

INITIAL STUDY

FOR THE

LAMONT PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PROJECT

Prepared for:
Lamont Public Utilities District
8624 Segrue Road
Lamont, California 92341

Prepared by:
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACROYNMS

AB	Assembly Bill
amsl	above mean sea level
APE	Area of Potential Effect
APN	Assessor Parcel Number
ARB	Air Resources Board
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
BACMs	best available control measures
Bgs	below ground surface
BMPs	best management practices
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
CALGreen	California Green Building Standards Code
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Air Quality Act
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DDW	Division of Drinking Water
EAPOA	El Adobe Property Owners Association
EO	Executive Orders
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency

FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Federal Insurance Rate Map
FTA	Federal Transit Association
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HSC	Health and Safety Code
Leq	time average sound level
LPUD	Lamont Public Utilities District
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCLs	Maximum Contaminant Levels
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PER	Preliminary Engineering Report System Evaluation
PUD	Public Utilities District
ROW	rights-of-way
SCADA	supervisory control and data acquisition
SCE	Southern California Edison
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SJVAPCD	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
VdB	velocity in decibels
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

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ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project Title: Water Supply Improvement Project
2. Lead Agency Name: Lamont Public Utilities District
Address: 8624 Segrue Road
Lamont, CA 92341
3. Contact Person: Scott Taylor, General Manager
Phone Number: (661) 845-1213
E-Mail Address: staylor@LPUD.org
4. Project Location: The Lamont Public Utilities District (LPUD) is located in the southern San Joaquin Valley, about five miles southeast of downtown Bakersfield. Refer to Figure 1. The proposed project consists of four replacement well locations and the inclusion of the El Adobe Property Owners Association (EAPOA) area within the Lamont PUD service area, including extension of a new water line to the EAPOA area.

Well Sites: Figure 2 shows the locations of the four well sites.

Well 13 Replacement Site: An approximate 1.6-acre site located at the northwest corner of San Diego Street and Hall Road, APN 186-080-05.

Well 11 Replacement Site: An approximate 1.0-acre site located at the northeast corner of APN 187-030-04 also being the south side of DiGiorgio Road approximately a quarter-mile west of Weedpatch Highway. The parcel is actually about 40-acres in size, but the land owner has agreed to sell the 1.0 acre well site parcel at the location shown on Figure 2.

Well 5 Replacement Site: An approximate 0.27-acre site located at the southeast corner of Maxey Drive and Weedpatch Highway, APN 188-290-32. The small parcel is deemed adequate for a new well and potential treatment system because it is adjacent to the existing Well No. 5 site which can be used to support the new well facilities.

Well 12 Replacement Site: An approximate 1.0-acre site located east of Habecker Road and north of the extension of Segrue Road, at the southeast corner of APN 188-250-30. The parcel is actually about 7.1-acres in size, but the land owner has agreed to sell the 1.0 acre well site parcel at the location shown in Figure 2.

A more detailed discussion of each site is provided in Appendix 1 of this Initial Study.

In addition to the well replacement project, the LPUD is considering the consolidation of the El Adobe Property Owners Association (EAPOA) as part of the PUD for water potable service. The EAPOA

is a small community of approximately 250 residents located approximately two miles west of Lamont. To serve this area a new 10-inch water transmission line is proposed to be installed along Di Giorgio Road. This proposed connection is shown in Figure 3.

At the intersection of Di Giorgio Road and Alderwood Street an 8-inch diameter water distribution line will connect into the 10-inch transmission line and a new looped distribution line will be installed within the residential area. The proposed EAPOA community water distribution line is shown on Figure 4.

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: Lamont Public Utilities District
8624 Segrue Road
Lamont, CA 92341
6. General Plan Designation: Not Applicable
7. Zoning Classification: Not Applicable
8. Project Description:

Introduction

The Lamont PUD discovered that several of its existing water production sources (groundwater wells) are pumping groundwater with concentrations of arsenic and 1, 2, 3 TCP that currently exceed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for drinking water. Two of these wells have had well head water treatment systems installed, but the LPUD is seeking to replace four of the contaminated wells (Wells 5, 11, 12, and 13). The State Water Resource Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), has issued three compliance orders over the years and the LPUD retained Dee Jaspar & Associates, Consulting Civil Engineers, to evaluate alternative solutions. This resulted in a 2019 publication titled "Preliminary Engineering Report System Evaluation" (PER). A copy of the PER is provided as Appendix 2. After determining that intermediate strata in the underlying aquifer (between 480 feet and 720 feet in depth below ground surface) should yield water quality that is not or minimally contaminated, the PER recommended replacing Wells 5, 11, 12, and 13. Further evaluation by Dee Jaspar & Associates has identified replacement sites for each of the four wells. These locations are shown on Figure 2. During the investigations, the LPUD agreed to consider assuming responsibility (consolidating the EAPOA service area into the Lamont PUD) for supplying potable water to approximately 81 EAPOA single family residences within the EAPOA boundary. The PUD is seeking assistance from the State DDW to fund the implementation recommendations of the PER as summarized above.

Project Description

The project being considered at this time is the drilling, testing, and equipping of four new wells at the locations identified above, and the extension of a water line to the EAPOA and installation of a loop distribution system within the EAPOA property boundary as shown on Figure 3 and 4. The LPUD will drill the test wells using a casing hammer drilling method at two locations – Well 11 and Well 12 replacement sites. The test well will be drilled to an approximate depth of 900 feet with systematic tests to determine an actual production zone of groundwater without substantial contamination. Assuming adequate water quality meeting drinking water standards, a production well will be constructed with continued water quality monitoring. Once drilled, each well will be

equipped with vertical turbine pumps, motors, discharge piping, electrical and controls, and connections installed to the existing distribution system. If needed, well head treatment may be added to one or more of the wells. The LPUD will install a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system for remote monitoring and control of the District facilities. Figure 5 shows a conceptual well site replacement layout

To supply the EAPOA project area, a 10-inch diameter water transmission line will be installed within the existing disturbed road right-of-way of Di Giorgio Road. This will encompass installing approximately 11,000 feet of pipeline in this alignment. At the intersection of Di Giorgio Road and Alderwood Street an 8-inch diameter water distribution line will connect into the 10-inch transmission line and a new looped distribution line will be installed within the residential area. This new water line will be approximately 20,000 feet in length. The proposed EAPOA community water distribution line is shown on Figure 4. In conjunction with replacement of the existing EAPOA water system the following actions will be completed: properly abandon EAPOA Wells 1 and 2; demolish the existing EAPOA 25,000- and 44,000-gallon water storage tanks (steel storage tanks); demolish and remove existing booster pump stations at Well 1 and 2; and install water meters at the existing 81 water connections.

It is assumed there will be no increase in water demand within Lamont and the EAPOA project area. The LPUD will have to pump more water (estimated to be 205 gallons per minute (gpm) during peak hour), but from an aquifer-wide standpoint this increase in water production will be offset by closure/abandonment of the two EAPOA wells currently used to supply the EAPOA residents with potable water.

Construction Scenario

All of the proposed work locations occur on relatively flat land, in most cases highly disturbed locations. The well drilling equipment will be staged at each proposed well location. Before well drilling commences, a well drilling permit will be obtained from the County of Kern. It is anticipated that one test well will be drilled at a time. Staging for each well will require two to three days. It is assumed that a working crew of 2-4 persons will conduct well drilling at each well location. Well drilling will commence and based on boring logs from other District wells, the test wells should be completed within 30 working days, including sampling the water from various depths. Once the well drilling and testing is completed, a decision will be made by the LPUD to drill a production well or not. A production well drilling rig will then be brought onto the property and a production well will be drilled. This will require about 40 working days of continuous drilling to complete. Once a production well has been completed, the well will be equipped and the pipeline connecting to the LPUD water distribution system will be installed. Any well head treatment units will be brought to the new production well site and installed at the well head. Before initiating actual production, a drinking water permit amendment will be obtained from the State DDW to begin delivery of groundwater from the well to the LPUD's potable water distribution system.

Assuming the LPUD authorized consolidation of the EAPOA into its service area is approved, the pipelines will be installed. This will include excavating pipeline trenches. For a 10-inch line this entails a trench about 3 feet in width with depth ranging from 5 to 10 feet in depth depending on topography and overlying uses. Assuming 200 feet of line installation per day for a single pipeline installation crew, the 11,000 feet of 10-inch pipeline installation will require about 55 working days. The 8-inch pipeline within the EAPOA community will be installed concurrently by a separate construction crew. Dimensions of disturbance will be about the same as for the 10-inch pipeline, but the depth of the trench will range from 5 to 8 feet. The pipeline crew will each require about six employees to complete about 200 feet of pipeline installation per day. A total of 20,000 feet

of 8-inch pipeline will be installed and this will require an estimated 100 working days to complete installation.

The two EAPOA water tanks will require about 10 working days to demolish. The booster pumps will be removed over a period of a few days. Installation of up to 81 new water meters will require about 10 to 15 days to accomplish.

9. Other agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

The amount of area to be disturbed by the whole project will be greater than one acre; therefore, the LPUD will be required to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) for a General Construction permit to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. The NOI is filed with the State Water Resources Control Board and enforced by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be implemented in conjunction with construction activities.

As noted above, the LPUD will be required to obtain permits from the following:

- a. Well Drilling Permit – County of Kern
- b. Well Destruction Permit – County of Kern
- c. Drinking Water Permit Amendment - State Division of Drinking Water to connect the new, finished wells to the potable water distribution system.

No other agency approvals are known at this time.

10. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and cultural affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun? No consultation is required because no tribe has contacted the Lamont PUD to request consultation.

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

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

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.

Tom Dodson & Associates
Prepared by

Scott Taylor
Lead Agency (signature)

February 2022
Date

March 22, 2022
Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
I. AESTHETICS: Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- la. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project consists of installing four new wells, pipelines, manholes and water meters, and demolition and removal of two old steel water tanks located in the El Adobe Property Owners Association (EAPOA) neighborhood. Short-term construction activities will result in limited above-ground construction activities, but neither these short-term nor long-term changes in the LPUD project area will adversely impact scenic vistas. There are scenic vistas in the Lamont community to the northeast, east, southeast and south towards the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, the Tehachapi Mountains and the San Emigdio Mountains. All of the proposed facilities will be installed at ground level or worst case in one story structures that will become part of the already disturbed by foreground views of adjacent suburban/urban development in Lamont and the EAPOA neighborhood. The fact that the new facilities are being installed are at ground level at worst-case one-story structures means they cannot interfere with any of scenic vistas. No mitigation is required, and no significant adverse impact is forecast to scenic vistas from implementing the proposed LPUD project.
- lb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – There are no scenic highways located within the community of Lamont or along Di Giorgio Road to the west of Lamont into the EAPOA neighborhood. All proposed pipeline facilities will be installed within existing public rights-of-way (ROW) at ground level. All four well sites are located within urban/suburban areas or adjacent to such areas. The removal of the old steel water tanks will remove existing structures that do currently create visual barriers in the EAPOA neighborhood. Finally, the new water meters will be installed at ground level where they cannot alter any scenic resources. These project locations do not contain any scenic resources that could be adversely impacted by installing these facilities. No mitigation is required, and no potential for significant adverse impact is forecast to result from implementing the proposed project.
- lc. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Although not a highly urbanized area, Lamont is more of an urban area than open space or agricultural land. All of the wells are located within or adjacent to developed areas and the pipelines being installed to support the EAPOA will occur within paved roads or public rights-of-way. The proposed project facilities constitute water infrastructure (wells, pipelines, and support facilities) that are independent of local zoning. Implementation of the proposed project will not conflict with either the zoning or scenic quality regulations. No mitigation is required, and no adverse visual impact is forecast to result from implementing the proposed project.

- Id. *Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated* – The implementation of the proposed Project will create new sources of light during the construction and operational phases of the Project. Based on a review of the Aerial Photo in Figure 2, there are light sensitive uses adjacent to most of the infrastructure proposed to be installed as part of the proposed project. Of particular concern is during well drilling, the well rig typically operates 24-hours per day and safety, security and area lighting is required during drilling. Due to light and glare from these construction light sources, the mitigation in measure **AES-1** must be implemented to minimize significant light and glare impacts during well construction. Similar mitigation is not required to support pipeline, pump station and support facility construction (for example, Fire Hydrants) because these construction activities do not require 24-hour construction activities.

