

**CITY OF CARSON**

---

**FINAL**

**Initial Study/Negative Declaration for the  
Shippers Transport Express Container Storage Project**

**City of Carson  
701 E. Carson Street  
Carson, CA 90745**

**Contact: Max Castillo  
(310)-952-1761 ext. 1317**

Prepared by:

**ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT, INC.  
1000-A Ortega Way, Suite A  
Placentia, CA 92870  
(714) 632-8521**

**November 2019**



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**FINAL INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE  
SHIPPERS TRANSPORT EXPRESS RELOCATION PROJECT**

	Page No.
<b>CHAPTER 1.0: PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>	
1.1 Introduction.....	1-1
1.2 Agency Authority.....	1-1
1.3 Project Location.....	1-2
1.4 Historic Site Uses.....	1-2
1.4.1 2149 East Sepulveda Boulevard .....	1-2
1.4.2 1150 East Sepulveda Boulevard .....	1-2
1.5 Project Description.....	1-4
<b>CHAPTER 2.0: ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST</b>	
Introduction.....	2-1
General Information.....	2-1
Environmental Factors Potentially Affected.....	2-2
Determination .....	2-3
Evaluation of Environmental Impacts .....	2-4
Environmental Checklist and Discussion .....	2-6
I. Aesthetics.....	2-6
II. Agriculture and Forest Resources .....	2-9
III. Air Quality .....	2-12
IV. Biological Resources .....	2-19
V. Cultural Resources .....	2-22
VI. Energy.....	2-24
VII. Geology and Soils.....	2-26
VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions.....	2-30
IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials .....	2-33
X. Hydrology and Water Quality.....	2-37
XI. Land Use and Planning .....	2-41
XII. Mineral Resources .....	2-43
XIII. Noise .....	2-45
XIV. Population and Housing.....	2-51
XV. Public Services.....	2-53
XVI. Recreation .....	2-55
XVII. Transportation.....	2-57
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources .....	2-62
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems.....	2-65
XX. Wildfire.....	2-68
XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance.....	2-70
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>2-72</b>

**TABLE OF CONTENTS  
(concluded)**

Page No.

**FIGURES:**

Figure 1-1: Existing and Proposed Shippers Location Map ..... 1-3  
Figure 1-2: General Site Plan..... 1-6  
Figure 2-1: Change in Truck Routes Associated with the Proposed Project..... 2-17

**TABLES:**

Table 2-1: Air Quality Significance Thresholds ..... 2-13  
Table 2-2: Operational Emissions Increases Associated with the Proposed  
Project ..... 2-16  
Table 2-3: GHG Emissions Associated with the Proposed Project..... 2-32  
Table 2-4: Existing Noise Levels ..... 2-48  
Table 2-5: Traffic Counts for Existing Shippers Site ..... 2-59  
Table 2-6: Estimated Traffic Counts for Proposed Project ..... 2-59  
Table 2-7 Existing and Project Intersection Level of Service..... 2-60

**APPENDICES:**

Appendix A: Emission Calculations  
Appendix B: Traffic Analysis  
Appendix C: Response to Comments Received on the Draft Negative  
Declaration for the Shippers Transport Express Container Storage  
Project

## **PREFACE**

*This document constitutes the Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration (ND) for the Shippers Transport Express Project. The Draft ND was circulated for a 20-day public review and comment period (November 7, 2019 through November 26, 2019). The City of Carson received one comment letter on the Draft ND during the public comment period. Those comments were reviewed and evaluated and are included in Appendix C of this Final ND, along with responses to those comments.*

*Minor modifications have been made to the Draft ND such that it is now a Final ND. The City has evaluated all modifications to the proposed project and concluded that none of the modifications alter any conclusions reached in the Draft ND, nor provide new information of substantial importance relative to the draft document that would require recirculation of the Draft ND pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15073.5. Therefore, this document is now a Final ND. Additions to the text of the Final ND are denoted using **italics**. Text that has been eliminated is shown using ~~strike-outs~~.*



## **CHAPTER 1**

---

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Introduction  
Agency Authority  
Project Location  
Historic Site Uses  
Project Description



## 1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Shippers Transport Express (Shippers) is proposing to move their existing truck and container storage facility located at 1150 East Sepulveda Boulevard, Carson, California to 2149 East Sepulveda Boulevard, Carson, California (project site). Shippers proposes to use the project site, approximately 20 acres, for truck and container parking for up to 704 containers. In addition, four modular enclosures would be brought onto the project site, two guard shacks, one guard station, and one restroom facility.

### 1.2 AGENCY AUTHORITY

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq., and Title 14 California Code of Regulations §15000 et seq.), requires that the environmental impacts of proposed projects be evaluated and that feasible methods to reduce, avoid or eliminate significant adverse impacts of these projects be identified and implemented. The lead agency is the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project that may have a significant effect upon the environment (Public Resources Code §21067). The proposed use requires discretionary approval from the City of Carson (the City or City) for a conditional use permit (CUP) for the project site; therefore, it is subject to the requirements of CEQA. Because the City of Carson has the primary responsibility for supervising or approving the entire project as a whole, it is the most appropriate public agency to act as lead agency (CEQA Guidelines §15051(b)).

