

ARLETA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Community Impact Statement

RE: **ZA-2021-3139-CUB**, at *12906 Branford St, Arleta, CA 91331*

ARLETA NC'S SPECIFIC FINDINGS:

- i. The project shall not enhance the built environment in the surrounding neighborhood but rather promote further deterioration in the social fabric of the community of Arleta and contribute towards the advancement of vagrancy in the city and region. The City of Los Angeles has become the epicenter of people experiencing homelessness and almost 70 percent of *that population* that falls within this category also happens to be composed of ***substance abusers***.¹ Moreover, aside from close proximity to Bert Corona Charter Middle School, adjacent to the San Fernando Valley Japanese-American Community Center, there are several homeless encampments and vehicle dwellers in the area (see figures below) and both single-family and multi-family residences are located just across the street from the site location. This portion of Arleta is located east of the 5 freeway at Branford Street's south side, facing Laurel Canyon Blvd, and is much closer to the communities of Sun Valley and Pacoima where considerable disinvestment has been the norm for decades.

¹ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-10-07/homeless-population-mental-illness-disability>

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August 24, 2021

10 Yea 0 No 3 Absent 1 Abstain



Figure 1. Recreational Vehicle dwellers at Sharp Avenue/Branford Street adjacent to southbound entrance to Interstate 5 freeway. July 31, 2021.



Figure 2. Recreational Vehicle dweller near 9051 Laurel Canyon Blvd and residences. July 31, 2021.

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Figure 3. Vehicle dweller at 9080 Laurel Canyon Blvd across from RV dweller in Figure 2. July 31, 2021.



Figure 4. Homeless encampments along the elevated shoulders of the northbound Interstate 5 freeway at Sheldon Street and Laurel Canyon Blvd. July 31, 2021.

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Figure 5. Single-family homes across the street from site location. July 31, 2021.



Figure 6. Vehicle dweller(s) across from 9770 San Fernando Road at Branford Street Metrolink railroad grade crossing. July 31, 2021.

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Figure 7. Close up view of vehicle dweller(s) and belongings across from 9770 San Fernando Road at Branford Street Metrolink railroad grade crossing. July 31, 2021.



Figure 8. Bert Corona Charter Middle School at 9400 Remick Avenue, Pacoima, CA 91331. July 31, 2021.

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Figure 9. San Fernando Valley Japanese-American Community Center at 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima, CA. July 31, 2021.

- ii. Data obtained from the Los Angeles Police Department indicates that between 2011 to 2020 there were 1,058 traffic collisions (TCs) within a half-mile radius from the intersection of Arleta Ave/Branford St. The highest traffic collision types were described as due to *unsafe speed* (233) followed by *automobile right of way* (221) type. In a tally of 52 accidents involving an automobile at the intersection of Branford Street and Laurel Canyon Blvd 12 were due to driving at an *unsafe speed* while 4 were due to *driving or bicycling under the influence of alcohol or drugs*, the rest were various. At the onramp entrance and off-ramp exit to the Golden State Freeway (Interstate 5), at Branford St, there were 37 TCs on that specific surface street during the same time frame where 5 accounted for driving at an unsafe speed while 4 were due to driving or bicycling under the influence of alcohol or drugs. It is evident that motorists are driving at unsafe speeds and the cases, particularly at both Laurel Canyon Blvd and Arleta Av there are long stretches without stop signs, no inviting street calming medians, and no speed bumps to slow down speeding vehicles it leaves much room for a continuation of traffic collisions. The attached map (Figure 10) illustrates the frequency of automobile accidents at various intersections.

