3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND ANALYSIS

This section contains the Initial Study (IS) checklist that was completed for the Georgia Pacific (GP) Gypsum LLC (Applicant) GP Gypsum Antioch Wharf Upgrade Project (Project), in accordance with the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The IS identifies site-specific conditions and impacts, evaluates their potential significance, and discusses ways to avoid or lessen impacts that are potentially significant. The information, analysis and conclusions included in the IS provide the basis for determining the appropriate document needed to comply with CEQA. For the Project, based on the analysis and information contained herein, California State Lands Commission (CSLC) staff has found that the IS shows that there is substantial evidence that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment but revisions to the Project would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur. As a result, the CSLC has concluded that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is the appropriate CEQA document for the Project.

The evaluation of environmental impacts provided in this IS is based in part on the impact questions contained in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines; these questions, which are included in an impact assessment matrix for each environmental category (Aesthetics, Agriculture/Forest Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, etc.), are “intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts.” Each question is followed by a check-marked box with column headings that are defined below.

- **Potentially Significant Impact.** This column is checked if there is substantial evidence that a Project-related environmental effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impacts,” a Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would be prepared.

- **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** This column is checked when the Project may result in a significant environmental impact, but the incorporation of identified Project revisions or mitigation measures would reduce the identified effect(s) to a less than significant level.

- **Less than Significant Impact.** This column is checked when the Project would not result in any significant effects. The Project’s impact is less than significant even without the incorporation of Project-specific mitigation measures.

- **No Impact.** This column is checked when the Project would not result in any impact in the category or the category does not apply.

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project; a checked box indicates that at least one impact would be a “Potentially Significant Impact” except that the Applicant has agreed to Project revisions, including the
Environmental Checklist and Analysis

1 implementation of mitigation measures, that reduce the impact to “Less than Significant with Mitigation.”

☐ Aesthetics  ☐ Agriculture and Forest Resources  ☐ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources  ☒ Cultural and Paleontological 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  ☐ Utilities and Service Systems
☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance  ☐ Other Major Areas of Concern: Commercial Fishing and Environmental Justice

3 Detailed descriptions and analyses of impacts from Project activities and the basis for their significance determinations are provided for each environmental factor on the following pages, beginning with Section 3.1, Aesthetics. Relevant laws, regulations, and policies potentially applicable to the Project are listed in the Regulatory Setting for each environmental factor analyzed in this IS.

8 AGENCY DETERMINATION

9 Based on the environmental impact analysis provided by this Initial Study:

☐ 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.

Affa Awan, Environmental Scientist
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California State Lands Commission

Georgia Pacific Gypsum Antioch Wharf Upgrade Project MND
3-2 June 2015