Once the pipelines and related facilities are installed, they will not require further lighting during future operations. However, at well and pump station locations, security and safety lighting will be required to operations. Thus, the proposed Project will introduce a new source of light into the project area during operations, but design requirements can limit/restrict the exterior lighting impacts to the project site. To ensure that light does not result in intrusive lighting that can adversely impact land uses adjacent to well and pump station sites, the Project must comply with the local lighting requirements that lighting be restricted to the project site through shielding and directing light downward. To ensure that light or glare, supporting above ground water facilities, does not result in intrusive lighting or glare to existing structures or persons in the project area, the following mitigation measure will be implemented:

AES-1 *Prior to initiating well drilling or approval of the final above ground facilities in close proximity to sensitive light receptors, an analysis of potential exterior lighting to impact the adjacent sensitive light receptors shall be submitted to the Lamont PUD for review and approval. If potential lighting impacts are identified for adjacent sensitive receptors the lighting shall be shielded or other design solutions acceptable to the PUD shall be implemented to eliminate adverse night lighting impacts.*

With the implementation of mitigation measure **AES-1**, the proposed Lamont PUD Water Supply Improvement District Project would have a less than significant potential to create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
<p>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:</p>				
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

Ila. *Less Than Significant Impact* – All pipelines will be installed in public rights-of-way which are considered to be Urban/Built-Up Land. Well sites 5 and 13 are also designated as Urban/Built-Up Land. Well site #4 is identified as being “Rural Residential Land.” However, the Well #11 replacement site is designated Farmland of Statewide Importance. All of these designations are based on the California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Map Finder map for the project area, a copy of which is provided as Figure II-1. According to the project description, the site proposed for the Well 11 Replacement facility consists of a one-acre parcel that will be purchased in the northeast corner of 40-acre parcel of land (APN 187-030-04). Because of the selected location on the 40-acre property, this new well will allow continued farming on the remainder of the property (39 acres). The installation and operation of the new well will not conflict with continued farming operations. Based on this finding, the Lamont PUD does not find that loss of one-acre of Farmland of Statewide Importance is either project specific or cumulatively a significant adverse impact to agricultural land.

The loss of one acre of farmland is considered a *de minimus* change in the agricultural resources in the surrounding area and within Kern County as a whole. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project and conversion of the proposed well sites to a water supply well will not pose any significant adverse impact to agricultural resources or values. No mitigation is required.

- IIb. *No Impact* – Implementation of the proposed Project will not conflict with continue use of the remainder 39-acre parcel for agricultural production and according to the Kern County Williamson Act Parcels and Non-Renewal map, none of the project sites or alignments are under Williamson Act contract. Please reference the discussion in II(a), above. Based on this information, the proposed Project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract. No adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.
- IIc. *No Impact* – The project site is not located within forest land, timberland or timberland zoned for Timberland Production. Therefore, the proposed Project will not 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)). No adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.
- IId. *No Impact* – The project site is not located within forest land and has no commercial forest trees on any of the property proposed to support the Lamon PUD's Water Supply Improvement Project; therefore, the Project will not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest production use. No adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.
- IIE. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Please refer to the discussion under issue II(a), above. Although the proposed Project contains a one-acre site the is designated as Farmland of Statewide Importance, the conversion of this small parcel to water supply production was concluded to constitute a less than significant project specific and cumulative impact within the surrounding community. Furthermore, there is no forest land in the vicinity of Lamont that would be impacted by the development of the proposed Project. Therefore, the proposed Project would have a less than significant potential to involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of significant farmland resources, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information utilized in this section was obtained from the technical study “Air Quality and GHG Impact Analyses, Lamont Public Utilities District Water Supply Improvement Project, Lamont, California” prepared by Giroux & Associates dated December 7, 2021 and provided as Appendix 3 to this document.

Background

Tables III-1 and III-2 summarize the current air quality standards and the health risks of air pollutants, respectively. Baseline air quality is provided in Table III-3.

San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) includes San Joaquin County, Stanislaus County, Madera County, Fresno County, Kings County, Tulare County, and a portion of Kern County. Lamont is at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) in South Kern County and is located 9 miles south-southeast of downtown Bakersfield. Lamont is a small, rural community. The community is located at the base of the Tehachapi Mountain range. The mountains surrounding the SJVAB restrict air movement through and out of the basin, and as a result, impede the dispersion of pollutants from the basin.

Lamont is primarily an agricultural community. In addition to being itself a farm community it is surrounded on all sides by agricultural lands where operational pesticide use greatly impacts the city’s air quality. Lamont is also directly downwind from one of the largest oil and gas refineries in Kern County. These factors contribute to the City of Lamont and its residents, experiencing some of the worst PM-2.5 levels in the nation. There is no government agency-sponsored monitor in Lamont for PM-2.5. The closest PM-2.5 monitor is in southwest Bakersfield.

Away from the cooling effects of the Pacific Ocean, the climate of Kern County can be characterized as hot in summer and cold in winter, compared with the coastal basins where the climate is moderated by the adjacent ocean. The SVJAB has an “inland Mediterranean” climate averaging over 260 sunny days per year. The valley floor is characterized by hot summers and mild humid winters. Summer high temperatures often exceed 100°F while the average daily low temperature in the winter is 45°F. Temperatures below freezing are rare. Summer winds in the SJVAB usually originate at the north end of the San Joaquin Valley and flow in a south-southeasterly direction while winter winds originate from the south and flow in a north-northwesterly direction. Winds in the winter months tend to be variable and light; often less than 10 mph. Precipitation in the San Joaquin Valley is strongly influenced by the position of the semi-permanent

subtropical high-pressure zone located off the Pacific Coast. Most precipitation occurs in the winter months, with some occurring in late summer and fall. Average annual rainfall for the entire San Joaquin Valley is 9.25 inches on the valley floor.

Assembly Bill 617

Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) was signed into law in 2017 by then-Gov. Jerry Brown and was meant to involve community members in developing new, innovative actions that go beyond existing state and regional regulations and programs to reduce air pollution in disproportionately burdened communities. AB 617 requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and air districts to develop and implement additional emissions reporting, monitoring, reduction plans and measures in an effort to reduce air pollution exposure in identified communities. The program also calls for a committee of local community members to be assembled to come up with ways to reduce the identified pollution using grant funding provided by the state. The committee is to be comprised of residents, business owners, environmental justice advocates, local government officials and air regulators.

Since 20 of the 30 most disadvantaged communities in California are in the San Joaquin Valley, this process is expected to bring additional clean air resources and strategies to many Valley communities.

Lamont and nearby Arvin were recently identified as being located in a geographic area that is "a trap for air pollution." An environmental analysis found that Arvin and Lamont have a higher pollution burden than 95 percent of the state's 8,000 census tracts.

The sources of pollution are both regional and local. Pollution from larger cities like Bakersfield and Fresno and even as far away as Sacramento are known to contribute to sink down through the valley and collect in Arvin and Lamont. But the communities also have 38 stationary sources of emissions that contribute to pollution, including pesticides, agriculture operations and oil and gas activity. The AB 617 program will hopefully bring more resources to the Valley Air District's longstanding efforts to develop and implement regulatory and incentive-based clean air strategies throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Although complete attainment of every clean air standard is not yet imminent, extrapolation of the steady improvement trend suggests that such attainment could occur within the reasonably near future.

Table III-1

Ambient Air Quality Standards						
Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Standards ¹		National Standards ²		
		Concentration ³	Method ⁴	Primary ^{3,6}	Secondary ^{3,6}	Method ⁷
Ozone (O ₃) ⁸	1 Hour	0.09 ppm (180 µg/m ³)	Ultraviolet Photometry	—	Same as Primary Standard	Ultraviolet Photometry
	8 Hour	0.070 ppm (137 µg/m ³)		0.070 ppm (137 µg/m ³)		
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀) ⁹	24 Hour	50 µg/m ³	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	150 µg/m ³	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 µg/m ³		—		
Fine Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5}) ⁹	24 Hour	—	—	35 µg/m ³	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 µg/m ³	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	12.0 µg/m ³	15 µg/m ³	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 Hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m ³)	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)	35 ppm (40 mg/m ³)	—	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)
	8 Hour	9.0 ppm (10 mg/m ³)		9 ppm (10 mg/m ³)	—	
	8 Hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm (7 mg/m ³)		—	—	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂) ¹⁰	1 Hour	0.18 ppm (339 µg/m ³)	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence	100 ppb (188 µg/m ³)	—	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.030 ppm (57 µg/m ³)		0.053 ppm (100 µg/m ³)	Same as Primary Standard	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂) ¹¹	1 Hour	0.25 ppm (655 µg/m ³)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence	75 ppb (186 µg/m ³)	—	Ultraviolet Fluorescence; Spectrophotometry (Pararosaniline Method)
	3 Hour	—		—	0.5 ppm (1300 µg/m ³)	
	24 Hour	0.04 ppm (105 µg/m ³)		0.14 ppm (for certain areas) ¹¹	—	
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	—		0.030 ppm (for certain areas) ¹¹	—	
Lead ^{12,13}	30 Day Average	1.5 µg/m ³	Atomic Absorption	—	—	High Volume Sampler and Atomic Absorption
	Calendar Quarter	—		1.5 µg/m ³ (for certain areas) ¹²	Same as Primary Standard	
	Rolling 3-Month Average	—		0.15 µg/m ³		
Visibility Reducing Particles ¹⁴	8 Hour	See footnote 14	Beta Attenuation and Transmittance through Filter Tape	No National Standards		
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 µg/m ³	Ion Chromatography			
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m ³)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence			
Vinyl Chloride ¹²	24 Hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m ³)	Gas Chromatography			

See footnotes on next page ...

For more information please call ARB PIO at (916) 322 2990

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Table III-1 (continued)

1. California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (except 8-hour Lake Tahoe), sulfur dioxide (1 and 24 hour), nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5, and visibility reducing particles), are values that are not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. California ambient air quality standards are listed in the Table of Standards in Section 70200 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.
2. National standards (other than ozone, particulate matter, and those based on annual arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the fourth highest 8-hour concentration measured at each site in a year, averaged over three years, is equal to or less than the standard. For PM10, the 24 hour standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with a 24-hour average concentration above $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is equal to or less than one. For PM2.5, the 24 hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over three years, are equal to or less than the standard. Contact the U.S. EPA for further clarification and current national policies.
3. Concentration expressed first in units in which it was promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based upon a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr. Most measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr; ppm in this table refers to ppm by volume, or micromoles of pollutant per mole of gas.
4. Any equivalent measurement method which can be shown to the satisfaction of the ARB to give equivalent results at or near the level of the air quality standard may be used.
5. National Primary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health.
6. National Secondary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant.
7. Reference method as described by the U.S. EPA. An "equivalent method" of measurement may be used but must have a "consistent relationship to the reference method" and must be approved by the U.S. EPA.
8. On October 1, 2015, the national 8-hour ozone primary and secondary standards were lowered from 0.075 to 0.070 ppm.
9. On December 14, 2012, the national annual PM2.5 primary standard was lowered from $15 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to $12.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The existing national 24-hour PM2.5 standards (primary and secondary) were retained at $35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, as was the annual secondary standard of $15 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The existing 24-hour PM10 standards (primary and secondary) of $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ also were retained. The form of the annual primary and secondary standards is the annual mean, averaged over 3 years.
10. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 98th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 100 ppb. Note that the national 1-hour standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the national 1-hour standard to the California standards the units can be converted from ppb to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 100 ppb is identical to 0.100 ppm.
11. On June 2, 2010, a new 1-hour SO_2 standard was established and the existing 24-hour and annual primary standards were revoked. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 75 ppb. The 1971 SO_2 national standards (24-hour and annual) remain in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2010 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1971 standards, the 1971 standards remain in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2010 standards are approved.
Note that the 1-hour national standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the 1-hour national standard to the California standard the units can be converted to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 75 ppb is identical to 0.075 ppm.
12. The ARB has identified lead and vinyl chloride as 'toxic air contaminants' with no threshold level of exposure for adverse health effects determined. These actions allow for the implementation of control measures at levels below the ambient concentrations specified for these pollutants.
13. The national standard for lead was revised on October 15, 2008 to a rolling 3-month average. The 1978 lead standard ($1.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as a quarterly average) remains in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2008 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1978 standard, the 1978 standard remains in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2008 standard are approved.
14. In 1989, the ARB converted both the general statewide 10-mile visibility standard and the Lake Tahoe 30-mile visibility standard to instrumental equivalents, which are "extinction of 0.23 per kilometer" and "extinction of 0.07 per kilometer" for the statewide and Lake Tahoe Air Basin standards, respectively.

For more information please call ARB PIO at (916) 322 2990

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**Table III-2
 HEALTH EFFECTS OF MAJOR CRITERIA POLLUTANTS**

Pollutants	Sources	Primary Effects
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete combustion of fuels and other carbon-containing substances, such as motor exhaust. • Natural events, such as decomposition of organic matter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced tolerance for exercise. • Impairment of mental function. • Impairment of fetal development. • Death at high levels of exposure. • Aggravation of some heart diseases (angina).
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor vehicle exhaust. • High temperature stationary combustion. • Atmospheric reactions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggravation of respiratory illness. • Reduced visibility. • Reduced plant growth. • Formation of acid rain.
Ozone (O ₃)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atmospheric reaction of organic gases with nitrogen oxides in sunlight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. • Irritation of eyes. • Impairment of cardiopulmonary function. • Plant leaf injury.
Lead (Pb)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminated soil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impairment of blood function and nerve construction. • Behavioral and hearing problems in children.
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM-10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stationary combustion of solid fuels. • Construction activities. • Industrial processes. • Atmospheric chemical reactions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced lung function. • Aggravation of the effects of gaseous pollutants. • Aggravation of respiratory and cardio respiratory diseases. • Increased cough and chest discomfort. • Soiling. • Reduced visibility.
Fine Particulate Matter (PM-2.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel combustion in motor vehicles, equipment, and industrial sources. • Residential and agricultural burning. • Industrial processes. • Also, formed from photochemical reactions of other pollutants, including NO_x, sulfur oxides, and organics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases respiratory disease. • Lung damage. • Cancer and premature death. • Reduces visibility and results in surface soiling.
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels. • Smelting of sulfur-bearing metal ores. • Industrial processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggravation of respiratory diseases (asthma, emphysema). • Reduced lung function. • Irritation of eyes. • Reduced visibility. • Plant injury. • Deterioration of metals, textiles, leather, finishes, coatings, etc.