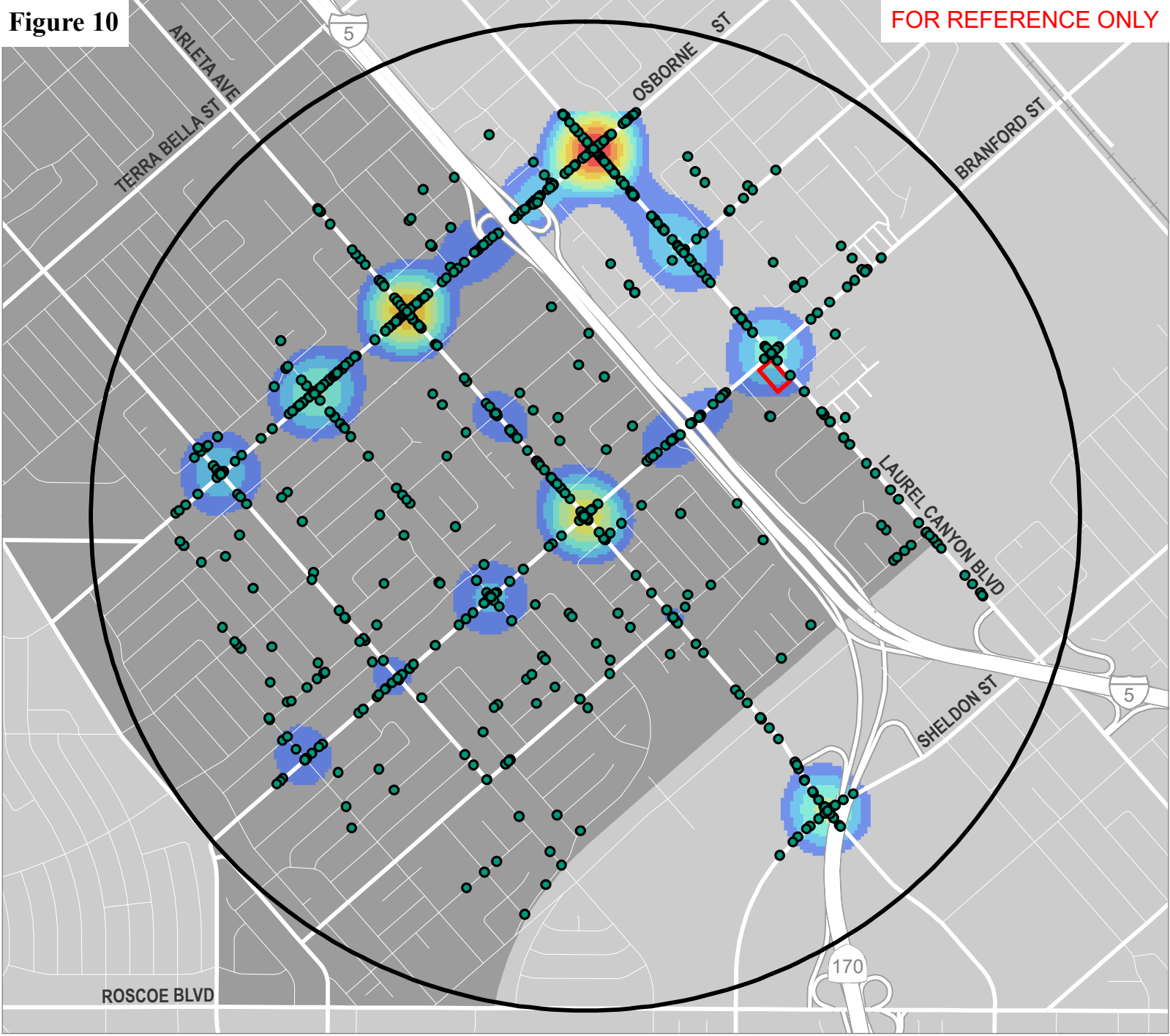
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Figure 10

FOR REFERENCE ONLY



Arleta

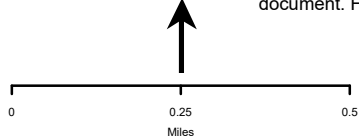
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Traffic Collisions



