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Forest Service

Environmental Assessment

Reconstruction of Angeles National Forest Supervisor's Office

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Angeles National Forest
Los Angeles County, California

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SUMMARY

The Angeles National Forest proposes to replace the supervisor's office building on its current 10-acre property in Arcadia, California. The project area is located at 701 N. Santa Anita Avenue, in Arcadia, California 91006. This action is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Stimulus Package).

The proposed action has no anticipated adverse effects.

In addition to the proposed action, the Forest Service also evaluated one alternative:

- A No-Action Alternative, under which the supervisor's office will indefinitely remain in its temporary modular building at 701 N. Santa Anita Avenue, in Arcadia, California 91006.

INTRODUCTION

Document Structure

The Forest Service has prepared this Environmental Assessment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. This Environmental Assessment discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that would result from the proposed action and alternatives. The document is organized into four parts:

- *Introduction:* This section includes information on the history of the project proposal, the purpose of and need for the project, and the agency's proposal for achieving that purpose and need. This section also details how the Forest Service informed the public of the proposal and how the public responded.
- *Comparison of Alternatives, including the Proposed Action:* This section provides a more detailed description of the agency's proposed action as well as alternative methods for achieving the stated purpose and need. These alternatives were developed based on significant issues raised by the public and other agencies. This discussion also includes possible mitigation measures. Finally, this section provides a summary table of the environmental consequences associated with each alternative.
- *Environmental Consequences:* This section describes the environmental effects of implementing the proposed action and other alternatives. This analysis is organized by significant issues. Within each section, the affected environment is described first, followed by the effects of the No Action Alternative that provides a baseline for evaluation and comparison of the other alternatives that follow.
- *Agencies and Persons Consulted:* This section provides a list of preparers and agencies consulted during the development of the environmental assessment.
- *Appendices:* The appendices provide more detailed information to support the analyses presented in the environmental assessment.

Additional documentation, including more detailed analyses of project-area resources, may be found in the project planning record located at the Angeles National Forest Supervisor's Office at 701 N. Santa Anita Avenue, in Arcadia, California 91006.

Background

The Angeles National Forest Supervisor's Office ("SO") provides overall management and specialist services to the three Districts comprising the Forest. In addition to housing a staff of approximately 100, it is a hub for a myriad of activities involving public and private stakeholders. Until 1986, the SO occupied several floors of the Hilton Hotel on Los Robles Avenue in Pasadena, California. In 1986, it moved to its current location at 701 North Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, California. The current site consists of 10 acres of relatively flat land abutting the Foothill (I-210) Freeway to the north and Santa Anita Avenue to the East. The site came into federal ownership in the 1930s for the purpose of providing much needed maintenance and storage yard and structures to serve the Forest. When the SO moved to the current site in 1986, a temporary building was assembled out of 22 pre-constructed modular units (totaling 18,360 square feet) to accommodate the staff from the Hilton Hotel. Since the component modular units were not designed to be subdivided, most office stations have poor ventilation and natural lighting, resulting in inefficient energy use. Although a foundation system was added to the building in the 1990s, this temporary building has served over 23 years to date – well exceeding the 10 to 15 year design life of its component modular units.

During the 23 years in which the SO has been at the current site, the population and density of the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area has increased substantially. As a result, the open space provided by the ANF has increased in importance, and the related activities at the SO have expanded in scope and volume. These activities include frequent meetings with public and private entities, indoor and outdoor fire training for Federal, County, and City fire departments, public open houses related to specific projects or issues, and public events such as recruitment and outreach. The existing building can no longer satisfactorily accommodate all these activities. In addition, the electrical, mechanical, plumbing and HVAC components are outdated and inefficient. The temporary building at the SO needs to be replaced with a new, energy efficient building capable of accommodating the increased activities at the SO. The SO building replacement will also eliminate a 2,428 square foot building built in 1941 used by the Southern California Contracting Unit, a 957 square feet conference building built in 1938, and a 1568 square foot law enforcement building built in 1960. Staff from these buildings will be co-located in the proposed building.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for the action is (i) the replacement of the existing, outdated space into an efficient space for office staff and public interaction; (ii) the improvement of energy efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint of the SO through better insulation, natural lighting and ventilation, with replaced electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and HVAC components; and (iii) the elimination of deferred maintenance costs associated with the buildings to be replaced.