Source: California Air Resources Board, 2002.

**Table III-3
 AIR QUALITY MONITORING SUMMARY (2018-2020)
 (Measured Number of Days Standards Were Exceeded)**

Pollutant/Standard	2018	2019	2020
Ozone			
1-Hour > 0.09 ppm (S)	15	3	22
8-Hour > 0.07 ppm (S)	65	37	70
8- Hour > 0.075 ppm (F)	34	14	38
Max. 1-Hour Conc. (ppm)	0.113	0.108	0.133
Max. 8-Hour Conc. (ppm)	0.100	0.086	0.104
Nitrogen Dioxide			
1-Hour > 0.18 ppm (S)	0	0	0
Max. 1-Hour Conc. (ppm)	0.057	0.064	0.065
Respirable Particulates (PM-10)			
24-Hour > 50 µg/m ³ (S) measured	13	17	18
24-Hour > 150 µg/m ³ (F) measured	0	0	1
Max. 24-Hr. Conc. (µg/m ³)	136.	116.	193.
Fine Particulates (PM-2.5)			
24-Hour > 35 µg/m ³ (F) measured	9	3	17
Max. 24-Hr. Conc. (µg/m ³)	100.9	83.7	158.6

S=State Standard
 F=Federal Standard
 Ozone: Arvin-Di Giorgio at 19405 Buena Vista Blvd
 Nitrogen Dioxide: Bakersfield Municipal Airport
 PM-10: Bakersfield-5558 California Avenue
 PM-2.5: Bakersfield-410 E Planz Road

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) operates a regional monitoring network that measures the ambient concentration of criteria pollutants. Only ozone has a monitoring station near Lamont (in Arvin at 19405 Buena Vista Boulevard). Currently, particulate data is only available in Bakersfield. Table III-3 summarizes the monitoring history from the Bakersfield and Arvin monitoring stations for the last three years. From these data one can infer that baseline air quality levels for particulates near the project site are occasionally unhealthful. As part of AB 617 a more local particulate monitoring station for Lamont and Arvin will be installed which will more accurately provide local particulate data.

- a. Photochemical smog (ozone) levels occasionally exceed standards. The 8-hour state ozone standard has been exceeded an average of 16 percent of all days in the past three years near the project site and the 8-hour federal was violated 8 percent during the same period. The 1-hour state standard has been violated less than 4 percent of all days in the last three years.
- b. Respirable dust (PM-10) levels frequently exceed the state standard. Of all measurement days, on average 17 days have shown exceedances of the state standard, the less stringent federal PM-10 standard was only violated once for the same time period. The 17 measurement days correlate to 108 estimated days for 2019.
- c. The federal ultra-fine particulate (PM-2.5) standard of 35 µg/m³ is also occasionally exceeded in Bakersfield. From available data 10 days in 2019 and 51 days in 2020 have exceeded the 35 µg/m³ standard.

Plans are in place to focus on particulates which would provide an improvement trend within the reasonably near future.

Air Quality Planning

Fugitive dust emissions generated by construction activities are regulated by the SJVAPCD. Construction activities must comply with all applicable SJVAPCD rules and regulations, including SJVAPCD's Regulation VIII. Regulation VIII consists of several individual rules that require implementation of best available control measures (BACMs) to limit construction dust emissions.

Fugitive dust emissions generated by construction activities are regulated by the SJVAPCD. Construction activities must comply with all applicable SJVAPCD rules and regulations, including SJVAPCD's Regulation VIII. Regulation VIII consists of several individual rules that require implementation of best available mitigation measures to limit construction dust emissions.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Basin has been determined by ARB and EPA to be in attainment of federal PM-10 standards. Regulation VIII has been accepted by ARB and EPA to maintain attainment of PM-10 standards in the Air Basin. In developing the 2007 Maintenance Plan, the SJVAPCD evaluated the potential PM-10 emissions that could occur under all sources within the Air Basin and developed rules and procedures to reduce future emissions sufficiently to maintain the existing attainment status. The basin is non-attainment for PM-2.5 and ozone. The full attainment status is shown in Table III-4.

**Table III-4
 SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR BASIN ATTAINMENT STATUS¹**

Pollutant	Designation/Classification	
	Federal Standards	State Standards
Ozone – 1 Hour	Nonattainment/Extreme	Nonattainment/Severe
Ozone – 8 Hour	Nonattainment/Extreme	Nonattainment
PM-10*	Attainment	Nonattainment
PM 2.5	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment/Unclassified
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Lead Particulates	No Designation	Attainment

*On September 25, 2008, EPA redesignated the San Joaquin Valley to attainment for the PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and approved the PM10 Maintenance Plan.

Air Quality Impact

Standards of Significance

Air quality impacts are considered "significant" if they cause clean air standards to be violated where they are currently met, or if they "substantially" contribute to an existing violation of standards. Any substantial emissions of air contaminants for which there is no safe exposure, or nuisance emissions such as dust or odors, would also be considered a significant impact.

Appendix G of the California CEQA Guidelines offers the following five tests of air quality impact significance. A project would have a potentially significant impact if it:

- a. Conflicts with or obstructs implementation of the applicable air quality plan.
- b. Results in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutants 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).
- c. Exposes sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- d. Creates objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

¹ <https://www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/attainment.htm>

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District developed a CEQA Implementation Document that assigned an emissions level that it recommends should be considered as creating a potentially significant air quality impact. Construction projects are considered to have a significant air quality impact if they cause the following annual emissions to be exceeded (tons/year):

CO	-	100
NOx	-	10
ROG	-	10
SOx	-	27
PM-10	-	15
PM-2.5	-	15

The project is not expected to generate any new operational air quality emissions.

Significance could also derive from emissions of odors or hazardous air pollutants. Development of a wastewater conveyance system would not typically generate any hazardous air pollutants or odors because system components are all enclosed.

NEPA guidelines do not encourage designation of impacts as (in)significant. However, Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 prohibits federal participation in projects that would impede implementation of the state implementation plan (SIP) for federal non-attainment pollutants. "Participation" includes project funding as well as granting any federal permits. If the project-related emissions from construction and operations are less than specified "*de minimis*" levels, no further SIP consistency demonstration is required. San Joaquin Valley is designated as a non-attainment area for the federal 8-hour ozone standard. The basin is nonattainment for PM-2.5 and has been determined by ARB to be in attainment of federal PM-10 standards. Based upon these designations, the following emissions levels are presumed evidence of SIP conformity:²

Ozone VOX or NOx	10 tons/year
Carbon Monoxide	100 tons/year
PM-10	100 tons/year
PM-2.5	100 tons/year
NOx	100 tons/year

These *de minimis* thresholds are less stringent than the SJVAPCD CEQA thresholds. If project air quality impacts in the basin are less-than-significant under CEQA, they are automatically in conformance under NEPA.

The project is not expected to generate any operational air quality emissions.

Significance could also derive from emissions of odors or hazardous air pollutants. Development of potable water supply wells and a conveyance system would not typically generate any hazardous air pollutants or odors because system components are all enclosed.

Construction Emissions

CalEEMod was developed by the SCAQMD to provide a model by which to calculate both construction emissions and operational emissions from a variety of land use projects. It calculates both the daily maximum and annual average emissions for criteria pollutants as well as total or annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

² <https://www.epa.gov/general-conformity/de-minimis-tables>

The proposed project consists of four replacement wells at different locations. The project also includes extension of new water lines and demolition of the existing wells and installation of new water meters. The primary composition of the proposed project is as follows:

- Well 13 Replacement Site: An approximate 1.6-acre site
- Well 11 Replacement Site: An approximate 1.0-acre site
- Well 5 Replacement Site: An approximate 0.27-acre site
- Fourth Potential Well Site: An approximate 1.0-acre site

Lamont PUD will drill the test wells using a casing hammer drill at each location and will be drilled to an approximate depth of 900 feet. Once drilled, each well will be equipped with vertical turbine pumps, motors, discharge piping, electrical controls, and connections installed to the existing distribution system.

In conjunction with replacement of the wells the following actions will be completed: properly abandon EAPOA Wells 1 and 2; demolish the existing EAPOA 25,000- and 44,000-gallon water storage tanks (steel storage tanks); demolish and remove existing booster pump stations at Well 1 and 2; and install water meters at the existing 81 water connections.

It is assumed that a working crew of 4 persons will conduct well drilling at each well location. The test wells should be completed within 30 working days. Depending on the well viability, a production well drilling rig will then be brought onto the property and will be drilled. This will require about 40 working days of continuous drilling to complete. Once a production well has been completed, the well will be equipped and the pipeline connecting to the LPUD water distribution system will be installed.

A new 10-inch water transmission line is proposed to be installed along Di Giorgio Road which will require excavation and installation of approximately 11,000 feet of pipeline. Assuming 200 feet of line installation per day for a single pipeline installation crew the 11,000 feet of 10-inch pipeline installation will require about 55 working days.

At the intersection of Di Giorgio Road and Alderwood Street an 8-inch diameter water distribution line will connect into the 10-inch transmission line and a new looped distribution line will be installed within the residential area. This new water line will be approximately 20,000 feet in length. The pipeline crew will each require about six employees to complete about 200 feet of pipeline installation per day. This is estimated to require an estimated 100 working days to complete installation.

Estimated construction emissions were modeled using CalEEMod2016.3.2 to identify maximum emissions for each pollutant during project construction. Sere construction equipment assumptions in Table III-5

For drilling, some equipment would operate 24 hours a day and was modeled accordingly. Although installation of the water meters at the existing 81 water connections is part of this project it is assumed this activity will be accomplished with hand tools and therefore was not included.

**Table III-5
 CalEEMod CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY EQUIPMENT FLEET AND WORKDAYS**

Demo or Abandon Existing Wells (2 months)	1 Concrete Saw
	1 Dozer
	2 Loader/Backhoes
Test Wells Drilling (30 days)	1 Drill Rig
	1 Pump
Production Well Drilling and Casing (40 days)	1 Drill Rig
	1 Pump
	1 Loader/Backhoe
Equipping Production Wells (20 weeks)	1 Crane
	1 Welder
	1 Loader/Backhoe
	1 Generator Set
	1 Forklift
Trench and Install Pipeline (8 months)	1 Concrete Saw
	1 Trencher
	1 Forklift
	1 Loader/Backhoe

Utilizing this indicated equipment fleet and durations the following annual construction emissions are calculated by CalEEMod and are listed below in Table III-6.

**Table III-6
 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY EMISSIONS, MAXIMUM ANNUAL EMISSIONS (tons/year)**

Maximal Construction Emissions	ROG	NOx	CO	SO₂	PM-10	PM-2.5
Construction 2022	0.14	1.26	1.28	<0.01	0.29	0.18
Construction 2023	0.07	0.53	0.67	<0.01	0.05	0.03
NEPA Threshold	10	100	100	100	100	70
JQVAPCD Regional Emissions Threshold	10	10	100	27	15	15

Source: CalEEMod output in Appendix 3

Annual construction activity emissions are estimated be below CEQA and NEPA thresholds without the need for added mitigation. There are no standards for daily emissions.

Emissions will be well below significance thresholds. Locally, the mobile nature of these sources, the minimal surrounding receptor density and the regional spread of emissions from off-site construction vehicles would minimize the exposure to any individual receiver of any project-related construction emissions. These emissions, therefore have a less than significant individual impact, but would be added cumulatively to a large volume of non-project mobile source emissions within the Kern County area.

Operational Impacts

A water storage and distribution project will not have any associated operational impacts. The project will not generate any additional trips over existing conditions although electrical consumption for pumping may be minutely increased. Electrical consumption has no single uniquely related air pollution emissions source

because power is supplied to and drawn from a regional grid. Electrical power is generated regionally by a combination of non-combustion (nuclear, hydroelectric, solar, wind, geothermal, etc.) and fossil fuel combustion sources. There is no direct nexus between consumption and the type of power source or the air basin where the source is located. Operational air pollution emissions from electrical generation are therefore not attributable on a project-specific basis.

Odor

Project operations (pumping and conveyance) are essentially a closed system with negligible odor potential.

CEQA Threshold Impacts

- IIIa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project will install replacement well and conveyance infrastructure within an existing residential community. No change in land use will occur and the emissions generated by the proposed project during construction and future operations are well below the thresholds of significance. Thus, the proposed project will not conflict with or obstruct the applicable Kern County air quality plan.
- IIIb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The emission data indicate that the project related emissions are below significance thresholds and will not contribute in a cumulatively considerable impact in the San Joaquin Air Basin.
- IIIc. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Construction emissions are well below annual thresholds and have no potential to expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- IIId. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Based on the type of facilities (new water wells, pipeline and water meters), no significant odor impacts are forecast to occur as a result of implementing the proposed project.

Construction Emission Mitigation

Construction activities are not anticipated to cause emissions to exceed CEQA or NEPA thresholds. Nevertheless, emissions minimization through enhanced dust control measures is required to comply with SJVAPCD Regulation VIII related to dust control.

