

**NEGATIVE DECLARATION
&
INITIAL STUDY**

Evaluating

**APPROVAL OF
CALIFORNIA CARPET STEWARDSHIP PLAN**

January 2012

State of California

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery¹ (CalRecycle), Materials Management and Local Assistance Division prepared this Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the California Carpet Stewardship Plan (Plan) proposed by Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), a carpet stewardship organization. CalRecycle prepared this document in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq.*, and the State CEQA Guidelines, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 *et seq.*

A lead agency conducts an Initial Study to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that there is no substantial evidence in the record indicating a project may have a significant effect on the environment, the agency may prepare a Negative Declaration instead of an EIR [CEQA Guidelines §15070]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/ND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15070.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the proposed project. [CEQA Guidelines § 15367] CalRecycle is the lead agency for the proposed project since CalRecycle is carrying out the project by approving the Plan. The contact person for the lead agency is:

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1.3 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the Plan. CARE submitted the Plan to CalRecycle for approval to fulfill part of the requirements of the carpet stewardship statute (Chapter 681, Statutes of 2010 [Perez, AB 2398]). The Plan is submitted on behalf of the carpet manufacturers who are participating in the Plan in compliance with AB 2398. The Plan contains information on: program scope, performance goals, activities to achieve those goals consistent with the state's solid waste management hierarchy, collection systems, market development, financing, education and outreach, program performance measures, stakeholder consultations, auditing, and environmental information.

This document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 - Introduction. This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

¹ Chapter 21 of the Statutes of 2009, created the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, which is vested with the duties, powers and jurisdiction of the former California Integrated Waste Management Board.

- Chapter 2 - Project Description. This chapter describes the background, location, and key elements of the project.
- Chapter 3 - Environmental Checklist. This chapter identifies and evaluates the potential environmental impacts identified in the CEQA Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist. The conditions of project approval will reduce any potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level. This chapter also identifies and summarizes the overall significance of any potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, cumulative impacts, and impact to humans, as identified in the Initial Study.

1.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Chapter 3 of this document contains the Environmental Assessment and Analysis, which is commonly referred to as the Environmental Checklist (Initial Study). The Initial Study identifies the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed project (organized by environmental issue) and discusses each potential environmental impact. Based on the IS and supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the adoption of the Plan will result in less-than-significant or no impacts for the following issues: aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, 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, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems.

In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, a ND should be prepared if the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Based on the available evidence in the record and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, it is proposed that a Negative Declaration be adopted in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

CHAPTER 2

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 BACKGROUND

The statute on Product Stewardship for Carpet (Chapter 681, Statutes of 2010 [Perez, AB 2398]) was passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor on September 30, 2010. The law took effect as Public Resources Code Chapter 20 (commencing with Section 42970) on January 1, 2011.

The purpose of the carpet stewardship law (AB 2398) is to increase the amount of postconsumer waste carpet that is diverted from landfills and recycled into secondary products or otherwise managed in a manner that is consistent with the state's hierarchy of waste management practices pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 40051. The law requires on or before September 30, 2011, manufacturers of carpets sold in this state shall, individually or through a carpet stewardship organization, submit a carpet stewardship plan to the CalRecycle to achieve the purposes of the carpet stewardship law. CalRecycle has the responsibility to approve or disapprove the Plan. AB 2398 requires that a Plan contain certain elements:

- How the plan will achieve AB 2398's purposes;
- Goals that increase recycling of postconsumer carpet and increase diversion of postconsumer carpets from landfills, increase the recyclability of carpets, and incentivize the market growth of products made from postconsumer carpet;
- How the plan is consistent with the state's solid waste management hierarchy;
- Funding that is sufficient to carry out the plan, including administrative, operational, and capital costs, and payment of fees and incentive payments to cover costs of services provided;
- Education and outreach efforts; and
- Process for independent audits.

A unique and very important aspect of carpet stewardship is long-term, sustainable funding. There are two phases to funding outlined in AB 2398. There is an initial period, July 1, 2011 to January 1, 2013, when carpet manufacturers are assessed five cents (\$0.05) per square yard that can only be used for early action measures that are consistent with the purpose and designed to achieve measurable improvement in landfill diversion and recycling of postconsumer carpet. After January 1, 2013, manufacturers shall add an assessment to the purchase price of carpet that is approved by CalRecycle as part of the Plan approval. The amount of the assessment shall be sufficient to meet, but not exceed, the anticipated cost of carrying out the Plan.

Maintaining a level playing field among manufacturers is addressed through a combination of civil penalties for non-compliance and transparency that allows all stakeholders and the public to evaluate progress. For manufacturers to be in compliance with the carpet stewardship law, they must have an approved plan and demonstrate achievement of continuous and meaningful improvement in the rates of recycling and other goals included in an organization's plan.

