not subject to active or potentially active faulting and is exposed to relatively low levels of seismic shaking. Soils developed in these alluvial deposits are of varying suitability for use development. Lathrop area soils are typically well suited for agriculture. The City routinely requires on-site engineering soil studies in conjunction with new development.

The SB 5 GPA will not have any direct or indirect effect on geology or soil resources. Proposed flood protection goals, policies and standards apply to new development already authorized under existing plans and zoning. The GPA does not authorize any additional development or disturbance. The project would have a no effect on geologic and soils resources.

The levee improvements needed to provide the 200-year flood protection for Lathrop urban areas as required by State law - a separate project - will involve future land disturbance that will impact soils; these effects will be explored in the environmental analysis for the levee improvements.

7. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?				X
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

Human-generated greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) are understood to be an important cause of global climate change, which is a subject of increasing scientific, public concern, and government action. Increasing GHG concentrations in the atmosphere are expected to lead to a variety of effects, including increasing temperature, sea level rise, changes in patterns and intensity of weather and various secondary effects resulting from those changes, including potential effects on public health and safety.

The proposed project is an amendment to the Lathrop General Plan; the amendment would add new SB 5 200-year flood protection requirements to the general plan, and eventually to City zoning. The GPA will not have any direct or indirect effect on development activity or GHG emissions; development activity is already authorized

under existing plans and zoning. The project would have no effect on greenhouse gas emissions.

The physical levee improvements needed to provide the 200-year flood protection for Lathrop urban areas as required by State law - a separate project - will involve future construction that will temporarily emit GHGs; the significance of this effect will be explored in the future environmental analysis for the levee improvements.

8. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

The City of Lathrop includes a variety of facilities supporting vehicle sales and service, manufacturing and other land uses that do now or did once involve the use, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes. There are several records of localized hazardous material and waste concentration within the City. The City is adjacent to the Sharpe Depot a military supply installation that contains localized hazardous material and contamination. The City and Sharpe include sites that described in Government Code Section 65962.5. There are no airports or airstrips within or adjacent to the City. The City is not subject to significant wildfire hazards.

The SB 5 GPA will not have any direct or indirect effect on hazardous materials use, storage, disposal or transportation, or on airports or airstrips. Proposed goals, policies and standards will influence future development authorized under existing plans and zoning but have no physical effect. The GPA contains goals, policies and implementation measures that will support improvement of existing emergency response and evacuation capability. The GPA will not involve any change in exposure to hazards.

The levee improvements needed to provide the 200-year flood protection for Lathrop urban areas as required by State law - a separate project - will involve future land disturbance that may expose people to contamination hazards; these effects will be explored in the environmental analysis for those improvements.

9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems?				X
f) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
g) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				X
i) Inundation by seiche, tsunamis, or mudflow?				X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

The City of Lathrop is situated both east and west of the San Joaquin River as it enters the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta at Mossdale. Developed areas in Lathrop are

protected from flooding by existing levees that provide FEMA 100-year flood protection. Improving existing flood protection to 200-year standards is a principal focus of ongoing City planning and engineering. Separately, the GPA would impose the 200-year standard locally. Portions of Lathrop are exposed to flooding from potential failure of Don Pedro and other upstream reservoirs controlling flow on San Joaquin River tributaries.

The proposed project is an amendment to the already existing GP. The proposed amendment would add 200-year floodplain requirements to the general plan Safety Element. These same flood protection standards are already established in State law, and in order to comply with these requirements, the City of Lathrop and the reclamation districts are conducting detailed levee investigations, planning and engineering needed to correct any levee deficiencies that would prevent the City from meeting new flood protection standards.

The SB 5 GPA will not have any direct or indirect effect on hydrology or water quality. The proposed goals, policies and standards for flood protection would apply to new development already authorized by the City. The GPA would not authorize development or disturbance that would have hydrologic or water quality impacts and that is not accounted for in approved plans and environmental determinations. Mitigation measures required to avoid water-related effects will be defined and implemented in conjunction with future development projects.

In the long-term, the proposed GPA will indirectly lead to improved flood protection and emergency preparedness for the citizens of Lathrop but would have no short-term adverse effect on hydrology or water quality.

Planned levee improvements will involve potential for short-term and direct, and potentially significant, environmental effects; the potential extent and severity of such impacts cannot be predicted at this time, and these potential effects are not the direct or indirect result of the GPA. Future levee improvements will be subject to environmental review as required under CEQA.