The project was designed in conformance with land and resource management plan standards and incorporates appropriate land and resource management plan guidelines for Facility Maintenance Backlog.

Proposed Action

The proposed action will consist of the following: The SO, Acquisitions, Conference, and LE&I buildings (discussed in the "Background" section above) will be demolished and replaced with a newly constructed 20,000 square foot energy efficient building. Other existing buildings at the SO site will essentially remain functional and continue their current uses, but one or more warehouse-type buildings may need to be removed and their contents placed elsewhere onsite, to accommodate the new site layout. The new building construction will have appurtenant site development such as delineating, re-paving and striping separate public, employee and government vehicle parking; landscaping; and installation of new security fencing and gate to separate public from non-public areas on site. The buildings and site will comply with the Forest Service architectural guidelines. Construction is expected to start in Fall 2010, with a completion date in Summer 2011.

The proposed location is within a commercial zone in the City of Arcadia, in the County of Los Angeles. The site is relatively flat and is approximately 10 acres. It is triangular shaped, with an east-west trending side along the north, a north-south trending side along the east, and a northwest-southeast trending side along the southwest. Adjacent properties include: the Foothill (I-210) Freeway to the north, Santa Anita Avenue to the East, a railroad right of way along the west end of the southwest property line, and residential structures along the east half of the southwest property line. The site currently includes the following buildings:

Building Name	Building No.	Square Feet	Year Built	Proposed Replacement
Arcadia Acquisitions Bldg	2007	2428	1941	X
Arcadia Conference Bldg	2802	957	1938	X
Arcadia Engine Shop Compressor Bldg.	1650	112	1991	
Arcadia Fire Engine Garage	2103	1419	1938	
Arcadia Metal Storage Bldg	2616	600	1960	
Arcadia Quonset #1	2202	1260	1980	
Arcadia Quonset #2	2203	1260	1980	
Arcadia Radio Shop	2104	2912	1938	X
Arcadia Seed Tank	2619	254	1960	
Arcadia Storage Bldg	2617	600	1960	
Arcadia Supervisor's Office	2002	18360	1986	X
Arcadia Warehouse A	2207	8493	1939	
Arcadia Warehouse B	2206	2524	1944	
Arcadia Warehouse C	2300	5913	1938	
Arcadia Warehouse D	2302	5543	1938	
Law Enforcement Building	2015	1568	1960	X

The Site also includes appurtenant asphalt paved driveways and parking space, landscaping, and walkways. There is a security fence along the perimeter of the site. The fence is masonry wall along the southwest property line and the west end of the north property line, and chain-link fence elsewhere.

The buildings and site will comply with the Forest Service architectural guidelines, will meet “Silver,” “Gold” or “Platinum” LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) requirements as set by the U.S. Green Building Council, and will incorporate elements of the local community design standards. Landscaping around the buildings will consist of native and drought resistant plants which will require little or no water for sustenance.

The effects of the proposed action are not uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risk. The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be high.

Decision Framework

Given the purpose and need, the deciding official reviews the proposed action and the other alternatives in order to make the following decisions:

Should the Angeles National Forest Supervisor’s Office building be replaced with a new building on the same site at 701 North Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia, California.

Public Involvement

The proposal was listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions on July 24, 2009. The proposal was provided to the public and other agencies for comment during scoping, July 24 to August 28, 2009. A copy of the scoping letter was distributed or left at the front door of the approximately 50 residences on the street along the southwest property line of the property. In addition, as part of the public involvement process, the agency mailed out a scoping letter seeking input on this project, to 952 recipients on the Forest scoping mailing list; The Cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre as well as the local offices of congressional members were contacted by telephone on July 27 and 28, 2009. The scoping letter was posted on the Angeles National Forest webpage on July 27, 2009. A newspaper advertisement was placed in the Los Angeles Times on July 27, 2009, announcing the project and showing how to get additional information about it. On July 29, 2009 a short note and link to the scoping letter was provided on the Angeles National Forest Twitter account, which had 479 subscribers at the time. The scoping letter was sent electronically (by email) to all Angeles National Forest employees on July 28, 2009.