In accordance with §15002(a) CEQA Guidelines, the basic purposes of CEQA are to inform public agency decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effects of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects through the use of mitigation measures or alternatives to the project, and disclose to the public the reasons why a government agency approved the project if significant environmental effects are involved.

To fulfill the purpose and intent of CEQA, the City has prepared this ~~Draft~~ *Final* Negative Declaration (ND) to address the potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. An ND for a project subject to CEQA is prepared when an environmental analysis of the project shows that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines §15070(b)). As discussed in Chapter 2, the proposed project is not expected to result in any significant adverse environmental impacts; therefore, a ND is the appropriate CEQA document.

The evaluation presented in Chapter 2 presents the analysis and discussions for the following areas: aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, solid and hazardous waste, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfires.

### **1.3 PROJECT LOCATION**

Shippers Transport Express is proposing to move their existing operations to 2149 East Sepulveda Boulevard, Carson, California (see Figure 1-1). The project site is designated as heavy industrial by the City of Carson General Plan and is zoned as heavy manufacturing (City of Carson, 2018).

Land uses north, west, east, and south of project site are primarily refinery related activities, including: the Tesoro Coke Handling and Sulfur Recovery Plant to the north; Tesoro and Phillips 66 refineries to the west; the Kinder Morgan terminal and Tesoro Refinery to the South; and Chem Oil and the InterModal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) to the east and east of the Dominguez Channel. The project site is located on the east side the Alameda Corridor (see Figure 1-1) and west of the Dominguez Channel. The nearest sensitive receptor to the project site is Stephens Middle School, a public middle school, which is located at 1830 W. Columbia Street, Long Beach, California, approximately 0.6 mile (3,000 feet) east of the project site.