Half-Mile radius



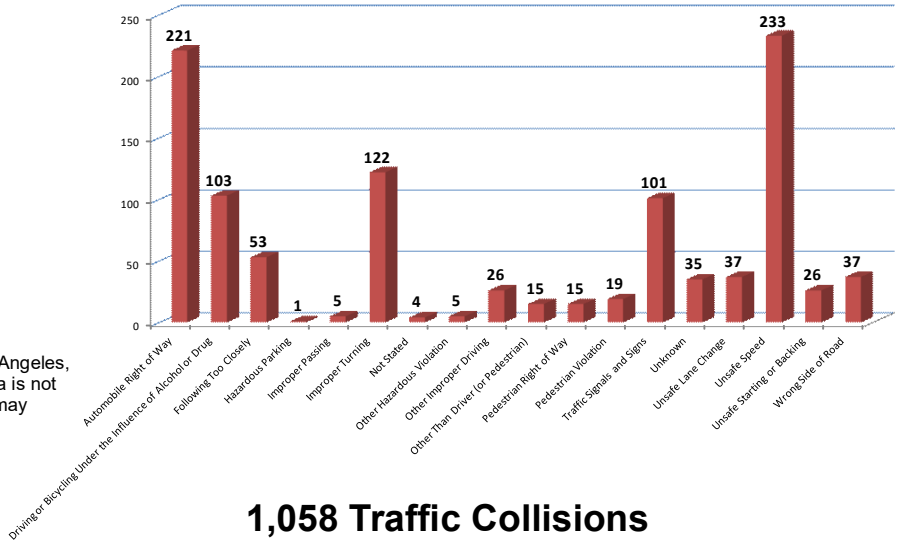
Arleta NC
City of Los Angeles

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Data Sources:
City of Los Angeles,
LAPD, LA County

Date: 8/2/2021

Traffic Collisions: 3/2011 - 2/2020



1,058 Traffic Collisions

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

- i. While the location has been in existence for numerous years selling beer and wine, given rampant vagrancy in the community there is no guarantee that the availability of a full line of alcohol will improve the welfare of the public and preservation of both public and private property. California Assembly Bill 109 (2011), dubbed Prison Realignment, and Proposition 47 (2014), known as The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, both laws respectively, have exacerbated crime in California and particularly in the City of Los Angeles. For example, Proposition 47 has allowed for shoplifting of up to \$950 worth of property at a retail store to be considered a misdemeanor crime instead of a felony.² One can continue to rob multiple times throughout the day and night at different locations or the same location. While a law was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on July 21, 2021,³ AB 331, that aimed to curb theft—it exclusively targets *organized retail theft* (or criminal ring theft) which does not include sole individual unorganized shoplifting.⁴ Prosecution of such crimes is also at the discretion of district attorneys.
- ii. Census 2020 Tract 1212.10, has a total of 2 Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) sites: Dairy Mart and Big Jim's Family Restaurant. However, just up the street along Laurel Canyon Blvd, north of Branford Street, in neighboring Census 2020 Tract 1048.22, there are 6 ABC sites which include a gas station, several restaurants, supermarkets, liquor stores/small neighborhood markets. See Figure 11.

² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&division=&title=13.&part=1.&chapter=2.&article=

³ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB331

⁴ <https://apnews.com/article/business-health-government-and-politics-california-coronavirus-pandemic-d0c6dc49ef4cd6d05f649a860bd72888>