Five comments were received during the scoping period, from July 24 to August 28, 2009. These were:

1. Letter of support for the proposed action, from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, with a request that the proposed building replacement be designed and constructed to achieve “platinum” LEED rating. This issue

will be further analyzed; Forest Service direction requires that the proposed action meet a minimum "Silver" LEED rating, but the proposed proposed action will try to achieve the highest possible LEED rating. "Platinum" may not realistically be achieved because some LEED points are forever lost at this site, since it was used as a maintenance yard starting in the 1930s.

2. One comment by an Angeles National Forest employee stating that the scoping letter reference to the pre-1986 Angeles Supervisor's Office on Lake Avenue in Pasadena is erroneous, and that the Office was on Los Robles Avenue. This information was corrected in the current EA document.

3. One private citizen supported the proposed action, and inquired about the cost of the proposal, and whether the replacement building would accommodate future staff expansion. This issue will not be further addressed or analyzed, other than to state that the cost estimate cannot be made public until the contractor's bids are received, and that the building may accommodate a nominal but not substantial increase in staff.

4. One private citizen supported the proposed action, and inquired about the source of funding and whether the remainder of the site will remain in federal ownership. This issue will not be further addressed or analyzed, other than to state that the project is funded by ARRA (Stimulus Act) and that the entire site will continue to remain in federal ownership.

5. Two former Angeles NF employees supported the proposed action.

Using the comments received internally and from the public and other agencies (see *Issues* section), the interdisciplinary team developed a list of issues to address.

ISSUES

The Forest Service separates the issues into two groups: significant and non-significant issues. Significant issues are defined as those directly or indirectly caused by implementing the proposed action. Non-significant issues are identified as those: 1) outside the scope of the proposed action; 2) already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan, or other higher level decision; 3) irrelevant to the decision to be made; or 4) conjectural and not supported by scientific or factual evidence. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations require this delineation in Sec. 1501.7, "...identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review (Sec. 1506.3)..." Four non-significant issues were identified by the Forest Service or during scoping.

1. Air Quality: The project resides in the South Coast Air Pollution District. The maximum annual emissions (tons/year) estimated for this project is below the de minimis levels. However, mitigation measure to reduce air pollution and noise as

a result of this project are provided in the mitigation section. See Appendix for additional discussion on Air Quality.

2. Project should address potential impacts regarding erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification, archeological and cultural resources, and the County Oak Tree Ordinance. This issue is already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan, or other higher level decision: the current Environmental Assessment required by NEPA addresses this issue.
3. Development of this project must comply with all applicable code and ordinance requirements. This issue is already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan, or other higher level decision. This project will comply with all laws and regulations applicable to the Federal Government constructing on federal land.
4. Impact to threatened, endangered, and sensitive (TES) species. The indicators used to measure whether this issue can be remedied by implementing different alternatives or mitigation measures are: 1) impacts to federally threatened or endangered species are avoided and 2) impacts to Forest Service sensitive species will not lead to a trend towards loss of viability or federal listing. According to the Biological Evaluation/ Biological Assessment, "the proposed project will not affect any threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat ... [and] the proposed project will not affect any Forest Service Sensitive species." Impacts to threatened, endangered and sensitive species are therefore not a significant issue.

The Forest Service identified five issues raised during scoping. These are:

1. Impact to public service. The indicator used to measure whether this issue can be remedied by implementing different alternatives or mitigation measures is: Suitability of the facility to accommodate the increased forest management and public activities.
2. Impact to Forest Service employees. The indicator used to measure whether this issue can be remedied by implementing different alternatives or mitigation measures is: Suitability of the facility to provide an efficient, safe, and user-friendly space for its staff.
3. Impact on accessibility: The indicator used to measure whether this issue can be remedied by implementing different alternatives or mitigation measures is: compliance with the 1973 Rehabilitation Act (with 1978 amendment).
4. Impact on "Greening" and "carbon footprint reduction" of the Forest Service: The indicator used to measure whether this issue can be remedied by implementing different alternatives or mitigation measures is: meeting "Silver," "Gold" or "Platinum" LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) requirements as set by the U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org). USGBC's website has the following and additional information regarding LEED certification:

LEED is a third party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have

an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

The USGBC's LEED certification system for new construction is explained at the following website: <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1970>

5. Impact to cultural/ heritage resources: The indicator used to measure whether this issue can be remedied by implementing different alternatives or mitigation measures is: presence of cultural/ heritage resources on site.

ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING PROPOSED ACTION

This chapter describes and compares the alternatives considered for this project. This section also presents the alternatives in comparative form, sharply defining the differences between each alternative and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public. Some of the information used to compare the alternatives is based upon the design of the alternative and some of the information is based upon the environmental, social and economic effects of implementing each alternative.

Alternative 1

No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the Supervisor's Office will indefinitely remain in its temporary modular building at 701 N. Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia, California.

The temporary building was assembled in 1986, out of 22 pre-constructed modular units (totaling 18,360 square feet). Since the component modular units were not designed to be subdivided, most office stations have poor ventilation and natural lighting, resulting in inefficient energy use. Although a foundation system was added to the building in 1990s, this temporary building has served over 23 years to date – well exceeding the 10 to 15 year design life of its component modular units.

During the 23 years in which the SO has been at the current site, the population and density of the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area has increased substantially. As a result, the open space provided by the ANF has increased in importance, and the related activities at the SO have expanded in scope and volume. These activities include frequent meetings with public and private entities, indoor and outdoor fire training for Federal, County, and City fire departments, public open houses related to specific projects or issues, and public events such as recruitment and outreach. The existing building can no longer satisfactorily accommodate all these activities. In addition, the electrical, mechanical, plumbing and HVAC components are outdated and inefficient.

Alternative 2

The Proposed Action

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The Supervisor's Office will be re-constructed at its current location at 701 N. Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia, California. This location is on land owned by the Forest Service.

The proposed location is within a commercial zone in the City of Arcadia, in the County of Los Angeles. The site is relatively flat and is approximately 10 acres. It is triangular shaped, with an east-west trending side along the north, a north-south trending side along the east, and a northwest-southeast trending side along the southwest. Adjacent properties include: the Foothill (I-210) Freeway to the north, Santa Anita Avenue to the East, a railroad right of way along the west end of the southwest property line, and residential structures along the east half of the southwest property line. The site currently includes the following buildings:

Building Name	Building No.	Square Feet	Year Built	Proposed Replacement
Arcadia Acquisitions Bldg	2007	2428	1941	X
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Arcadia Warehouse C	2300	5913	1938	
Arcadia Warehouse D	2302	5543	1938	
Law Enforcement Building	2015	1568	1960	X

The Site also includes appurtenant asphalt paved driveways and parking space, landscaping, and walkways. There is a security fence along the perimeter of the site. The fence is masonry wall along the southwest property line and the west end of the north property line, and chain-link fence elsewhere.

The proposed building replacement will include the following:

- Eight distinct interior staff areas to accommodate each of the following staff units: forest supervisor, public affairs, HR/budget, fire and aviation, engineering, resources, lands/ recreation/ heritage, SoCal acquisitions, and LE&I.
- The forest supervisor area will include two executive private offices and a reception area with space for the executive secretary.

- The public affairs area will include one private office and cubicle stations for an additional staff of two.
- The business administration area will include three private offices, and cubicle stations for an additional staff of four.
- The fire and aviation area will include two private offices, and cubicle stations for an additional staff of four.
- The engineering area will include two private offices, and cubicle stations for an additional staff of fifteen.
- The resources area will include two private offices, and cubicle stations for an additional staff of ten.
- The lands/ recreation/ heritage area will include four private offices, and cubicle stations for an additional staff of ten.
- The SoCal acquisitions area will include one private office, and cubicle stations for an additional staff of fifteen.
- The LE&I area will include one private office, and cubicle stations for an additional staff of four.
- A reception area and merchandise sale area for the public.
- A conference room for 50 seated persons.
- Extended GIS open space work area.

The appurtenant exterior development will include the following:

- 50 parking spaces for the public.
- 100 parking spaces for employees. These spaces need to be inside the secure fencing.
- 50 parking spaces for government vehicles. These spaces need to be inside the secure fencing.
- Landscaping and hardscaping appurtenant to the new building and site layout.
- All other existing spaces, including existing buildings paved areas, training open space, and yard areas will remain functional.

The buildings and site will comply with the Forest Service architectural guidelines, will meet “Silver,” “Gold” or “Platinum” LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) requirements as set by the U.S. Green Building Council, and will incorporate

elements of the local community design standards. Landscaping around the buildings will consist of native and drought resistant plants which will require little or no water for sustenance.