According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board's 2008 Statewide Waste Characterization Study, discarded carpet is one of the 10 most prevalent waste materials in California landfills, equaling 3.2 percent of waste by volume disposed in California in 2008. Most carpet is made from nylon and other polymers derived from virgin oil, a limited resource. Fortunately, numerous products can be manufactured from recycled carpets, including carpet backing and backing components, carpet fiber, carpet underlayment, plastics and engineered materials, and erosion control products. Several carpet recycling facilities currently operate in California, offering jobs, and producing products and feedstock for products made from recycled carpet.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

Statewide

2.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is the approval of the California Product Stewardship for Carpet Plan (Plan) that is submitted by the carpet stewardship organization, Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), on behalf of the carpet manufacturers

who are participating in the Plan, in compliance with AB 2398. The Plan will be implemented by private businesses engaged in the manufacture, sale, installation, and recycling of carpet in California. The Plan covers the period from the present through 2016. It is intended to increase the recycling of postconsumer carpet, increase the diversion of postconsumer carpet from landfills, increase the recyclability of carpets, and provide incentives to encourage the growth of markets for products made from postconsumer waste carpet. Under the Plan, by 2016, carpet recycling will increase from 30 million pounds to 74 million pounds (resulting in a recycling rate that increases from 7% to 16 %) and postconsumer carpet diverted from landfill disposal will increase from 47 million pounds to 106 million pounds. These goals will be achieved by providing financial incentives to businesses that process and recycle postconsumer carpet and by other measures. The Plan is designed to accept and manage all applicable postconsumer carpet sold or shipped into California as of July 1, 2011, regardless of polymer type or primary materials of construction. The Plan notes that carpet manufacturers already have programs in place to reduce the amount of natural resources used in making carpet and promote designs to make carpet more durable. The Plan puts the emphasis on carpet recycling into higher value materials (i.e., carpet fiber and backing to be used back into carpet and other consumer products) and lower value materials (i.e., carpet filler used as an ingredient in carpet and as a non-functional filler). For wastes that cannot feasibly be recycled, the Plan includes the use of environmentally safe management [Carpet As Alternative Fuel (CAAF) or as Cement Kilns fuel/feedstock] of materials. Waste carpet that is currently going to Waste to Energy (WTE) facilities will remain unchanged.

The Plan is designed to grow carpet recycling in California by incentivizing the processors who separate post-consumer carpet into materials that can be manufactured back into consumer products such as carpet, carpet cushion and plastic parts. Based on the Plan, CARE will be utilizing existing recycling facilities, cement kilns, and landfills which have the capacity to handle additional materials; CARE does not foresee the creation of any new facilities as a result of the Plan. Recyclers will receive incentives, as described below, for carpet face fiber or other material which is diverted from landfills. Through these incentives, CARE envisions establishing a market whereby recyclers will pay independent collectors (e.g., carpet installers, retailers, waste management companies) to collect carpet. The infrastructure needed to collect, process and recycle postconsumer carpet already exists in the state. CARE has identified eighteen recyclers in Table IV of the Plan; there also processors in other states who currently take carpet diverted from California landfills. These recyclers will reclaim carpet face fiber and possibly other materials for recycling into various products, and safely dispose of carpet waste that cannot be recycled by converting it into a fuel source which replaces natural resources like coal, or by burning remnants in cement kilns to provide base materials for the creation of cement, or by disposing the remnants in landfill. Depending on the ultimate use and disposition of the waste carpet, CARE will pay recyclers different rates.

The Financing Mechanism within the Plan pays for output by processors. The Plan pays a premium for higher value recycling materials versus lower value recycling materials. Some of the funds are used for wastes that cannot be feasibly recycled i.e., CAAF and Cement Kilns fuel/feedstock and there is a 15% cap on the funds for this application. CAAF is not a type of recycling but it is a type of diversion that enables higher levels of carpet recycling. The Plan includes activities to educate the consumers, commercial building owners, carpet installation contractors and retailers.

CHAPTER 3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

3.2 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 or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

3.3 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Issues:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Explanation: The proposed project will have no impact on aesthetics. The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to aesthetics.				

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to 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:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Explanation: This project will not have any impact on agricultural resources. The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to agriculture and forestry resources.				

III. 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:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation: This project will have no negative impact on air quality. The infrastructure in the U.S. for collecting, processing and recycling carpet is established and in California it is currently diverting 47 million pounds of carpet from landfill disposal annually and has the capacity to handle the increased recycling that will result under the Plan. This project includes the approval of a Financing Mechanism within the Plan that pays for output by processors of diverted carpet. The Plan's Financing Mechanism will incentivize processors who separate post-consumer carpet into materials that can be manufactured back into consumer products such as carpet, carpet cushion, and plastic parts or utilized as filler or as an alternative fuel for boilers or cement kilns. The project includes approval of the Plan's goal for processors to increase their output by 59 million pounds. This project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses that would have a potential impact on air quality. Owners/Operators of processing and recycling activities, cement kilns and boilers must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to air quality. Furthermore, owners/operators of processing and recycling activities, cement kilns and boilers must obtain all required permits, licenses, or other authorizations and must comply with all orders, statutes, regulations, reports, or other requirements of regulatory or enforcement agencies, including but not limited to local health agencies, local land use authorities, fire authorities, air quality management districts or air pollution control districts, and the California Air Resources Board.