- AQ-1 Regulation VIII Control Measures for Construction Emissions of PM-10:**
- **All disturbed areas, including storage piles, which are not being actively utilized for construction purposes, shall be effectively stabilized of dust emissions using water, chemical stabilizer/suppressant, covered with a tarp or other suitable cover or vegetative ground cover.**
 - **All on-site unpaved roads and off-site unpaved access roads shall be effectively stabilized of dust emissions using water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant.**
 - **All land clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land leveling, grading, cut & fill, and demolition activities shall be effectively controlled of fugitive dust emissions utilizing application of water or by presoaking.**
 - **With the demolition of buildings up to six stories in height, all exterior surfaces of the building shall be wetted during demolition.**
 - **When materials are transported off-site, all material shall be covered, or effectively wetted to limit visible dust emissions, and at least six inches of freeboard space from the top of the container shall be maintained.**
 - **All operations shall limit or expeditiously remove the accumulation of mud or dirt from adjacent public streets at the end of each workday. (The use of dry rotary brushes is expressly prohibited except where preceded or accompanied by sufficient wetting to limit the visible dust emissions.) (Use of blower devices is expressly forbidden.)**

- *Following the addition of materials to, or the removal of materials from, the surface of outdoor storage piles, said piles shall be effectively stabilized of fugitive dust emissions utilizing sufficient water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant.*
- *Within urban areas, trackout shall be immediately removed when it extends 50 or more feet from the site and at the end of each workday.*
- *An owner/operator of any site with 150 or more vehicle trips per day, or 20 or more vehicle trips per day by vehicles with three or more axles shall implement measures to prevent carryout and trackout.*

AQ-2 *Recommended Enhanced Additional Measures for Construction Emissions of PM-10:*

- *Install wheel washers for all exiting trucks or wash off all trucks and equipment leaving the site.*
- *Install wind breaks at windward side(s) of construction areas.*
- *Suspend excavation and grading activity when winds exceed 20 mph.*
- *Limit area subject to excavation, grading, and other construction activity at any one time.*

AQ-3 *Recommended for Heavy Duty Equipment (scrapers, graders, trenchers, earth movers, etc.):*

- *Use alternative fueled or catalyst equipped diesel construction equipment.*
- *Minimize idling time (e.g., 5 minutes maximum).*
- *Limit the hours of operation of heavy-duty equipment and/or the amount of equipment in use.*
- *Replace fossil-fueled equipment with electrically driven equivalents (provided they are not run via a portable generator set).*
- *Curtail construction during periods of high ambient pollutant concentrations; this may include ceasing of construction activity during the peak-hour of vehicular traffic on adjacent roadways.*
- *Implement activity management (e.g., rescheduling activities to reduce short-term impacts).*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: The information provided in this section of the Initial Study is abstracted from the following technical study: “2022 Biological Resources Assessment for the Lamont Public Utilities District Water Supply Improvement Project,” Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., February 2, 2022. This study is provided as Appendix 4 of this Initial Study.

Background

The Project Area is within the Lamont area of unincorporated Kern County, which is situated in the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley and is bound by the Coast Range to the west, the Transverse Range (San Emigdio Mountains) to the south, and the Sierra Nevada (including the Tehachapi Mountains) to the east. The environmental setting of the Lamont area is subject to an arid climate, with both seasonal and annual variations in temperature and precipitation. Average annual maximum temperatures within this region peak at 98.4 degrees Fahrenheit (° F) in July and fall to an average annual minimum temperature of 34.5° F in December. Average annual precipitation is greatest from November through April and reaches a peak in February (1.07 inches). Precipitation is lowest in the months of July and August (0.02 inches). Annual total precipitation averages 5.64 inches. The topography of the Project Area is relatively flat, with an on-site elevation of approximately 400 feet above mean sea level (amsl).

The proposed Project is entirely within an existing developed/disturbed environment consisting of existing residential dwellings, agricultural fields and paved and unpaved roads (Figure 3 of Appendix 4). The

surrounding land consists of agricultural and residential development and no longer supports any native habitats. Vegetation within the Project Area is either absent (i.e., the proposed solar field and pipeline alignment) or dominated by non-native, invasive and ruderal species (see Site Photos, Appendix 4).

The Project Area is not located within or adjacent any USFWS designated Critical Habitat units. Jacobs' biologist Lisa Patterson conducted a biological resources and jurisdictional waters assessment of the Project Area on September 28 and December 10, of 2021. The survey area encompassed the entire proposed Project footprint including the Project's proposed wells and proposed water supply pipelines and well sites where access was available. The pedestrian survey included 100 percent coverage of the proposed pipeline alignments, as well as an approximately 200-foot buffer area on either side of the pipeline alignment, where feasible and appropriate.

Wildlife species were detected during field surveys by sight, calls, tracks, scat, or other signs. In addition to species observed, expected wildlife usage of the site was determined per known habitat preferences of regional wildlife species and knowledge of their relative distributions in the area. The Project Area was assessed for habitat type, structure, species composition/association, condition and human disturbances. The focus of the faunal species survey was to identify potential habitat for special status wildlife within the Project area.

The Project site is completely disturbed, consisting of residences, small ranches, unvegetated fallow agricultural land, existing paved and unpaved road, and existing District facilities. No listed species, or other special status species, were observed during survey and no suitable habitat for any of the State- or federally-listed species identified in the database queries and literature review exists within the proposed Project Impact Area. The surrounding area is also disturbed, consisting primarily of residential development, utility infrastructure and agriculture. There are no channels, ditches or other water features occurring within the Project area.

Potential Impacts

- IVa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Implementation of the Project does not have a potential for a significant adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. As discussed above, the proposed project does contain habitat suitable for sensitive species within the project sites. Based on these findings, the proposed project will not cause a significant adverse impact under this issue.
- IVb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Implementation of the proposed project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. The Project site consists of several highly disturbed locations. Thus, most of the sites are disturbed and no longer supports any native habitat. The Project site is primarily dominated by invasive, non-native and ruderal native plant species. According to the biology study of the site, provided as Appendix 4 to this Initial Study, the Project site is not located within any sensitive habitats, including any USFWS designated Critical Habitat for any federally-listed species. No Riparian/Riverine areas were found within the Project site. There are no natural or man-made streams or other aquatic or riparian habitats within the Project site. Based on the field survey conducted and the information contained in Appendix 4, the proposed project has a less than significant potential to impact to riparian habitat or other sensitive communities. No mitigation is required.
- IVc. *No Impact* – Please refer to the discussion under IV(b) above. According to the data gathered by Jacobs as reported in Appendix 4, no federally protected wetlands occur within the project footprint. Additionally, the biology study determined that no Vernal Pools were identified within the Project site and based on a review of historic aerial imagery and USGS topographic maps, no vernal pools or other natural wetland features existed historically within the Project site. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project will have no potential to impact any federally protected wetlands—including,

but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.—through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. No mitigation is required.

- IVd. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – As indicated previously, the site and environs are completely disturbed; no large areas of open space exist in the immediate project area that would facilitate wildlife movement. However, when development proceeds, the project site could contain nesting birds, which could be adversely impacted. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects all native bird species. A variety of birds, which are protected by the MBTA, could nest in the proposed project area. As such, to prevent interfering with native bird nesting, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented.

BIO-1 *The State of California prohibits the “take” of active bird nests. To avoid impacts to nesting birds (common and special status) during the nesting season (generally between February 1 to August 31), a qualified Avian Biologist shall conduct pre-construction nesting bird survey prior to Project-related disturbance to identify any active nests. If no active nests are found, no further action would be required. If an active nest is found, the biologist shall set appropriate no-work buffers around the nest, which would be determined based on the nesting species, its sensitivity to disturbance, nesting stage and expected types, intensity and duration of disturbance. The nests and buffer zones shall be field checked weekly by a qualified biological monitor. The approved no-work buffer zone shall be clearly marked in the field, within which no disturbance activity shall commence until the qualified biologist has determined the young birds have successfully fledged and the nest is inactive.*

Thus, with implementation of the above measure, any effects on wildlife movement or the use of wildlife nursery sites can be reduced to a less than significant impact.

- IVe. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Based on the field survey, the project footprint contains few or no trees that may need be removed as part of the proposed project. Furthermore, the Lamont area is unincorporated and is not subject to any local policies or ordinance the protect native plants. Therefore, it will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.
- IVf. *No Impact* – The project sites are not located within any area identified as being covered by a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community or other approved biology conservation plan. Therefore, the project has no potential to conflict with the provisions of any such plan. No mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: The information under this topic is abstracted from the following report, “Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties Lamont Public Utilities District Water Supply Improvement Project”, CRM TECH, February 2022 (Appendix 5 of this document).

Background

The following text contains the executive summary from Appendix 5.

Between September 2021 and February 2022, at the request of Tom Dodson & Associates, CRM TECH performed a cultural resources study on the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed Lamont Public Utilities District (LPUD) Water Supply Improvement Project in and near the unincorporated community of Lamont, Kern County, California. The project entails mainly the construction of four new water wells to replace four contaminated wells, which will be abandoned along with associated equipment such as reservoir tanks and booster stations. As a part of the project proposal, the El Adobe Property Owners Association would be incorporated into the LPUD service area, which would require the installation of a total of approximately 30,000 linear feet of pipelines, including a 10-inch water transmission main line along Di Giorgio Road and 8-inch distribution lines from the main line to individual residences.

The APE for the project encompasses the maximum extent of ground disturbance required during construction. Horizontally, it consists of the rights-of-way for the new water transmission main line and the distribution lines as well as the four replacement well sites listed below:

- Well No. 13: approximately 1.6 acres at the northwest corner of San Diego Street and Hall Road (Assessor’s Parcel No. [APN] 186-080-05);
- Well No. 11: approximately 1.0 acre on the south side of Di Giorgio Road and to the west of Main Street (a.k.a. Weedpatch Highway/State Route 184; a part of APN 187-030-04);
- Well No. 5: approximately 0.27 acre at the southeast corner of Maxey Drive and Main Street (APN 188-290-32);
- Fourth potential well site: approximately 1.0 acre located to the east of Habecker Road and north of the extension of Segrue Road (a part of APN 188-250-30).

Collectively, the four well sites measure approximately 3.87 acres in total. The vertical extent of the APE, represented by the maximum depth of disturbance, is anticipated to be five to ten feet below surface along the pipeline alignments and up to 900 feet at the well sites. The various portions of the noncontiguous APE are scattered across the town of Lamont and to the west of the town, within Sections 1-3 and 9-12 of Township 31 South Range 28 East and Sections 6 and 7 of Township 31 South Range 29 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, as depicted in the United States Geological Survey Lamont and Weed Patch, Calif., 7.5’ quadrangles.

This technical study is a part of the environmental review process required for the project by the lead agency, namely the LPUD, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As the project may involve federal funding administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), it is considered a federal “undertaking” subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as well. The purpose of the study is to provide the LPUD and the SWRCB with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the undertaking would have an adverse effect on any “historic properties,” as defined by 36 CFR 800.16(l), or “historical resources,” as defined by Calif. PRC §5020.1(j), that may exist within the APE.

In order to accomplish this objective, CRM TECH initiated a cultural resources records search, pursued historical and geoarchaeological background research, contacted Native American representatives, and carried out a systematic field survey of the entire APE. Throughout the course of these research procedures, no “historic properties” or “historical resources” were encountered within the APE, and the extensively disturbed subsurface sediments in the vertical extent of the APE appear to be relatively low in sensitivity for potentially significant archaeological remains of prehistoric or early historical origin.

Based on these findings, and pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) and Calif. PRC §21084.1, CRM TECH recommends to the LPUD and the SWRCB a conclusion that the proposed undertaking would have *No Effect* on any “historic properties” or “historical resources.” No further cultural resources investigation will be necessary for the undertaking unless project plans undergo such changes as to include areas not covered by this study. However, if buried cultural materials are discovered during earth-moving operations associated with the undertaking, all work in the immediate area should be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.

Impacts

Va&b. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The historical and archaeological resources report provided as Appendix 5 summarizes the findings of a cultural resources records search and field survey that was completed for this Project. The cultural resources report concluded that there are no surface historical or archaeological resources within the proposed project sites, and as such no further cultural resources have been identified as being located on sites. However, as stated in the background summary above, contingency mitigation is recommended to ensure the possibility for the society to salvage the spring structure within the project site. As such, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented. Thus, if buried cultural materials are accidentally exposed/ discovered during any earth-moving operations associated with the Project, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented:

CUL-1 Should any subsurface or other cultural resources be encountered during construction of the proposed project, earthmoving or grading activities in the immediate area of the finds shall be halted and an onsite inspection shall be performed immediately by a qualified archaeologist. The archaeological professional shall assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate management measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act. The recommendations shall be implemented by the District.

With the above contingency mitigation incorporation, potential for impact to cultural resources will be reduced to a less than significant level. No additional mitigation is required.