MITIGATION COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Construction noise and dust: Watering of ground disturbance areas will be performed to minimize construction-related dust. To mitigate the effect of construction noise on adjacent residences, construction work hours will be limited to Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

To minimize or avoid potential impacts associated with the proposed action, the following management recommendations are proposed:

1. To limit the spread and establishment of invasive plant species into the project area, all off-road heavy equipment used during project implementation will be free of noxious weeds and seeds or invasive exotic weeds and seeds before entering the project area. Additionally, all hand tools, (picks, shovels, etc), must also be free of noxious weeds and seeds or invasive exotic weeds and seeds. The Forest Botanist will provide guidance for a wash down method that will be effective and practical.
2. Any reseeding or planting plans must first be approved by the Forest Botanist. Any landscaping will utilize native plants appropriate to the site conditions.
3. Any mulch, hay or rice straw brought to the site must be certified weed free.
4. During project implementation and after the project is completed, monitor the site for noxious weeds. Monitoring should be conducted monthly for the first year and then on a bi-monthly basis. District personnel can be trained by the Forest Botanist to conduct this monitoring activity. Any new populations of noxious weeds will be immediately treated as directed by the Forest Botanist.
5. All appropriate Forest Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented to minimize damage to surface soil structure and to reduce potential for erosion and sediment transport to drainages due to project activities.
6. Equipment refueling must be conducted in a manner that will ensure no contamination of soils or water will occur. Refueling cannot occur within 100 feet of any drainage or riparian area.
7. All excavation must be implemented in a manner that reduces the potential for entrapment of small mammals, reptiles or amphibians. Drift nets or other exclusionary fencing can be placed around excavations to reduce the potential for individuals entering excavated areas. If an excavation is to remain open for more than 12 hours it must include some means for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians to escape. This can be accomplished by placement of a ramp that reasonably allows trapped individuals to crawl or walk out of the excavation. Before an excavation is backfilled, it must be checked to ensure that there are no live individuals inside. Backfilling cannot occur until the excavation is clear of all live individuals.
8. Project generated garbage must be properly stored/disposed of on a daily basis. When operations are complete, any excess materials or debris shall be removed from the work area.
9. All personnel involved in project implementation will receive a briefing from the project biologist to describe sensitive resources that may be encountered in the project

area. Wildlife encountered during the course of project implementation should be given the opportunity to evacuate the site. Personnel will be reminded that harassment, handling or removal of wildlife from the site is not permitted.

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

This section provides a summary of the effects of implementing each alternative. Information in the table is focused on activities and effects where different levels of effects or outputs can be distinguished quantitatively or qualitatively among alternatives.

Table 1. Comparison of Alternatives	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
1. Impact to public service	Medium	Low
2. Impact to Forest Service employees	Medim	Low
3. Impact on accessibility	Medium	Low
4. Impact on “Greening” of the Forest Service	High	Low
5. Impact to cultural/heritage resources	Low	Low

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section summarizes the physical, biological, social and economic environments of the affected project area and the potential changes to those environments due to implementation of the alternatives. It also presents the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives presented in the chart above.

1. Impact to public service. The indicator used to measure whether this issue can be remedied by implementing different alternatives or mitigation measures is: Suitability of the facility to accommodate the increased forest management and public activities.

Alternative 1: No Action: The Supervisor’s Office remains in its temporary modular building location in Arcadia, California. The current Supervisor’s Office location in Arcadia is near the middle of the boundary that separates the Angeles National Forest with the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. It abuts the Foothill (I-210) Freeway at its Santa Anita Exit. The building and parking lot reflect a poor “Forest Service” presence, in that the first thing that visitors see are law enforcement vehicles; and visitors have to follow several signs until they reach the visitor center and parking area. According to the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority website, the Metro Goldline light rail, which currently ends in Sierra Madre approximately 3 miles

east of the Arcadia Supervisor's Office site, will be extended to Azusa in 2011/2012 and to Montclair in 2014. This means that as early as in 2 years, the light rail will pass along the southwest boundary of the site, with the nearest planned station at the intersection of North First Avenue and East Santa Clara Street, approximately ½ mile from the Supervisor's Office. This would allow many visitors to use the light rail, thereby decreasing demands on local traffic.