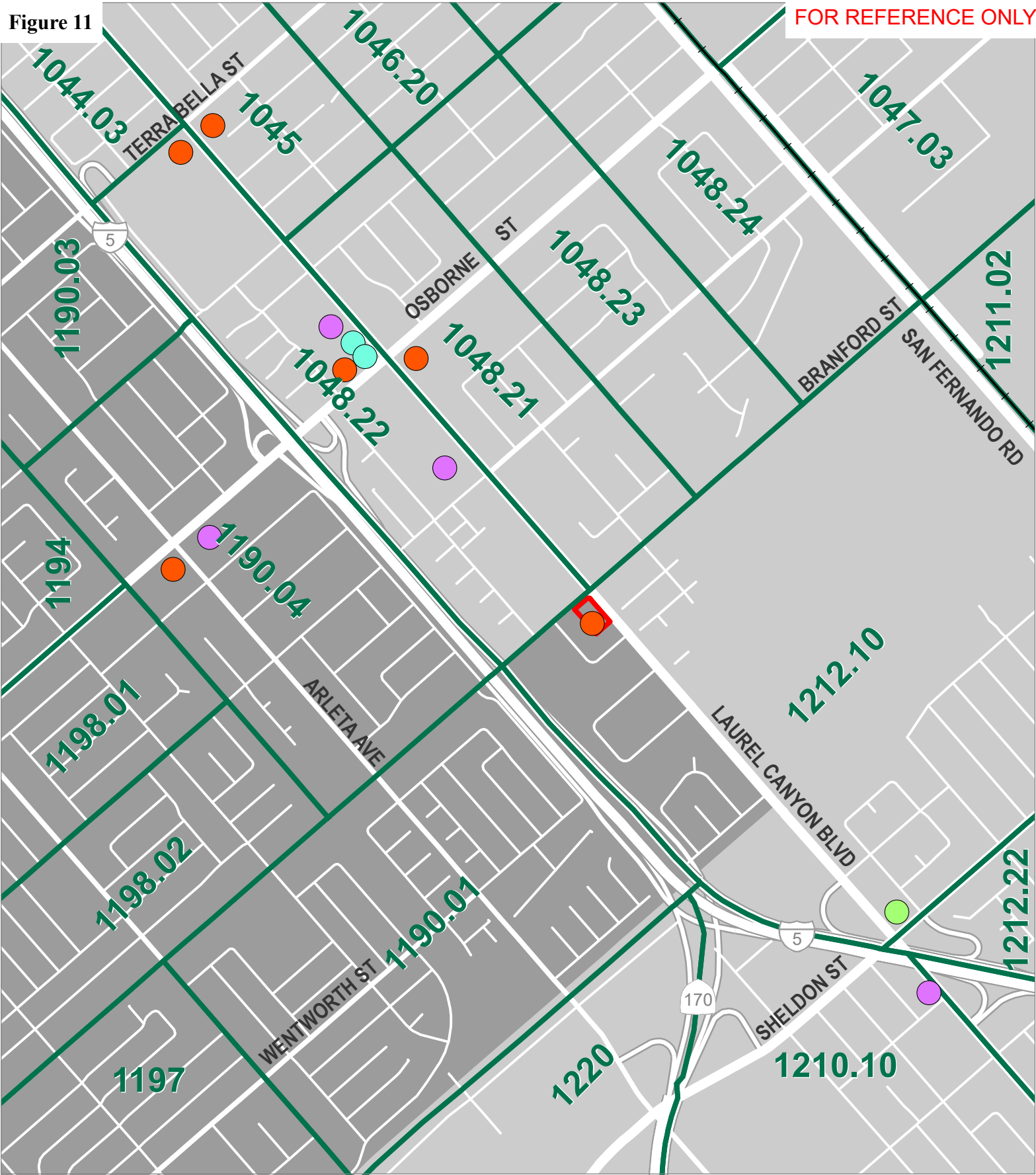
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Figure 11

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ABC sites

- 20 - Off-Sale Beer & Wine
- 21 - Off-Sale General
- 41 - On-Sale Beer & Wine Public Eating
- 47 - On-Sale General Public Eating

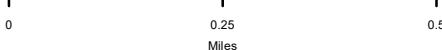
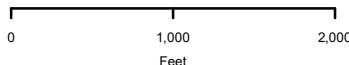
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Census Tract 2020



Arleta NC



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- iii. While the area where the applicant is situated has industrial/manufacturing land use and zoning applications the property does not exist in a vacuum as children, educational institutions, the elderly, church patrons, homeowners, and renters alike are in direct proximity to the location site. Furthermore, a legal cannabis cultivating facility is in the immediate vicinity thus increasing both vehicle and pedestrian traffic into the area for the consumption of cannabis-related products. The legalized cannabis industry is a cash only industry and robberies are not uncommon to take place at cannabis vendor locations.⁵ Unlike ABC establishments along Hollywood Blvd, Broadway in Downtown Los Angeles, Lankershim Blvd in North Hollywood's Arts District, and throughout the Ventura Blvd corridor, this corner of Arleta, Sun Valley, and Pacoima does not boast a night-life atmosphere nor has the constant presence of law enforcement to ensure the protection of innocent children, members of the public, ABC patrons, cannabis consumers, and residents in the vicinity. Figure 12 illustrates the land use composition of Arleta and surrounding communities. Lastly, Figure 13 illustrates the multiple ABC sites in both Arleta and in the neighboring commercial corridors that surround our community.

⁵ <https://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-pot-shops-20160711-snap-story.html>
<https://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2021/05/26/303950.htm>

Figure 12

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