10. LAND USE AND PLANNING

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

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

The proposed project is an amendment to the Safety Element of the City's General Plan. The City of Lathrop is an incorporated urbanizing area located within San Joaquin County consisting of industrial, commercial and residential areas. Existing and proposed land uses are generally described in the General Plan and zoning for the City.

The proposed amendment would not have any affect on current or proposed land uses in the City of Lathrop. Future land use will be subject to the 200-year flood protection goals, policies and standards included in the GPA. The proposed project will have no other effect on land use within the City.

11. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource classified MRZ-2 by the State Geologist that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

The area south of the City contains important, designated mineral resources; according to the General Plan EIR, no portion of the Lathrop city limits or SOI is designated by the California Department of Conservation as having the potential for being a significant source of composite materials or industrial minerals.

The proposed project modifies the goals, policies and standards related to flood protection within the City of Lathrop; the GPA would have no affect on mineral resources in the City of Lathrop.

12. NOISE

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X

- d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? X
- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? X
- f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

The noise environment of Lathrop is dominated by vehicular traffic on highways that pass through the area. Localized noise is produced by existing manufacturing operations, and construction of various kinds results in temporary localized noise.

The SB 5 GPA will not have any direct or indirect effect on noise. Proposed goals, policies and standards will influence future development but have no physical effect.

The levee improvements needed to provide the 200-year flood protection for Lathrop - will involve construction that generates; noise effects will be explored in the environmental analysis for those improvements.

13. POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

Environmental Setting

The City has an existing population of just under 15,000. The future population will increase substantially as planned urban development proceeds.

The SB 5 GPA will not have any direct or indirect effect on population or housing. Proposed goals, policies and standards will improve flood safety for future residential development but would involve no direct effect on population or housing.

14. PUBLIC SERVICES

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

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

Fire and police protection, schools and parks and recreation services are all provided by the City of Lathrop and associated agencies, such as the San Joaquin County Sheriff and the Lathrop Manteca Fire District.

The proposed GPA will have no adverse effect on existing public services. The GPA would incorporate more protective flood protection standards into the general plan, and ultimately into zoning, that would benefit the delivery of all public services and lead to improved public safety. The GPA would provide for continued improvement in emergency response and provisions for evacuation if needed. This would be considered a beneficial effect.

15. RECREATION

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

The project will not involve effects on parks and recreation. The discussion is located in Section 14, Public Services.

16. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?				X
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
d) Substantially increase hazards to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

The City of Lathrop is served by two interstate highways and freeway SR 120 as well as numerous City and County arterial, collector and local streets. Two railroads pass through or adjacent to the City. Existing facilities within the City provide transportation-related services and warehousing and distribution facilities.

The proposed GPA will not involve any change in traffic or use of transportation facilities. The project will have no other adverse effect on transportation facilities or transportation-related land uses and services. The GPA would incorporate more protective flood protection standards into the general plan that would result in improved flood protection and thereby benefit all transportation facilities and services. The GPA would provide for continued improvement in emergency response and provisions for evacuation if needed. This would be considered a beneficial effect.

17. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X

- b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? X
- c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? X
- d) Are sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? X
- e) Has the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project determined that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? X
- f) Is the project served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? X
- g) Comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

Domestic water, wastewater collection and wastewater treatment, solid waste collection and storm drainage services are all provided by the City of Lathrop. Electrical services are provided by PG&E, who also provides natural gas, and the Lathrop Irrigation District; communication services are provided by other regulated franchisees. Utility facilities are maintained, improved and expanded by the providers as needed to serve existing and planned new development in the City of Lathrop.

The proposed GPA will have no increased demand for utility services and no adverse effect on existing utility services. The GPA would incorporate more protective flood protection standards into the general plan, and ultimately into zoning, that would increase protection for utility services. This would be considered a beneficial effect.

18. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				X

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

X

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

(a) Overall Biological or Cultural Impacts

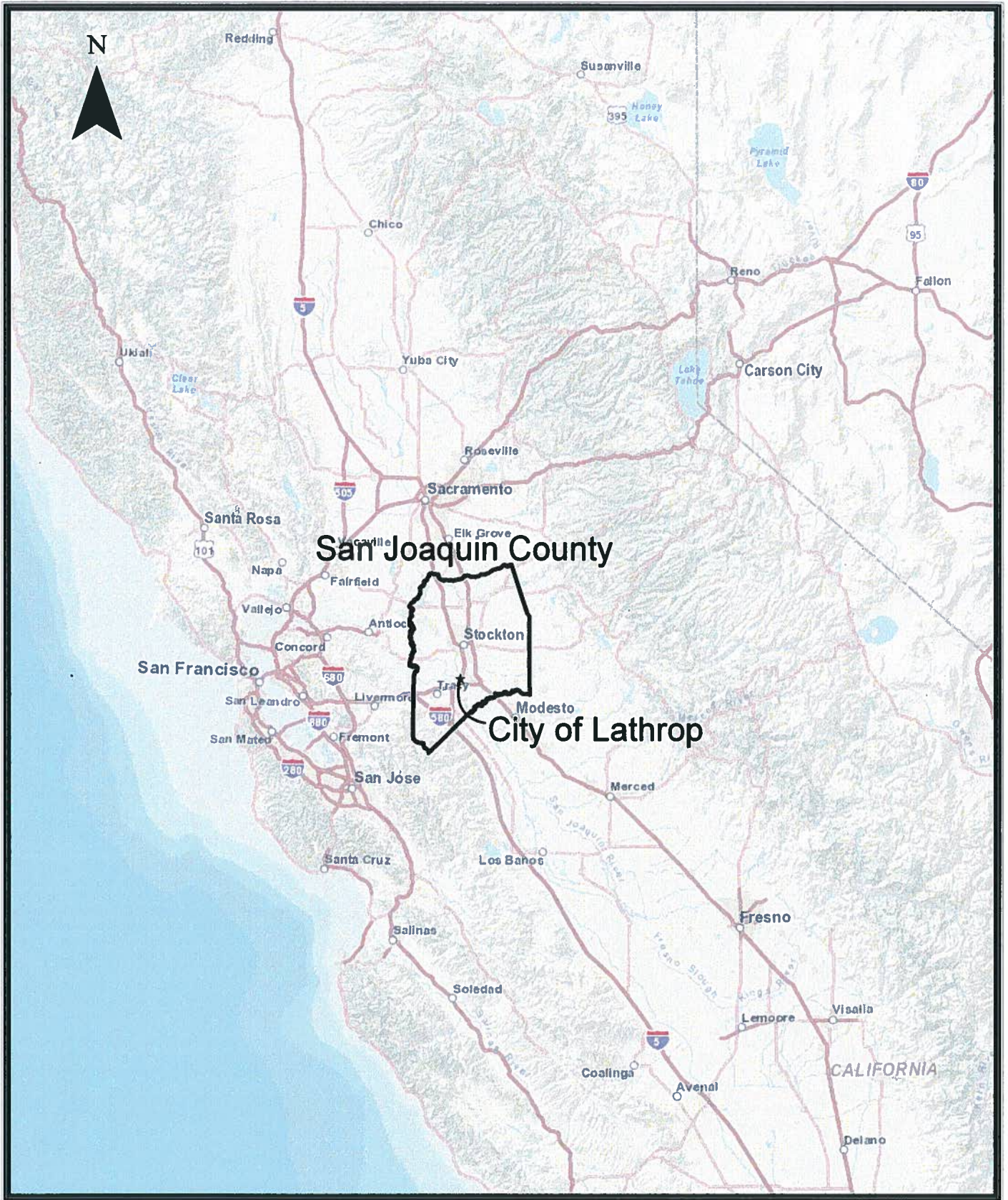
As described in this Initial Study, the project would have no potential environmental effects, including potential effects on biological, archaeological and historical resources..

(b) Cumulative Project Impacts

The Lathrop 2005 General Plan, the general plan EIR and subsequent specific plan and other development-related EIRs comprehensively account for the potential environmental effects of anticipated urban development and related improvements in the City of Lathrop. The proposed GPA would adopt the SB 5 200-Year Flood Protection requirements; all future development projects would be subject to its requirements. The GPA would not result in any significant environmental effects beyond those effects identified in the Lathrop General Plan EIR and other development EIRs.

(c) Other Substantial Effects on Human Beings

This Initial Study has considered the potential environmental effects of the project in the various issue areas. No other potential adverse effects have been identified.



Regional Location Map

Figure 1