Alternative 2: Proposed Action: The Supervisor's Office building is replaced in Arcadia, California. The current Supervisor's Office location in Arcadia is near the middle of the boundary that separates the Angeles National Forest with the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. It abuts the Foothill (I-210) Freeway at its Santa Anita Exit. According to the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority website, the Metro Goldline light rail, which currently ends in Sierra Madre approximately 3 miles east of the Arcadia Supervisor's Office site, will be extended to Azusa in 2011/2012 and to Montclair in 2014. This means that as early as in 2 years, the light rail will pass along the southwest boundary of the site, with the nearest planned station at the intersection of North First Avenue and East Santa Clara Street, approximately ½ mile from the Supervisor's Office. This would allow many visitors to use the light rail, thereby decreasing demands on local traffic.

2. Impact to Forest Service employees. The indicator used to measure whether this issue can be remedied by implementing different alternatives or mitigation measures is: Suitability of the facility to provide an efficient, safe, and user-friendly space for its staff.

Alternative 1: No Action: The Supervisor's Office remains in its temporary modular building location in Arcadia, California. The current Supervisor's Office location in Arcadia is in the middle of the San Gabriel Valley of the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. Most employees live in the San Gabriel Valley; some employees live in adjoining San Fernando or Pomona Valleys. The current Supervisor's Office abuts the Foothill (I-210) Freeway at its Santa Anita Exit. According to the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority website, the Metro Goldline light rail, which currently ends in Sierra Madre approximately 3 miles east of the Arcadia Supervisor's Office site, will be extended to Azusa in 2011/2012 and to Montclair in 2014. This means that as early as in 2 years, the light rail will pass along the southwest boundary of the site, with the nearest planned station at the intersection of North First Avenue and East Santa Clara Street, approximately ½ mile from the Supervisor's Office. This would allow many employees to use the light rail, thereby decrease demands on local traffic.

There are numerous amenities in close proximity to the existing District Office location.

Alternative 2: Proposed Action: The Supervisor's Office building is re-constructed at its current location in Arcadia, California. The current Supervisor's Office location in Arcadia is in the middle of the San Gabriel Valley of the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. Most employees live in the San Gabriel Valley; some employees live in adjoining San Fernando or Pomona Valleys. The current Supervisor's Office abuts the Foothill (I-210) Freeway at its Santa Anita Exit. According to the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority website, the Metro Goldline light rail, which currently ends in Sierra Madre approximately 3 miles east of the Arcadia Supervisor's

Office site, will be extended to Azusa in 2011/2012 and to Montclair in 2014. This means that as early as in 2 years, the light rail will pass along the southwest boundary of the site, with the nearest planned station at the intersection of North First Avenue and East Santa Clara Street, approximately ½ mile from the Supervisor's Office. This would allow many employees to use the light rail, thereby decrease demands on local traffic.

There are numerous amenities in close proximity to the existing District Office location.

3. Impact on accessibility for disabled persons: The indicator used to measure whether this issue can be remedied by implementing different alternatives or mitigation measures is: compliance with the 1973 Rehabilitation Act (with 1978 amendment).

Alternative 1: No Action: The Supervisor's Office remains in its temporary modular building location in Arcadia, California. The existing Supervisor's Office modular building had been retrofitted to minimally meet the 1973 Rehabilitation Act (with 1978 amendment) requirements and additional Forest Service standards for accessibility. However, there are still some entrances and areas that could not be retrofitted, and which does not meet these requirements.

Alternative 2: Proposed Action: The Supervisor's Office building is re-constructed at its current location in Arcadia, California. The proposed building replacement and site development will fully meet 1973 Rehabilitation Act (with 1978 amendment) requirements and all Forest Service accessibility guidelines.

4. Impact on "Greening" of the Forest Service: The indicator used to measure whether this issue can be remedied by implementing different alternatives or mitigation measures is: meeting "Silver," "Gold" or "Platinum" LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) requirements as set by the U.S. Green Building Council, and will incorporate elements of the local community design standards

Alternative 1: No Action: The Supervisor's Office remains in its temporary modular building location in Arcadia, California. The existing Supervisor's Office and site do not meet "Silver," "Gold" or "Platinum" LEED requirements.

Alternative 2: Proposed Action: The Supervisor's Office building is re-constructed at its current location in Arcadia, California. The proposed building replacement and site development will meet "Silver," "Gold" or "Platinum" LEED requirements.