Vc. *Less Than Significant Impact* – No available information suggests that human remains may occur within the APE and the potential for such an occurrence is considered very low. Human remains discovered during the project will need to be treated in accordance with the provisions of HSC §7050.5 and PRC §5097.98, which is mandatory. State law (Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code) as well as local laws requires that the Police Department, County Sheriff and Coroner’s Office receive notification if human remains are encountered. Compliance with these laws is considered adequate mitigation for potential impacts and no further mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
VI. ENERGY: Would the project:				
a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

Vla&b. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed project consists of drilling up to four new wells, installing connecting pipelines and support equipment, extending a new water line to the EAPOA community, and installing new water meters within the EAPOA community. These activities will consume energy during construction and during future operations (primarily to operate well pumps and any pump stations.) During construction, the proposed project will utilize construction equipment that is CARB approved, minimizing emissions generated and electricity required to the extent feasible (as outlined under Section III, Air Quality, above). As stated in Section III, Air Quality, the construction of the proposed Lamont Public Utilities District’s Water Supply Improvement Project would require mitigation measures to minimize emissions impacts from construction equipment use (refer to MM **AQ-3**). These mitigation measures also apply to energy resources as they require equipment not in use for 5 minutes to be turned off, and for electrical construction equipment to be used where available. These measures would prevent a significant impact during construction due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, and would also conform to the CARB regulations regarding energy efficiency.

During future operations overall energy use may change, up or down, for the following reasons. The Lamont PUD will continue to supply water within the community and begin serving the EAPOA. The new wells will not directly increase the volume of water required by the agency’s customers. With new, more energy efficient ground water pumps energy used per volume of water production should be reduced relative to the existing condition. Further, one of the project’s goals is to tap into a portion of the groundwater aquifer where water quality will be improved and hence require less energy intensive treatment compared to the existing condition. Finally, installation of water meters has historically reduced water consumption in areas that were previously unmetered as the actual cost of water can now be defined. Based on these factors, the project will minimize energy consumption related to water supply for the two communities.

Energy consumption encompasses many different activities. For example, construction can include the following activities: delivery of equipment and material to a site from some location (note it also requires energy to manufacture the equipment and material, such as harvesting, cutting and delivering wood from its source); employee trips to work, possibly offsite for lunch (or a visit by a catering truck), travel home, and occasionally leaving a site for an appointment or checking another job; use of equipment onsite (electric or fuel); and sometimes demolition and disposal of construction waste. To minimize energy costs of construction debris management, mitigation has been established to require diversion of all material capable of being recycled. The project will meet this requirement. Energy consumption by construction equipment will be reduced by requiring shutdowns when equipment is not in use after five minutes and ensuring equipment is being operated within proper operating parameters (tune-ups) to minimize emissions and fuel consumption. These requirements are consistent with State and regional rules and regulations. Under the construction scenario outlined above, the proposed project will not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy consumption during construction.

The proposed project is currently, and will continue to be powered by Southern California Edison (SCE) through the power distribution system located within the project area. SCE will be able to supply sufficient electricity, as the proposed use would likely utilize less energy than previously for the reasons outlined above. The project site will not require natural gas to operate. Security lighting must be constructed in conformance with a variety of existing energy efficiency regulatory requirements or guidelines including:

- Compliance California Green Building Standards Code, AKA the CALGreen Code (Title 24, Part 11), which became effective on January 1, 2017. The purpose of the CALGreen Code is to improve public health, safety, and general welfare by enhancing the design and construction of building through the use of building concepts encouraging sustainable construction practices.
- Compliance with diversion of construction and demolition materials from landfills.
- Compliance with AQMD Mandatory use of low-pollutant emitting finish materials.
- Compliance with AQMD Rules 431.1 and 431.2 to reduce the release of undesirable emissions.
- Compliance with diesel exhaust emissions from diesel vehicles and off-road diesel vehicle/equipment operations.

Compliance with these regulatory requirements for operational energy use and construction energy use would not be a wasteful or unnecessary use of energy. Under both the operational and construction scenarios for the proposed project, with implementation of mitigation measure AQ-2, the proposed project will not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy consumption that could result in a significant adverse impact to energy issues based on compliance with the referenced laws, regulations and guidelines.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect 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 wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

The proposed project consists of new replacement wells and support facilities; water pipelines; removal of water tanks and closure of EAPOA wells; and installation of water meters. None of these facilities will be occupied by humans.

VIIa. (i) *No Impact*- According to the County of Kern General Plan, Figure 13, the community of Lamont is not underlain by any known active faults (Figure VII-1). The nearest fault is the White Wolf located south of Arvin about 10 miles south of Lamont. The potential for significant adverse impact from fault activity within the project area is concluded to be no adverse impact from this geotechnical constraint.

VIIa (ii) *Less Than Significant Impact* – According to the General Plan EIR (Page 4.1-7) most of Kern County is subject to moderate to extreme seismic ground shaking. Due to general proximity to the White Wolf Fault (Figure VII-1), Lamont could experience substantial seismic ground shaking in the

future. However, the type of uninhabited water infrastructure proposed by this project are not particularly subject to ground shaking damage, and if removed from production can readily repaired by Lamont PUD employees. Based on the lack of human risk, requirements to meet current Uniform Building Code design and construction requirements, and the ability to quickly repair the water infrastructure if damaged by ground shaking, the potential adverse impact from seismic ground shaking is concluded to be a less than significant impact.

- VIIa. (iii) *Less Than Significant Impact* – The County General Plan does not identify any liquefaction hazards in the Lamont area (GPEI, Page 4.1-8). This finding is confirmed by the fact that groundwater depth for the existing Lamont wells is about 400 feet below the ground surface (Lamont Public Utility District Hydrogeologic Study, 2020). Thus, the project area has a low to negligible potential for liquefaction hazard for the proposed water infrastructure facilities. Based on these findings, the potential adverse impact from liquefaction or other seismic ground failure is concluded to be a less than significant impact.
- VIIa. (iv) *No Impact* – Lamont is located on the valley-floor of the San Joaquin Valley in Kern County. There are no elevated areas in the vicinity of Lamont from which a landslide (sediment or rock) could originate. Based on these findings, the potential adverse impact from a landslide at all the proposed project locations is a no impact finding.
- VIIb. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Given the total area of the proposed project, it is anticipated that more than one acre of ground disturbance will occur in relation to the wells, pipeline installation. As a result, the proposed project will be required to prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Site specific best management practices (BMPs) shall be implemented to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Mitigation is provided below to ensure implementation. Because the disturbances will occur within existing disturbed ROWs and sites, it should not be necessary to implement long-term BMPs as they should already be installed at the various sites.

GEO-1 *The construction contractor shall prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which specifies Best Management Practices that will prevent construction pollutants from contacting stormwater with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving offsite into receiving waters. The SWPPP may include but not be limited to the following BMPs.*

- *The length of trench which can be left open at any given time should be limited to that needed to reasonably perform construction activities. This will serve to reduce the amount of backfill stored onsite at any given time.*
- *Backfill material should not be stored in areas which are subject to the erosive flows of water.*
- *Stored backfill material should be covered with water resistant material during periods of heavy precipitation to reduce the potential for rainfall erosion of stored backfill material. If covering is not feasible, then measures such as the use of straw bales, sandbags, silt fencing or detention/desilting basins shall be used to capture and hold eroded material on the project site for future cleanup.*
- *The SWPPP shall include a spill prevention and cleanup plan to account for the accidental release of petroleum products or other contaminants during construction activities. This plan shall identify the methods of containing spills, the methods of removing and disposing of spills and the notification procedures to the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over such spills.*
 - *Apply erosion and sediment control design that reduce volume and velocity of flows and content of sediment to levels that do not cause significant rill or gully erosion in susceptible areas. In addition, provide for restoration of areas that do become eroded.*

- **Add protective covering of mulch, straw or synthetic material (erosion control blankets, tacking will be required).**
- **Limit the amount of area disturbed and the length of time slopes and barren ground are left exposed. After pipeline installation, soil shall be compacted to a level similar to pre-construction conditions.**
- **Construct diversion dikes and interceptor ditches to divert water away from construction areas.**

Implementation of the preceding measure and other measures within the Hydrology/Water Quality are deemed sufficient to control adverse erosion impacts associated with installation of the proposed facilities.

VIIc. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Based on a review of the Kern County Safety Element, Figure 12 (Figure VII-2), there is no other known geotechnical stability hazard in the Lamont Project area. However, Figure 15 (Figure VII-3) indicates that Lamont is located on the northern edge of an area experiencing/undergoing subsidence, most likely due to extraction of either oil or groundwater. Given this circumstance, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented to protect the water infrastructure.

GEO-2 *Prior to final design of any of the proposed project related water infrastructure, the design engineers shall provide an evaluation of the infrastructure's potential susceptibility to subsidence hazards. and identify specific measures to provide protection to incorporate into the design of the infrastructure if susceptible to damage from such subsidence hazards. The selected design measures shall be integrated into the design of wells, pipelines or other infrastructure constructed in support of the proposed project.*

With implementation of this mitigation measure, the potential adverse impacts due to subsidence can be reduced to a less than significant impact level.

VIIId. *No Impact* – The soils underlying the proposed Lamont water infrastructure facilities are alluvial sands and silts that are not considered as expansive soils that could pose hazards to pipelines and wells. Therefore, no potential exists for this project to create a substantial risk to life or property under this issue.

VIIe. *No Impact* – The purpose of the project is to install new water infrastructure to provide potable water to the community of Lamont and the EAPOA neighborhood. This project will not generate any wastewater and will not require subsurface septic tank or alternative wastewater management systems to be installed or utilized. No adverse impact can occur under this impact category.

VIIIf. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Based on the type of sediments at this site (alluvial) and the highly disturbed nature of the ROWs, no paleontological resources should be impacted by the proposed project. The project consists of installing pipelines within existing ROWs and installing wells and other activities within highly disturbed locations. Although the installation of the new facilities will occur within existing disturbed engineering surfaces (primarily paved roadways), the following contingency mitigation measure shall be implemented if subsurface construction activities accidentally expose paleontological resources:

GEO-3 *In the event that paleontological resources are encountered within the project area during construction activities, all land modification activities in the immediate area of the finds should be halted and an onsite inspection shall be performed immediately by a qualified paleontologist. This professional will be able to assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate management actions. Reasonable paleontological resource management actions shall be implemented to protect the accidentally exposed subsurface resources.*

With implementation of this mitigation measure, the potential adverse impacts to paleontological resources can be reduced to a less than significant impact level.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
VIII. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information utilized in this section was obtained from the technical study “Air Quality and GHG Impact Analyses, Lamont Public Utilities District Water Supply Improvement Project, Lamont, California” prepared by Giroux & Associates dated December 7, 2021 and provided as Appendix 3 to this document.

Background

“Greenhouse gases” (so called because of their role in trapping heat near the surface of the earth) emitted by human activity are implicated in global climate change, commonly referred to as “global warming.” These greenhouse gases contribute to an increase in the temperature of the earth’s atmosphere by transparency to short wavelength visible sunlight, but near opacity to outgoing terrestrial long wavelength heat radiation in some parts of the infrared spectrum. The principal greenhouse gases (GHGs) are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, and water vapor. For purposes of planning and regulation, Section 15364.5 of the California Code of Regulations defines GHGs to include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride. Fossil fuel consumption in the transportation sector (on-road motor vehicles, off-highway mobile sources, and aircraft) is the single largest source of GHG emissions, accounting for approximately half of GHG emissions globally. Industrial and commercial sources are the second largest contributors of GHG emissions with about one-fourth of total emissions.

California has passed several bills and the Governor has signed at least three executive orders regarding greenhouse gases. GHG statutes and executive orders (EO) include AB 32, SB 1368, EO S-03-05, EO S-20-06 and EO S-01-07.

AB 32 is one of the most significant pieces of environmental legislation that California has adopted. Among other things, it is designed to maintain California’s reputation as a “national and international leader on energy conservation and environmental stewardship.” It will have wide-ranging effects on California businesses and lifestyles as well as far reaching effects on other states and countries. A unique aspect of AB 32, beyond its broad and wide-ranging mandatory provisions and dramatic GHG reductions are the short time frames within which it must be implemented. Major components of the AB 32 include:

- Requires the monitoring and reporting of GHG emissions beginning with sources or categories of sources that contribute the most to statewide emissions.
- Requires immediate “early action” control programs on the most readily controlled GHG sources.
- Mandates that by 2020, California’s GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels.
- Forces an overall reduction of GHG gases in California by 25-40%, from business as usual (BAU) practices by 2020.
- Dictates that any local initiatives must complement efforts to achieve and maintain federal and state ambient air quality standards and to reduce toxic air contaminants.

Statewide, the framework for developing the implementing regulations for AB 32 is under way. Maximum GHG reductions are expected to derive from increased vehicle fuel efficiency, from greater use of renewable energy and from increased structural energy efficiency.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Significance Thresholds

In response to the requirements of SB97, the State Resources Agency developed guidelines for the treatment of GHG emissions under CEQA. These new guidelines became state laws as part of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations in March, 2010. The CEQA Appendix G guidelines were modified to include GHG as a required analysis element. A project would have a potentially significant impact if it:

- Generates GHG emissions, directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, or
- Conflicts with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions.

Section 15064.4 of the Code specifies how significance of GHG emissions is to be evaluated³. The process is broken down into quantification of project-related GHG emissions, making a determination of significance, and specification of any appropriate mitigation if impacts are found to be potentially significant. At each of these steps, the new GHG guidelines afford the lead agency with substantial flexibility.

Emissions identification may be quantitative, qualitative, or based on performance standards. CEQA guidelines allow the lead agency to “select the model or methodology it considers most appropriate”. The most common practice for transportation/combustion GHG emissions quantification is to use a computer model such as CalEEMod, as was used in the ensuing analysis.