For the reasons noted above, potential impacts to Air Quality as described above are found to have less than significant impacts.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation: This project will not have any impact on biological resources. The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to biological resources.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation: This project will not have any impact on cultural resources. The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to cultural resources.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iv) Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation: This project will not have any impact on geological resources. The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to geology and soils.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation: This project will have no negative impact on greenhouse gas generation. According to the US EPA, recycling carpet results in a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions when compared to the emissions from manufacturing carpet using virgin raw materials. The EPA included carpet recycling as part of its Waste Reduction Model (WARM) Model, utilizing data that was generated in 2001, and concluded that carpet recycling had significant GHG emission benefits. Recently, EPA determined that the 2001 data set contained inaccurate information and resulted in overestimating the greenhouse gas emission benefits from carpet recycling. The EPA is currently working with Dr. Matthew Realf, from the Georgia Institute of Technology, to update the carpet recycling data contained in the WARM model. It is anticipated that incorporating the updated data into the WARM model will lower the magnitude of the greenhouse gas benefits from recycling carpet but it will still conclude that recycling carpet has significant GHG emission benefits. Additionally, this project supports the High Recycling/Zero Waste Measure in California's AB 32 Scoping Plan, which outlines the State's strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation: Carpet recycling does not generate a significant amount of hazardous materials and only handles feedstock products classified as a non-hazardous solid waste.

The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to hazards and hazardous materials. Furthermore, owners/operators of recycling activities must obtain all required permits, licenses, or other authorizations and must comply with all orders, statutes, regulations, reports, or other requirements of regulatory or enforcement agencies, including but not limited to local health agencies, local land use authorities, fire authorities, air quality management districts or air pollution control districts, California Regional Water Quality Control Boards, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

Explanation: This project will not have any impact on hydrology and water quality. The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to hydrology and water quality. Carpet recycling process is a dry process, therefore, carpet processing does not use a significant amount of water.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:

- a) Physically divide an established community?
- 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?
- c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

Explanation: This project will not have any impact on land use and planning. The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to land use and planning.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

- a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?
- 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?

Explanation: This project will not have any impact on mineral resources. The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to mineral resources.

XII. NOISE -- Would the project result in:

- 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?
- b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?
- c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?
- 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?
- 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?

Explanation: This project will not have any impact on noise. The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to noise.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. 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)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation: This project will not have any impact on population and housing. Activities proposed by the plan are of the type that would not require any significant increase in the existing employable workforce or infrastructure; therefore the project will not intensify population densities or infrastructure improvements. Neither will it displace housing or people; therefore the project will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) 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: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Fire protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Police protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Parks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other public facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation: The proposed project will not require the construction of new or physically altered government facilities. The proposed project will not adversely affect public services. The operators of all carpet recyclable materials handling operations and facilities must provide fire prevention, protection and control measures, including, but not limited to, temperature monitoring, adequate water supply, isolation of ignition sources, and fire lanes.

XV. 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation: The proposed project will not increase population and will not create a need for additional recreational facilities. This project will not have any impact on recreation. The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to recreation.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation: This project will have no impact on transportation or traffic. This project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses that would have a potential impact on transportation or traffic. The infrastructure in California for collecting, processing and recycling carpets is established. Owners/Operators of recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to air quality. Furthermore, owners/operators of carpet recycling activities must obtain all required permits, licenses, or other authorizations and must comply with all orders, statutes, regulations, reports, or other requirements of regulatory or enforcement agencies, including but not limited to local health agencies, local land use authorities, fire authorities, and air quality management districts, or air pollution control districts. In addition, when analyzing a statewide project such as this, where no site-specific impacts can be identified, it is necessary to consider potential impacts more generally. In the case of transportation, we believe that the future transportation of waste carpet into recycling programs resulting from this project will be fundamentally the same as the present transportation of waste carpets into disposal facilities. Thus, there are no increases in transportation impacts from the present situation.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Explanation: The proposed project will not require construction of new or expanded utility or service systems. This project will not have any impact on utilities or service systems. The proposed project does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling. Owners/Operators of carpet recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, including those related to utilities and service systems. Furthermore, owners/operators of recycling activities must obtain all required permits, licenses, or other authorizations and must comply with all orders, statutes, regulations, reports, or other requirements of regulatory or enforcement agencies, including but not limited to local health agencies, local land use authorities, fire authorities, air quality management districts or air pollution control districts, California Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

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?

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)?

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

Explanation: As set out above, this project will not have any significant environmental impacts, direct or indirect, no impacts that are cumulatively significant, and no adverse effects on human beings, direct or indirect. The proposed project intends to increase the recycling of postconsumer carpet, increase the diversion of postconsumer carpet from landfills, increase the recyclability of carpets, and provide incentives to encourage the growth of markets for products made from postconsumer carpet. It does not authorize any specific land use or site-specific uses. There is an established infrastructure in California for carpet recycling, so no new construction of carpet recycling facilities is anticipated. Moreover, Owners/Operators of recycling activities must comply with all local ordinances, land use and zoning requirements, and must obtain all required permits, licenses, or other authorizations, and must comply with all orders, statutes, regulations, reports, or other requirements.