5. Impact to cultural/ heritage resources.

Cultural resources consist of archaeological resources, architectural resources (buildings and structures), and properties of importance to Native Americans and other ethnic groups. Per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (36 CFR 800), Federal agencies must take into account project impacts on historic properties. Prior to any new project implementation, project managers coordinate with the Angeles National Forest Heritage Program Manager to facilitate compliance under the 2001 Programmatic Agreement for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Undertakings on the National Forests of the Pacific Southwest Region (PA).

The indicator used to measure whether this issue can be remedied by implementing different alternatives or mitigation measures is: presence of cultural/ heritage resources within the area of potential affect (APE) of the undertaking.

Alternative 1: No Action: The Supervisor's Office remains in its temporary modular building location in Arcadia, California. There is no impact associated with day-to-day operation of the current supervisor's office, as this alternative does not involve historic properties.

Alternatives 2: The Supervisor's Office building is re-constructed at its current location in Arcadia, California. Through compliance with section 106 in prior undertakings, the agency has evaluated the structures within the complex. In consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (USFS840305B-I, 1984; USFS900917E, 1990), it has been determined, by consensus, that no historic properties are located in the APE for the current undertaking. To-date, subsurface investigations within the compound have not yielded materials considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Nevertheless, Forest Heritage staff will conduct archaeological monitoring for select portions of the ground disturbance. Instances of inadvertent discovery will be managed according to stipulations of the PA and the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR 10.4), where applicable.

APPENDIX A- AIR QUALITY

The project resides in the South Coast Air Pollution District. To meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act a project proponent will need to demonstrate that the air emissions from the direct and indirect project related activities conform to the State Implementation Plan. This process is outline in the General Conformity Rule (1990 Clean Air Act Amendments) (Section 176 (c) of the Clean Air Act (40 CFR part 51, subpart W, and part 93, subpart B.). However, according to the General Conformity Q&A section at the following EPA web address: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/genconform/faq.htm#5> ,

Federal Actions that are exempt from the General Conformity Regulations include:

- Actions covered by transportation conformity,
- *Actions with emissions clearly at or below de minimis levels,*
- Actions listed as exempt in the rule, or
- Actions covered by a Presumed-to-Conform approved list.

Under 40 CFR 93.153 (g), Federal actions can be presumed to conform as follows ... (g)(2) "*The Federal agency must provide documentation that the total of direct and indirect emissions from such future actions would be below the emission rates for a conformity determination that are established in paragraph (b) of this section, based, for example, on similar actions taken over recent years.*" The paragraph (b) levels, aka "de minimis" levels are included below.

40 CFR 93 § 153 defines *de minimis* levels, that is, the minimum threshold for which a conformity determination must be performed, for various criteria pollutants in various areas. The information is summarized here:

Pollutant	Area Type	Tons/Year
Ozone (VOC or NO _x)	Serious nonattainment	50
	Severe nonattainment	25
	Extreme nonattainment	10
	Other areas outside an ozone transport region	100
Ozone (NO _x)	Marginal and moderate nonattainment inside an ozone transport region	100
	Maintenance	100
Ozone (VOC)	Marginal and moderate nonattainment inside an ozone transport region	50
	Maintenance within an ozone transport region	50
	Maintenance outside an ozone transport region	100
Carbon monoxide, SO ₂ and NO ₂	All nonattainment & maintenance	100
PM-10	Serious nonattainment	70

Comment [UFS1]: The following documents do not need to be included in the EA body. They can be referenced in the EA and included in the project folder instead.

	Moderate nonattainment and maintenance	100
Lead (Pb)	All nonattainment & maintenance	25

This project is presumed to conform under subparagraph (g)(2), by comparison with similar action. The similar action is the County library construction in Acton (see bottom of table below, for data).

Air quality calculations were performed by a proponent of the Antelope-Pardee transmission line construction project within the Angeles National Forest boundary. According to that air quality calculations, more than half of the emissions would be as a result of 1200 hours of helicopter usage in a year. That project would also grade dozens of miles of dirt roads translating in hundreds of acres, and involves thousands of hours of heavy equipment operations. The maximum annual emissions (tons/year) estimated for this project are below the de minimis levels in the table above.