In the Final Staff Report Addressing GHG Emissions Impacts under CEQA, the SJVAPCD notes that ARB staff derived a proposed hybrid threshold consisting of a quantitative threshold of 7,000 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent per year (MTCO₂E/year) for operational emissions (excluding transportation), and performance standards for construction and transportation emissions (CARB).

ARB concludes in its draft proposal that the 7,000 MTCO₂e/year benchmark can be used to effectively mitigate industrial projects with significant GHG emissions. To date, ARB has not finalized its draft proposed threshold, nor has ARB scheduled additional workshops to seek public input on establishing a significance threshold for assessing significance of project specific GHG emission impacts on global climate change. However, in the absence of any other guidance, this 7,000 MT per year recommendation has been used as a guideline for this analysis.

Impact Evaluation

VIIIa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – During project construction, the CalEEMod2016.3.2 computer model predicts that the construction activities will generate 252.8 MT CO₂e emissions in 2022 and 96.7 MT CO₂e in 2023. This is less than the adopted threshold for use by this project. GHG impacts from construction are considered less-than-significant, especially after a 30-year amortization is taken into account. Refer to Appendix 3 for the detailed CalEEMod2016.3.2 emission calculations.

During operations the project will consume electricity (well pumping and lift stations), but the source of the electricity is not well documented, and therefore the volume of GHG emissions cannot be attributed to specific emissions of GHG related to electricity. Other emissions associated with operations, such as maintenance, will remain essentially the same as the replacement wells are placed into operation and maintained by the existing operating staff.

VIIIb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – In December 2009 the SJVAPCD issued a final staff report addressing greenhouse gas emissions under CEQA. That language directly related to this project

³ <https://www.cacities.org/UploadedFiles/LeagueInternet/1c/1c6e4716-42eb-4a2d-ac42-1353a6283a47.pdf>

states that the lead agency should identify GHG emissions based on available information to calculate, model or estimate the amount of CO₂ and other GHG emissions.

With regard to consistency with existing air quality plans, it was determined that because the proposed project would not generate population, residences, or substantial employment, it would neither conflict with nor interfere with the County's adopted growth forecast. Furthermore, as shown in this report, the proposed project's contribution to regional air emissions in the San Joaquin Valley would be very small and are only one time construction emissions. When compliance with applicable rules, such as the SJVAPCD's required emissions controls is considered, the proposed project's regional contribution to cumulative air quality and GHG impacts would be almost negligible.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
IX. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: Refer to the Geotracker and Envirositor data provided in Appendix 6.

IXa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project consists of new wells, water distribution pipelines below ground surface, removal of small, deteriorated water reservoirs, and installation of water meters in the Lamont PUD service area and the EAPOA. New water wells will require treatment with chlorine, which can occur with either chlorine gas or sodium hypochlorite. The latter is a solid, not a gas, and is only mildly hazardous. Lamont PUD will utilize sodium hypochlorite to minimize potential for spills or otherwise to harm nearby residents. Other than routine deliveries of sodium hypochlorite, the project will not routinely transport, use, or dispose of hazardous materials. The potential for adverse impact exists under this topic is considered less than significant based on the character of the hazard and the low potential for dispersal in the environment.

IXb. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The project may 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. During construction there is a potential for accidental release of petroleum products in sufficient quantity to pose a significant hazard to people and the environment. The following mitigation measure will be incorporated into the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prepared for the project and implementation of this measure can

reduce this potential hazard to a less than significant level. GeoTracker maps are provided as Appendix 6.

HAZ-1 All spills or leakage of petroleum products during construction activities will be remediated in compliance with applicable state and local regulations regarding cleanup and disposal of the contaminant released. The contaminated waste will be collected and disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal or treatment facility. This measure will be incorporated into the SWPPP prepared for the Project development.

IXc. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Some of the facilities proposed for installation under the proposed project are located within one-quarter mile of existing schools, but the types of chemicals used during construction and future operations are not acutely hazardous. The proposed project must follow the extensive legal and regulatory requirements in storage, handling, and disposal of any hazardous materials. Based on compliance with these regulatory requirements, the proposed project is not forecast to result in any significant exposure of any school to significant hazards. No mitigation is required.

IXd. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project consists of an approximately 3.67-acres spread out over several locations within the community of Lamont. The Project will not be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites that are currently under remediation. According to the California State Water Board's GeoTracker website (consistent with Government Code Section 65962.5), which provides information regarding Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST), there are existing clean-up sites within 2,500 feet of the various project sites (Appendix 6). Regardless, the proposed construction and operation of the new Lamont PUD system sites will not create a significant hazard to the population or to the environment from their implementation. No impacts are anticipated. No mitigation is required.

IXe. *No Impact* – There are no airports located in the vicinity of the proposed project sites; therefore, no potential exists for conflicts between the project and any airport operations.

IXf. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Although the project is not located on a major evacuation route, the project will be installing a water pipeline in Di Giorgio Road, a major east-west roadway in the community. To ensure that emergency access is available at all locations where pipeline construction will occur within existing road rights-of-way, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented to ensure emergency access to all parcels during construction.

HAZ-2 During pipeline construction or any construction within road rights-of-way, the contractor shall maintain access to all parcels during construction activities. If necessary, this access can be accomplished by having steel sheets available to cover trenches in front of driveways or provide immediate, temporary access. Also, a traffic management plan shall be submitted and approved by the County to manage and minimize hazards to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians during construction.

IXg. *No Impact* – The project site is located in urban/suburban residential areas and agricultural areas with no wildland areas in the vicinity of any project sites. With no substantial wildland fuel load in the project area, no potential for exposure to a wildland fire hazard exists for the proposed project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge or the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) 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?; or,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information utilized in this section was obtained from the technical studies prepared by Dee Jasper & Associates, Inc. “MEMORANDUM – Lamont Public Utility District Water Supply Improvement Project” dated December 11, 2020 (Appendix 1); “Preliminary Engineering System Evaluation” dated November 2019 (Appendix 2); and “Hydrogeologic Study (Draft Report)” dated June 15, 2020 (Appendix 7).

Xa. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – There are three potential sources of water quality degradation: municipal wastewater; direct discharges of pollutants; and indirect discharges of pollutants. This project elements do not include the generation, transport or treatment of wastewater. Therefore, no potential to violate water quality standards or degrade water quality will occur under this pathway. Although direct discharges of pollutants are most typically associated with industrial operations, the purpose of the proposed project is to produce groundwater that meets all Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for water quality due to some existing wells being contaminated by arsenic and 1,2, 3-TCP. The drilling of a new production well requires a series of steps, including testing the groundwater to determine the quality of the groundwater and its ability to meet potable drinking water standards. Depending on the quality of the groundwater produced, the Lamont PUD may choose to install a treatment unit at one or more well sites to reduce a contaminant level below

a level that could harm water customers. To address this issue, the following mitigation measure will be implemented:

HYD-1 *Based on the groundwater quality identified during pre-production testing, the Lamont PUD may install a water treatment unit (such as Ion Exchange or Reverse Osmosis), to reduce concentrations below the MCL for the pertinent pollutant. The selected unit shall be installed, maintained and operated in a manner that will allow the potable water delivered to customers to meet all primary drinking water standards.*

During the construction to install the various elements of the proposed project, construction activities have a potential to cause indirect discharges of sediment or to concentrate flows and cause erosion. This potential during construction will be controlled by implementing the SWPPP mandated in MM **GEO-1**. Once the various project elements are installed and the ROWs or disturbed sites are returned to their pre-existing condition, the existing drainage system serving the project sites will continue to function and will control long term potential for erosion and sedimentation. Implementation of MM **GEO-1** is considered sufficient to prevent the project from causing significant water quality degradation.

- Xb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – To assess the overall need for system-wide improvements for the Lamont PUD’s water system, a technical Study was prepared by Dee Jaspar & Associates, Inc. (Appendix 7). Based on the findings in the Study, it was recommended that the Lamont PUD replace four existing District wells that have exceedances of the potable water quality MCLs. The specific wells identified for replacement are Wells No. 5, No. 11, No. 12, and No. 13. The District’s goal is to obtain between 800 gallons per minute (gpm) to 1,200 gpm production capacity for each well in order to replace the lost production. Thus, the new production from these four wells is intended to offset the production from closing the four District wells and the two EAPOA wells. Increased well production is not the goal of the Water Supply Improvement District Project. Based on the preceding information, the proposed project will not impede any applicable sustainable groundwater management program for the local aquifer. The proposed well sites will create small areas of impervious surface for the well facilities, but all pipelines will be placed within existing paved or compacted road rights-of-way and will not increase the amount of impervious surface. The removal of the EAPOA water reservoirs will eliminate impervious surface and replace it with pervious surfaces. Overall, the proposed project will not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge within the basin.
- Xc. (i) *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – All of the proposed project site locations are located within urban/suburban settings where permanent drainage facilities already exist. The permanent changes to drainage are minor (less than four acres in Lamont, spread out over the whole community) and minimal increases in runoff will result. During construction, MM **GEO-1** will ensure that substantial erosion and siltation will not occur at the various project sites. Overall impact under this issue is considered to be a less than significant impact.
- Xc. (ii) *Less Than Significant Impact* – The well sites are too small (area of disturbance is typically less than one acre) to substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff that would result in flooding onsite or offsite. The pipelines will be installed underground and will not increase impervious surface. The reservoir removal will eliminate existing impervious surface and the installation of the water meters will disturb only a few square feet spread out over the EAPOA neighborhood. None of these activities will substantially increase runoff and cause flooding onsite or offsite.
- Xc. (iii) *Less Than Significant Impact* – Based on the amount of disturbed area spread out over much of the community of Lamont, the proposed project will not contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of the existing drainage systems serving the proposed facilities and would also not serve as a substantial additional source of polluted runoff. Overall impact under this issue is considered to be a less than significant impact.

- Xc. (iv) *No Impact* – None of the proposed project facilities occur with the path of flood flows. Therefore, the proposed project has no potential to impede or redirect flood flows.
- Xd. *No Impact* – The project area is not subject to either a seiche or tsunami due to the lack of any source of water to generate such hazards. Regarding flood hazards, the FEMA FIRM Panels for the project area are provided in Appendix 8. The project area is identified as being in Zone AE and Zone X. The project area is not located in a high flood hazard zone. A review of the Isabella Lake Dam Inundation map indicates that the Lamont area is located just east of the major flood hazards associated with the Isabella Lake Dam failure and related inundation.
- Xe. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Please refer to the discussions under issues X.a. and X.b. above. The issues of conflict with a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan are addressed in these two sections of the Initial Study. No significant adverse impacts to these two issues will result from implementing the proposed project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- XIa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project will not alter land use within the project area and the only feature that has a potential to divide a community is the pipeline from Lamont to EAPOA along Di Giorgio Road. However, this pipeline will be installed underground and therefore, has no potential to divide any existing community. Impact under this issue is considered to be a less than significant impact.
- XIb. *No Impact* – Water facilities are zone and general plan independent because it consists of essential infrastructure that is required to support all land uses. Since the land uses will not be modified, no conflicts with any land use plan or policy for mitigating adverse environmental effects will result from project implementation.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XII. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION:

XIIa&b. *No Impact* – The project area is developed with a mix of urban, suburban and agricultural uses and no known mineral resources are known to occur within the project area. Due east of Lamont are two oil well fields, the Edison and Mountain View fields. Limited oil extraction occurs in the area but none of the proposed water infrastructure occurs in areas with above ground oil infrastructure. No potential for adverse impact to mineral resources or mineral resource values will result from project implementation.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XIII. NOISE: Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of a project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

Background

The proposed project consists of new replacement wells and support facilities; water pipelines; removal of water tanks and closure of EAPOA wells; and installation of water meters. Noise is generated in the following manner by these activities. Well drilling generates noise at the well site during drilling and after installation a well pump to bring groundwater to the ground surface will continue to generate noise. Installation of pipelines generates noise, but once installed below ground the pipelines do not generate noise that is audible during operations. Closure (demolition) of the existing EAPOA wells will also generate some noise but, once completed the closed wells will no longer be a source of noise. Finally, the water meters are envisioned to be installed by hand, using hand tools, some of which may be motorized. Thus, some limited short-term noise is likely to be associated with installation of the water meters, but once

installed below ground the pipelines do not generate noise that will be audible during operation. The potential impacts and recommended mitigation measures to control noise are discussed in the following text.

Noise is generally described as unwanted sound. The unit of sound pressure ratio to the faintest sound detectable to a person with normal hearing is called a decibel (dB). Sound or noise can vary in intensity by over one million times within the range of human hearing. A logarithmic loudness scale, similar to the Richter scale for earthquake magnitude, is therefore used to keep sound intensity numbers at a convenient and manageable level. The human ear is not equally sensitive to all sound frequencies within the entire spectrum. Noise levels at maximum human sensitivity from around 500 to 2,000 cycles per second are factored more heavily into sound descriptions in a process called "A-weighting," written as "dBA."

Leq is a time-averaged sound level; a single-number value that expresses the time-varying sound level for the specified period as though it were a constant sound level with the same total sound energy as the time-varying level. Its unit is the decibel (dB). The most common averaging period for Leq is hourly.