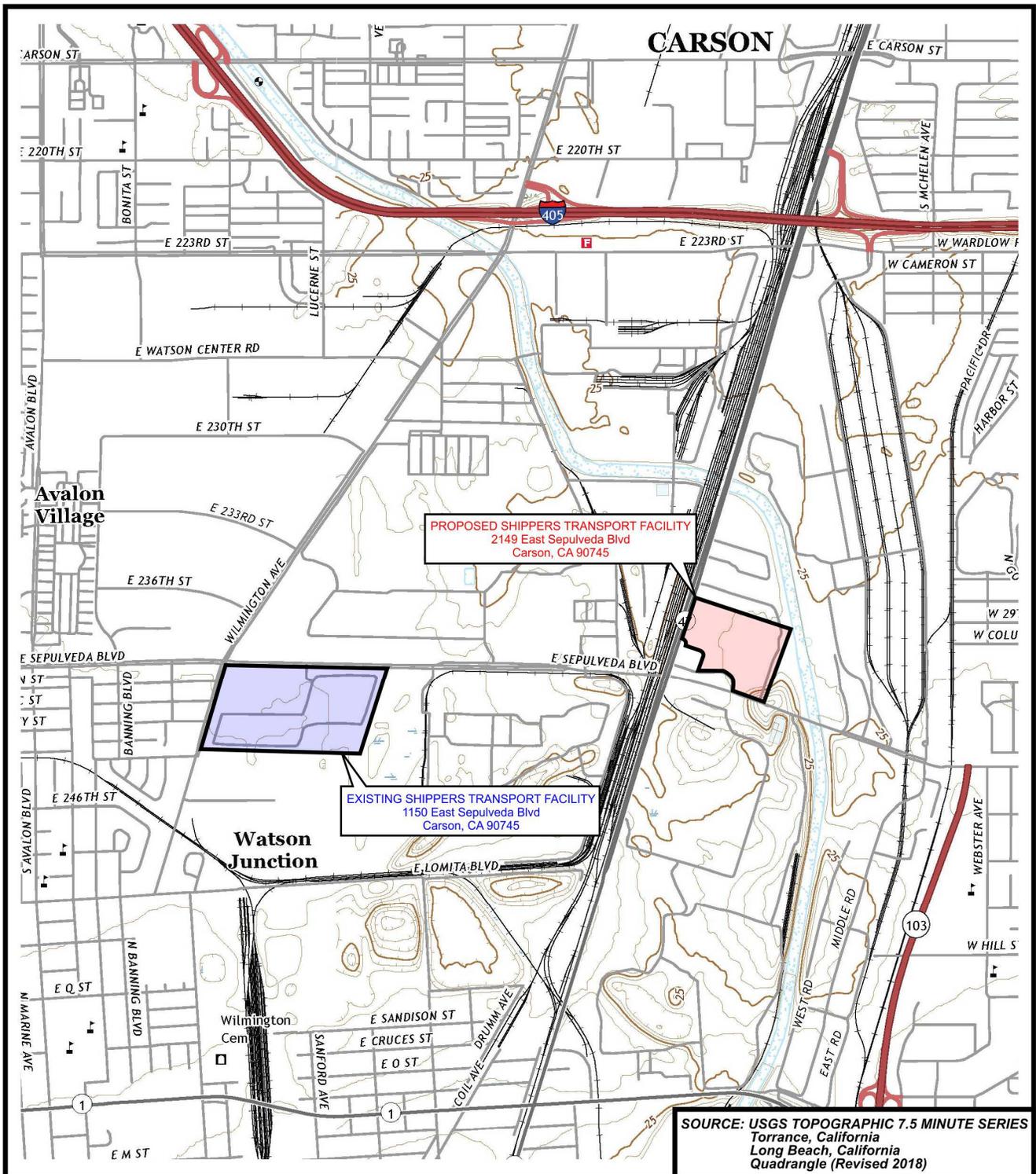
### **1.4 HISTORIC SITE USES**

#### **1.4.1 2149 East Sepulveda Boulevard**

The project site is currently vacant and consists of approximately 20 acres. The site has been used for a number of heavy industrial uses, including truck parking as recently as 2016, and most recently for the staging of construction equipment for the Tesoro Refinery.

#### **1.4.2 1150 East Sepulveda Boulevard**

Shippers Transport Express began operations at 1150 East Sepulveda Blvd. in 2001 and has been operating continuously since that time. Shippers serves as the off dock facility for Pacific Container Terminals, Pier A and Matson Container Terminal in the Port of Long Beach. The terminals hire Shippers to move containers from the Port to their facility to free up space for the next ship. The trucking community then picks up the containers from Shippers instead of the marine terminal. The existing site can hold up to 2,170 containers and is 60 acres. Approximately 2,100 trucks per day visit the existing site. When the containers are picked up from Shippers, the trucks travel from the site northbound on Sepulveda Blvd. to Alameda Street northbound where they can connect to the 405, 710, or 91 freeways. 30 employees currently work at the existing site.



EXISTING AND PROPOSED SHIPPERS LOCATION MAP

## 1.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Shippers Transport Express is proposing to move their existing truck and container storage facility) to the 20 acre site at 2149 East Sepulveda Boulevard, Carson, California (project site). The project site is located approximately one mile east of the existing Shippers facility at 1150 East Sepulveda Boulevard, Carson, California (existing site). Shippers leases its existing site (approximately 60 acres) from Tesoro Logistics Operations LLC, who is developing the existing site for additional refinery-related operations. Therefore, Shippers is proposing to move from the 1150 E. Sepulveda Blvd. site in the near future. The City of Carson has indicated that a Conditional Use Permit will be required for the use of the 20-acre project site for container storage and parking.

Under the project, Shippers will move its operations to 2149 East Sepulveda. Ships carrying containers come into the Port of Long Beach. These imported containers will be picked up by Shippers and will be temporarily staged at the project site until they can be delivered to their ultimate destination. This site will be a container storage yard for approximately 700 containers and also includes 66 tuck parking spaces and five standard vehicle parking spaces. The number of workers at the project site is expected to be six workers. There are no buildings on the project site, and no permanent buildings are proposed for the site. Shippers will bring in four modular enclosures, including two guard shacks, one guard station, and one restroom facility.

Shippers expects that the number of containers moved on a daily basis will be approximately 200 per day. Trucks will travel from the Port of Long Beach to the project site for temporary storage via the Terminal Island 103 Freeway to Sepulveda Blvd. From the project site, the containers will be picked up from Shippers and travel from the project site to Alameda Street northbound where they can connect to the 405, 710, or 91 freeways. The project site is located approximately one mile closer to Alameda Street than the 1150 E. Sepulveda site. Therefore, the approximately 700 trucks that would deliver/pick up containers at the project site would travel approximately one mile less to/from the Shippers site, resulting in a reduction of approximately two miles per container movement (one mile to deliver to the site and one mile to transport from the site), resulting in a reduction in vehicle miles travelled of approximately 1,400 miles per day.

No major renovations are expected as the project site is currently vacant. Construction activities will be limited to the installation of the four modular enclosures (security and restroom facilities), which are portable structures that will be moved on to the site. In addition, Shippers will install wheel stops and K rail. The minor site renovations are expected to begin as soon as all approvals are received from the City of Carson and be completed within about one month. The expected layout of the finished project is shown in Figure 1-2.

The relocation of Shippers from their current 60-acre site to a new 20-acre site at 2149 E. Sepulveda will reduce the size of the Shippers facility and reduce the number of containers that can be parked at the site. Shippers is looking for additional space to lease and temporarily store and park containers and trucks; however, no such suitable space has been identified at this time. Potential impacts associated with the use of other sites are currently considered to be speculative

## CHAPTER 1 –PROJECT DESCRIPTION

---

under CEQA Guidelines Section 15145 as their location(s) have not been identified. Shippers is continuing to look for additional space and will address CEQA requirements, permitting requirements, etc., when those site(s) have been identified.

M:\Dbs\3117 Shippers/Final ND \3117 Final NegDec Ch.1

# CHAPTER 1 –PROJECT DESCRIPTION

I:\3117\General Site Plan (Created) 09/05/19 (Drawn By) A.S.K. (Check By) D.B.S. (Last Rev.) 09/06/19



 Environmental Audit, Inc.

GENERAL SITE PLAN  
Proposed Shipper Transport Facility  
2149 East Sepulveda Boulevard  
Carson, CA 90745

0 250'