Maximum Annual Emissions (tons/year)	(SCAB)	CO	NOx	PM10	SOx	VOC	PM2.5
Onroad Vehicles		2.2	2.33	0.05	0	0.29	0.05
Offroad Vehicles/Equipment		4	5.51	0.43	0.01	0.82	0.43
Helicopters		4.88	6.52	0.36	0.05	0.78	0.36
Fugitive Dust		---	---	12.05	---	---	2.24
Totals		11.09	14.35	12.89	0.06	1.88	3.08

On the other hand, the proposed project would involve no helicopter use, no road grading, would include site preparation on approximately one to two acres of land, and involve a few hundred hours of heavy equipment operations.

In addition to comparison with similar actions, we estimated the heavy equipment usage required for the construction of the proposed project; total emissions are shown near the bottom of the following table.

SCAB Fleet Average Emission Factors (Diesel)

Source: Off-road Mobile Source Emission Factors (Scenario Years 2007 – 2025)

<http://www.aqmd.gov/CEQA/handbook/offroad/offroad.html>

2008								
Air Basin		SC						
		(lb/hr)	(lb/hr)	(lb/hr)	(lb/hr)	(lb/hr)	(lb/hr)	(lb/hr)
Equipment	MaxHP	ROG	CO	NOX	SOX	PM	CO2	CH4
Crushing/Proc. Equipment	175	0.2596	0.9790	2.0557	0.0019	0.1141	167	0.0234
Forklifts	120	0.0724	0.2304	0.4055	0.0004	0.0402	31.2	0.0065
Generator Sets	50	0.1238	0.3024	0.3155	0.0004	0.0307	30.6	0.0112
Graders	120	0.1780	0.5585	1.0405	0.0009	0.0948	75.0	0.0161
Off-Highway Trucks	250	0.1822	0.4799	1.8617	0.0019	0.0659	167	0.0164
Other General Industrial Equipment	15	0.0066	0.0391	0.0466	0.0001	0.0026	6.4	0.0006
Other General Industrial Equipment	250	0.1553	0.4131	1.6545	0.0015	0.0579	136	0.0140
Paving Equipment	175	0.1757	0.6336	1.3860	0.0011	0.0760	101	0.0159
Rollers	120	0.1363	0.4271	0.8203	0.0007	0.0703	59.0	0.0123
Trenchers	50	0.2019	0.4556	0.3714	0.0004	0.0438	32.9	0.0182

Equipment	days	(tons) ROG	(tons) CO	(tons) NOX	(tons) SOX	(tons) PM	(tons) CO2	(tons) CH4
Crushing/Proc. Equipment	5	0.0052	0.0196	0.0411	0.0000	0.0023	3.3452	0.0005
Forklifts	15	0.0043	0.0138	0.0243	0.0000	0.0024	1.8735	0.0004
Generator Sets	40	0.0198	0.0484	0.0505	0.0001	0.0049	4.8997	0.0018
Graders	3	0.0021	0.0067	0.0125	0.0000	0.0011	0.8996	0.0002
Off-Highway Trucks	10	0.0073	0.0192	0.0745	0.0001	0.0026	6.6618	0.0007
Other General Industrial Equipment	5	0.0001	0.0008	0.0009	0.0000	0.0001	0.1279	0.0000
Other General Industrial Equipment	5	0.0031	0.0083	0.0331	0.0000	0.0012	2.7117	0.0003
Paving Equipment	3	0.0021	0.0076	0.0166	0.0000	0.0009	1.2123	0.0002
Rollers	4	0.0022	0.0068	0.0131	0.0000	0.0011	0.9438	0.0002
Trenchers	12	0.0097	0.0219	0.0178	0.0000	0.0021	1.5801	0.0009
Est. total this project		0.0560	0.1530	0.2845	0.0003	0.0187	24.2555	0.0051
Antelope-Pardee (yr)			11.09	14.35	0.06	12.89	----	1.88
Acton library		6	26	7	----	13	----	----
deminimus (tons/yr)		-----	100	25	100	70	-----	25

Regionally the total annual project emissions are small and are expected to fall well below the 10% regional conformity emission thresholds.

The Air quality issue will therefore not be analyzed further in this document. However, mitigation measure to reduce air pollution and noise as a result of this project are provided in the mitigation section.

APPENDIX C – RESPONSE TO EA COMMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Response</u>
09/14/2009	Therrio Carolyn	Supporting; asking clarification related to Radio Shop	Radio shop may be demolished or relocated on site to fit site plan
09/21/2009	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy	Supporting; suggest using San Gabriel River Plant Palette	San Gabriel River Plan Palette forwarded to Forest Landscape Architect for consideration into design

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