Because community receptors are more sensitive to unwanted noise intrusion during more sensitive evening and nighttime hours, state law requires that an artificial dBA increment be added to quiet time noise levels. The State of California has established guidelines for acceptable community noise levels that are based on the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) rating scale (a 24-hour integrated noise measurement scale). The guidelines rank noise land use compatibility in terms of "normally acceptable," "conditionally acceptable," and "clearly unacceptable" noise levels for various land use types. The State Guidelines, Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Exposure, single-family homes are "normally acceptable" in exterior noise environments up to 60 dB CNEL and "conditionally acceptable" up to 70 dB CNEL based on this scale. Multiple family residential uses are "normally acceptable" up to 65 dB CNEL and "conditionally acceptable" up to 70 CNEL. Schools, libraries and churches are "normally acceptable" up to 70 dB CNEL, as are office buildings and business, commercial and professional uses with some structural noise attenuation.

XIIIa. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Implementation of the proposed project will generate noise. Generally, well drilling equipment can generate noise levels of about 70 to 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet from the equipment. This is the highest noise exposure from the project activities, as all other construction will occur be limited to daytime activities. Drilling of the 36-inch minimum diameter surface casing/sanitary seal borehole to 50 feet and drilling, by reverse circulation methods, a 17.5-inch minimum diameter pilot borehole from 50 feet to 400 feet below ground surface (bgs) will occur over a 24-hour period until the well is completed to the design depth of about 750 feet to 900 feet bgs. Stationary source noise diminishes at a rate of about 6 dB for each doubling of the distance from the source. This means that periodic construction noise levels at the nearest receptor can be about 70-80 dBA on the exterior of the nearest receptor. The well drilling will likely exceed the County's noise standard of 65 dBA at the exterior of the nearest receptors, which consists of some existing residential development near at each of the four locations that will be temporarily impacted by construction noise. This increase in noise levels will be short term (about 12-20 days). The increased noise levels will not be severe enough to pose a health or hearing hazard, but could be considered a short-term nuisance. Once a well becomes operational, any above ground pump will generate noise; however, this noise can be mitigated, as outlined in the mitigation measure below—by constructing a wooden or concrete housing unit to reduce operational noise levels to a less than significant impact. Additionally, to reduce potential short-term effects of noise and long-term noise effects from all project construction activities to the greatest extent feasible, the mitigation measures presented below will be implemented—which include constructing temporary noise barrier walls and equipment to meet specified noise level limits during construction activities.

NOI-1 LPUD will require the implementation of adequate measures to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible or below 65 dBA, including portable noise barriers or scheduling specific construction activities to avoid conflict with adjacent sensitive receptors.

- NOI-2** *LPUD will require that all construction equipment be operated with mandated noise control equipment (mufflers or silencers). Enforcement will be accomplished by random field inspections by District personnel during construction activities.*
- NOI-3** *LPUD will establish a noise complaint/response program and will respond to any noise complaints received for this project by measuring noise levels at the affected receptor. If the noise level exceeds an Ldn of 65 dBA exterior or an Ldn of 45 dBA interior at the receptor, the applicant will implement adequate measures to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible, including portable noise barriers, scheduling specific construction activities to avoid conflict with adjacent sensitive receptors, or relocation of sensitive receptors during high noise activities.*
- NOI-4** *All construction activities other than well drilling and casing landing shall be restricted to daylight hours, unless an emergency exists.*
- NOI-5** *LPUD shall will require that well pumps be installed underground, or that noise levels be at or below 50 dB(A) at the nearest sensitive noise receptor property boundary. Reductions of above ground pump noise can be accomplished by installing surface well housing, which can be a wooden or concrete block structure that attenuates noise to meet this performance standard.*
- NOI-6** *Upon request from adjacent residents, LPUD shall provide the option of relocating adjacent residents for the duration of active 24-hour drilling activity.*
- NOI-7** *Construction activities shall be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday (except for well drilling activities), and shall be prohibited on Sundays and federal holidays except during documented emergencies. No construction may occur during hours of "Darkness" (Night Work), as defined in the California Vehicle Code, Section 280, unless prior authorization is obtained from the County.*
- NOI-8** *All employees that will be exposed to noise levels greater than 75 dB over an 8-hour period shall be provided with adequate hearing protection devices to ensure no hearing damage will result from construction activities.*

Implementation of the preceding mitigation measure can reduce noise exposures from all proposed project activities, both construction and operation, to a less than significant impact level.

- XIIIb. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Vibration is the periodic oscillation of a medium or object. The rumbling sound caused by vibration of room surfaces is called structure borne noises. Sources of groundborne vibrations include natural phenomena (e.g., earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, sea waves, landslides) or human-made causes (e.g., explosions, machinery, traffic, trains, construction equipment). Vibration sources may be continuous or transient. Vibration is often described in units of velocity (inches per second), and discussed in decibel (dB) units in order to compress the range of numbers required to describe vibration. Vibration impacts related to human development are generally associated with activities such as well drilling operations, construction, and heavy truck movements.

The background vibration-velocity level in residential areas is generally 50 VdB; Groundborne vibration is normally perceptible to humans at approximately 65 VdB, while 75 VdB is the approximate dividing line between barely perceptible and distinctly perceptible. Construction

activity can result in varying degrees of groundborne vibration, and can occur as a result of well drilling activities. While no enforceable regulations for vibration exist within the County of San Bernardino, the Federal Transit Association (FTA) guidelines identify a level of 80 VdB for sensitive land uses. This threshold provides a basis for determining the relative significance of potential project-related vibration impacts.

In the short term, most of the construction activities described above (except water meter installation) have some potential to create some vibration to the nearest sensitive receptors at some sites within the project footprint. However, any short-term impacts to the nearest sensitive receptors would be considered less than significant through implementing the following mitigation measure:

NOI-9 *During future construction activities with heavy equipment within 300 feet of occupied residences, vibration field tests should be conducted at the nearest occupied structure. To the extent feasible, if vibrations exceed 72 VdB, the construction activities shall be revised to reduce vibration below this threshold.*

XIIIc. *No Impact* – The project site is not located near an airport and will not experience any aircraft or airport-related noise impacts.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XIV. 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 people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

XIVa&b. *No Impact* – The proposed project will provide potable water system improvements for the community of Lamont and a partially developed residential subdivision (EAPOA). The project has no potential to induce growth or displace existing occupied residences.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES: 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:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

XVa. *No Impact* – The installation and utilization of the new potable water system facilities have no potential to create any demand for fire protection services that would require new or altered facilities. The proposed project has a positive benefit because it will ensure sufficient water is available to meet fire flow requirements in both communities, Lamont and EAPOA.

XVb-e. *No Impact* – This includes “other public facilities” such as the EAPOA which will have sufficient capacity in the future to meet water supply needs that will be generated by communities without requiring expansion of the local supply at this site.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XVI. 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"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

XVIa&b. *No Impact* – The installation and utilization of the water system facilities have no potential to create any demand for recreational facilities that would require new or altered facilities.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XVII. TRANSPORTATION: Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

Background Regarding Vehicle Miles Traveled

CEQA Section 15064.3, subdivision (b):

(1) Land Use Projects. Vehicle miles traveled exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact. Generally, projects within one-half mile of either an existing major transit stop or a stop along an existing high-quality transit corridor should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. Projects that decrease vehicle miles traveled in the project area compared to existing conditions should be presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact.

(2) Transportation Projects. Transportation projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. For roadway capacity projects, agencies have discretion to determine the appropriate measure of transportation impact consistent with CEQA and other applicable requirements. To the extent that such impacts have already been adequately addressed at a programmatic level, such as in a regional transportation plan EIR, a lead agency may tier from that analysis as provided in Section 15152.

(3) Qualitative Analysis. If existing models or methods are not available to estimate the vehicle miles traveled for the particular project being considered, a lead agency may analyze the project's vehicle miles traveled qualitatively. Such a qualitative analysis would evaluate factors such as the availability of transit, proximity to other destinations, etc. For many projects, a qualitative analysis of construction traffic may be appropriate.

(4) Methodology. A lead agency has discretion to choose the most appropriate methodology to evaluate a project's vehicle miles traveled, including whether to express the change in absolute terms, per capita, per household or in any other measure. A lead agency may use models to estimate a project's vehicle miles traveled, and may revise those estimates to reflect professional judgment based on substantial evidence. Any assumptions used to estimate vehicle miles traveled and any revisions to model outputs should be documented and explained in the environmental document prepared for the project. The standard of adequacy in Section 15151 shall apply to the analysis described in this section.

XVIIa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project includes many locations where specific water system improvement projects will be implemented. This has one very important effect on transportation issues. Because of the many locations where activities will occur (six locations), the effect of construction traffic will be dispersed and not concentrated at one location over the life of construction activities. Thus, the proposed project would not 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.

This project does not propose any new roads. In the short term, construction of the proposed facilities will result in the generation of up to about 10-15 additional roundtrips per day on the roadways adjacent to the various sites by construction personnel, delivery of equipment and materials, and the removal of any graded material and delivery of well construction materials. This increase in traffic will be temporary and is not considered sufficient to affect the level of service of roadways or congestion at any intersection. No measurable increases in traffic are anticipated during operations as the various facilities will replace existing wells and will not require an increase in maintenance or operational activities than that which exists presently at these sites. No mitigation is required.

- XVIIb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project is a discrete construction project that does not fit into the standard methodology outlined to address Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) issues. The various project elements will be constructed and once the facilities are integrated into the Lamont PUD’s water supply system, the field maintenance personnel will integrate these new facilities into their daily monitoring and maintenance activities. A limited increase in field miles traveled each day may occur due to integration of the EAPOA facilities into the Lamont water system, but such trips are not anticipated to exceed 50 miles per day, based on two trips per day and the approximate 20-mile round trip to maintain such facilities. Further, during construction it is assumed that approximately 25 personnel will be working this project (assumes two work crews) and as many as 10 deliveries will occur by truck per day (total about 35 round trips per day). This will occur over the short term, estimated to be 18 months until all project-related construction activities are completed. Thus, an estimated total of 35 round trips may occur during a typical workday. Since a project such as proposed will be awarded to the lowest bidder, there is no method of controlling vehicle miles traveled in support of the project, other than awarding some points for a local contractor. Due to the type of project, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 does not appear to apply to the proposed project.
- XVIIc&d. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed construction activities in road ROWs will be short term, but these activities can create hazards for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians, particularly along Di Giorgio Road with pipeline installation. Thus, the project-related construction activities have a potential to conflict with continuous access. Mitigation measure **HAZ-2** will be implemented to ensure that hazards are minimize and emergency access is maintained to all parcels.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project cause a substantial change in the significance of tribal cultural resources, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to the California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

XVIIIa&b. The Lamont Public Utilities District has not been contacted by any Native American tribes and therefore, was not required to initiate consultation. However, as outlined in the Cultural Resource appendix, Appendix 5 to this document, CRM TECH did consult with the Native American Heritage Commission and received names from several tribes to contact regarding traditional cultural resources. Of the seven tribes contacted by CRM TECH, three responded and indicated no concerns with the location of the proposed project facilities. Mitigation measure **CUL-1** requires field review of any exposed subsurface cultural resources, which would allow any archaeological resources to be identified and Native American tribes contacted, where appropriate. Therefore, the District concludes that sufficient protection will be extended to subsurface Tribal Cultural Resources if any are accidentally encountered during ground disturbing activities.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

XIXa. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed project consists of the redevelopment of the Lamont PUD’s water supply system and the extension of a pipeline and water system improvements to the EAPOA water system for a neighborhood a few miles west of the community and the District’s service area. Based on the detailed evaluation of environmental issues associated with this proposed project (refer to the contents of this Initial Study), the proposed project will not cause a significant adverse impact on any of issues addressed in this Initial Study. The proposed Lamont PUD’s water system improvements are intended to replace the compromised water quality of existing water supplies with a water supply that will meet current water demand, but is not designed to substantially expand water production capabilities from that previously identified, for either the PUD or the EAPOA. Thus, there implementation of the proposed project is not forecast to cause relocation or new construction of expanded wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas or other infrastructure facilities in a manner that would cause a significant environmental effect for any of the issues addressed in this Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form. No mitigation beyond that identified in this document is required.

XIXb. *Less Than Significant Impact*– This project is a replacement for the existing water systems within the Lamont PUD and the EAPOA. The proposed project will not cause or result in greater water production for the communities than currently exists. Based on the analysis in this document, water supply should be slightly less due to metering the EAPOA community and current water conservation trends. Future expansions of water supply within either community due to future growth will require future evaluations and are not considered under this proposed project.

XIXc. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project will not contribute to generation of wastewater. Future expansions of demand for wastewater treatment or conveyance within either

community due to future growth will require future evaluations and are not considered under this proposed project.

- XIXd. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The only solid waste generated by the proposed project will consist of demolition debris from EAPOA reservoirs, and site clearing debris from the well sites and pipeline alignments and a limited amount of municipal waste generated by employees. All construction waste that can be recycled will be by following this mitigation measures.

UTIL-1 During future demolition and clearing activities conducted by the Lamont PUD, the OUD shall require all construction waste that can be recycled shall be recycled. At a minimum recycled material shall mee the current State construction material recycling percentage. Documentation of waste recycled shall be required of the contractor, including locations where specific recycling materials were delivered.

The small amount of remaining waste will be delivered to regional landfills with adequate capacity for the small volume of waste associated with this proposed project. Solid waste impacts will be less than significant from project implementation after implementing this measure.

- XIXe. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Standard practice is to include a contract stipulation that a contractor obey all laws and regulations of the County, State and United States, and this includes solid waste laws and regulations. No potential conflict with such laws and regulations is anticipated from the waste disposal activities of this proposed project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XX. WILDFIRE: If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- XXa. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed construction activities in road ROWs will be short term, but these activities can create hazards for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians, particularly along Di Giorgio Road with pipeline installation. Thus, the project-related construction activities have a potential to conflict with continuous access. Mitigation measure **HAZ-2** will be implemented to ensure that hazards are minimize and emergency access is maintained to all parcels.
- XXb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project is not located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zone, therefore the proposed Project will have minimal impacts to any wildfire issues. The proposed Project is not located within the fire safety severity zone. The proposed Project area is located in a suburban and agricultural area removed from the high fire hazard areas that are located adjacent to Tehachapi Mountains to the east. As such, no significant impacts under these issues are anticipated.
- XXc. *No Impact* – Aside from the water infrastructure that will be installed in support of the proposed project with no significant adverse impacts identified, the proposed project will not install any special wildfire related facilities that could result in additional adverse ongoing impacts to the environment.
- XXd. *No Impact* – The project area is essentially flat and does not contribute to any significant risks associated with wildfire indirect effects on the environment where the project facilities are located. No mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

The analysis in this Initial Study and the findings reached indicate that the proposed Project can be implemented without causing any new project specific or cumulatively considerable unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts. Mitigation is required to control potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project to a less than significant impact level. The following findings are based on the detailed analysis of the Initial Study of all environmental topics and the implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the previous text and summarized following this section.

XXIa. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The biological and cultural technical reports (Appendices 4 and 5) indicate that no biological or cultural resources of significance occur within the project area of potential effect. However, contingency mitigation measures were identified to address the potential for encountering protected nesting birds and accidental exposure of subsurface cultural resources. With implementation of these measures, it was determined that the proposed project would not cause any unavoidable significant adverse impacts.

XXIb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project consists of installing water system infrastructure in the residential communities of Lamont and the El Adobe Property Owners Association (EAPOA). No unavoidable significant adverse impacts have been identified for those issues that have a potential for cumulative impact. These issues include: aesthetics, agricultural air quality, biology, cultural resources, energy, greenhouse gases, hydrology/water quality, land use, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, traffic, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. Of these issues, air quality, biology, cultural resources, greenhouse gases, hydrology/water quality, noise, traffic, utilities/service systems and wildfire require mitigation. All identified mitigation measures will be implemented by the proposed project. Most potential adverse environmental impacts will be experienced during construction to achieve the long-term goal of replacing water supply for the communities of Lamont and El Adobe. The potential cumulative environmental effects of implementing the proposed Project have been determined to be less than considerable and thus, less than significant impacts.

XXIc. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed Project includes activities that have a potential to cause direct substantial adverse effects on humans. The issues of Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology, Noise, and Wildfire require the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce human impacts to a less than significant level. All other environmental issues were found to have no significant impacts on humans without implementation of mitigation. The potential for direct human effects from implementing the proposed Project have been determined to be less than significant.

Conclusion

This document evaluated all CEQA issues contained in the latest Initial Study Checklist form (2021). The evaluation determined that either no impact or less than significant impacts would be associated with the issues of Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, and Wildfire. The issues of Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology & Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology & Water Quality, Noise, and Transportation require the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce potential project specific and cumulative impacts to a less than significant level. The required mitigation has been proposed in this Initial Study to reduce impacts for these issues to a less than significant impact level.

Based on the evidence and findings in this Initial Study, the Lamont PUD proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Lamont Public Utilities District Water Supply Improvement Project. A Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigation Negative Declaration (NOI) will be issued for this Project by the Lamont Public Utilities District. The Initial Study and NOI will be circulated for 30 days of public comment. At the end of the 30-day review period, a final MND package will be prepared and it will be reviewed by the District for possible adoption at a future Board meeting, the date for which has yet to be determined. If you or your agency comments on the MND/NOI for this Project, you will be notified about the meeting date in accordance with the requirements in Section 21092.5 of CEQA (statute).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21095, and 21151, Public Resources Code; *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino*, (1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 296; *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors*, (1990) 222 Cal.App.3d 1337; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

Revised 2019

Authority: Public Resources Code sections 21083 and 21083.09

Reference: Public Resources Code sections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3/ 21084.2 and 21084.3

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

Aesthetics

AES-1 Prior to initiating well drilling or approval of the final above ground facilities in close proximity to sensitive light receptors, an analysis of potential exterior lighting to impact the adjacent sensitive light receptors shall be submitted to the Lamont PUD for review and approval. If potential lighting impacts are identified for adjacent sensitive receptors the lighting shall be shielded or other design solutions acceptable to the PUD shall be implemented to eliminate adverse night lighting impacts.

Air Quality

AQ-1 Regulation VIII Control Measures for Construction Emissions of PM-10:

- All disturbed areas, including storage piles, which are not being actively utilized for construction purposes, shall be effectively stabilized of dust emissions using water, chemical stabilizer/suppressant, covered with a tarp or other suitable cover or vegetative ground cover.
- All on-site unpaved roads and off-site unpaved access roads shall be effectively stabilized of dust emissions using water or chemical stabilizer/ suppressant.
- All land clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land leveling, grading, cut & fill, and demolition activities shall be effectively controlled of fugitive dust emissions utilizing application of water or by presoaking.
- With the demolition of buildings up to six stories in height, all exterior surfaces of the building shall be wetted during demolition.
- When materials are transported off-site, all material shall be covered, or effectively wetted to limit visible dust emissions, and at least six inches of freeboard space from the top of the container shall be maintained.
- All operations shall limit or expeditiously remove the accumulation of mud or dirt from adjacent public streets at the end of each workday. (The use of dry rotary brushes is expressly prohibited except where preceded or accompanied by sufficient wetting to limit the visible dust emissions.) (Use of blower devices is expressly forbidden.)
- Following the addition of materials to, or the removal of materials from, the surface of outdoor storage piles, said piles shall be effectively stabilized of fugitive dust emissions utilizing sufficient water or chemical stabilizer/ suppressant.
- Within urban areas, trackout shall be immediately removed when it extends 50 or more feet from the site and at the end of each workday.
- An owner/operator of any site with 150 or more vehicle trips per day, or 20 or more vehicle trips per day by vehicles with three or more axles shall implement measures to prevent carryout and trackout.

AQ-2 Recommended Enhanced Additional Measures for Construction Emissions of PM-10:

- Install wheel washers for all exiting trucks or wash off all trucks and equipment leaving the site.
- Install wind breaks at windward side(s) of construction areas.
- Suspend excavation and grading activity when winds exceed 20 mph.
- Limit area subject to excavation, grading, and other construction activity at any one time.

AQ-3 Recommended for Heavy Duty Equipment (scrapers, graders, trenchers, earth movers, etc.):

- Use alternative fueled or catalyst equipped diesel construction equipment.
- Minimize idling time (e.g., 5 minutes maximum).
- Limit the hours of operation of heavy-duty equipment and/or the amount of equipment in use.
- Replace fossil-fueled equipment with electrically driven equivalents (provided they are not run via a portable generator set).

- Curtail construction during periods of high ambient pollutant concentrations; this may include ceasing of construction activity during the peak-hour of vehicular traffic on adjacent roadways.
- Implement activity management (e.g., rescheduling activities to reduce short-term impacts).

Biological Resources

BIO-1 The State of California prohibits the “take” of active bird nests. To avoid impacts to nesting birds (common and special status) during the nesting season (generally between February 1 to August 31), a qualified Avian Biologist shall conduct pre-construction nesting bird survey prior to Project-related disturbance to identify any active nests. If no active nests are found, no further action would be required. If an active nest is found, the biologist shall set appropriate no-work buffers around the nest, which would be determined based on the nesting species, its sensitivity to disturbance, nesting stage and expected types, intensity and duration of disturbance. The nests and buffer zones shall be field checked weekly by a qualified biological monitor. The approved no-work buffer zone shall be clearly marked in the field, within which no disturbance activity shall commence until the qualified biologist has determined the young birds have successfully fledged and the nest is inactive.

Cultural Resources

CUL-1 Should any subsurface or other cultural resources be encountered during construction of the proposed project, earthmoving or grading activities in the immediate area of the finds shall be halted and an onsite inspection shall be performed immediately by a qualified archaeologist. The archaeological professional shall assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate management measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act. The recommendations shall be implemented by the District.

Geology and Soils

GEO-1 The construction contractor shall prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which specifies Best Management Practices that will prevent construction pollutants from contacting stormwater with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving offsite into receiving waters. The SWPPP may include but not be limited to the following BMPs.

- The length of trench which can be left open at any given time should be limited to that needed to reasonably perform construction activities. This will serve to reduce the amount of backfill stored onsite at any given time.
- Backfill material should not be stored in areas which are subject to the erosive flows of water.
- Stored backfill material should be covered with water resistant material during periods of heavy precipitation to reduce the potential for rainfall erosion of stored backfill material. If covering is not feasible, then measures such as the use of straw bales, sandbags, silt fencing or detention/desilting basins shall be used to capture and hold eroded material on the project site for future cleanup.
- The SWPPP shall include a spill prevention and cleanup plan to account for the accidental release of petroleum products or other contaminants during construction activities. This plan shall identify the methods of containing spills, the methods of removing and disposing of spills and the notification procedures to the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over such spills.
 - Apply erosion and sediment control design that reduce volume and velocity of flows and content of sediment to levels that do not cause significant rill or gully erosion in susceptible areas. In addition, provide for restoration of areas that do become eroded.
 - Add protective covering of mulch, straw or synthetic material (erosion control blankets, tacking will be required).

- Limit the amount of area disturbed and the length of time slopes and barren ground are left exposed. After pipeline installation, soil shall be compacted to a level similar to pre-construction conditions.
- Construct diversion dikes and interceptor ditches to divert water away from construction areas.

GEO-2 Prior to final design of any of the proposed project related water infrastructure, the design engineers shall provide an evaluation of the infrastructure's potential susceptibility to subsidence hazards. and identify specific measures to provide protection to incorporate into the design of the infrastructure if susceptible to damage from such subsidence hazards. The selected design measures shall be integrated into the design of wells, pipelines or other infrastructure constructed in support of the proposed project.

GEO-3 In the event that paleontological resources are encountered within the project area during construction activities, all land modification activities in the immediate area of the finds should be halted and an onsite inspection shall be performed immediately by a qualified paleontologist. This professional will be able to assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate management actions. Reasonable paleontological resource management actions shall be implemented to protect the accidentally exposed subsurface resources.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

HAZ-1 All spills or leakage of petroleum products during construction activities will be remediated in compliance with applicable state and local regulations regarding cleanup and disposal of the contaminant released. The contaminated waste will be collected and disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal or treatment facility. This measure will be incorporated into the SWPPP prepared for the Project development.

HAZ-2 During pipeline construction or any construction within road rights-of-way, the contractor shall maintain access to all parcels during construction activities. If necessary, this access can be accomplished by having steel sheets available to cover trenches in front of driveways or provide immediate, temporary access. Also, a traffic management plan shall be submitted and approved by the County to manage and minimize hazards to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians during construction.

Hydrology and Water Quality

HYD-1 Based on the groundwater quality identified during pre-production testing, the Lamont PUD may install a water treatment unit (such as Ion Exchange or Reverse Osmosis), to reduce concentrations below the MCL for the pertinent pollutant. The selected unit shall be installed, maintained and operated in a manner that will allow the potable water delivered to customers to meet all primary drinking water standards.

Noise

NOI-1 LPUD will require the implementation of adequate measures to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible or below 65 dBA, including portable noise barriers or scheduling specific construction activities to avoid conflict with adjacent sensitive receptors.

NOI-2 LPUD will require that all construction equipment be operated with mandated noise control equipment (mufflers or silencers). Enforcement will be accomplished by random field inspections by District personnel during construction activities.

NOI-3 LPUD will establish a noise complaint/response program and will respond to any noise complaints received for this project by measuring noise levels at the affected receptor. If the noise level exceeds an Ldn of 65 dBA exterior or an Ldn of 45 dBA interior at the receptor, the

applicant will implement adequate measures to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible, including portable noise barriers, scheduling specific construction activities to avoid conflict with adjacent sensitive receptors, or relocation of sensitive receptors during high noise activities.

- NOI-4 All construction activities other than well drilling and casing landing shall be restricted to daylight hours, unless an emergency exists.
- NOI-5 LPUD shall will require that well pumps be installed underground, or that noise levels be at or below 50 dB(A) at the nearest sensitive noise receptor property boundary. Reductions of above ground pump noise can be accomplished by installing surface well housing, which can be a wooden or concrete block structure that attenuates noise to meet this performance standard.
- NOI-6 Upon request from adjacent residents, BBCCSD shall provide the option of relocating adjacent residents for the duration of active 24-hour drilling activity.
- NOI-7 Construction activities shall be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday (except for well drilling activities), and shall be prohibited on Sundays and federal holidays except during documented emergencies. No construction may occur during hours of "Darkness" (Night Work), as defined in the California Vehicle Code, Section 280, unless prior authorization is obtained from the County.
- NOI-8 All employees that will be exposed to noise levels greater than 75 dB over an 8-hour period shall be provided with adequate hearing protection devices to ensure no hearing damage will result from construction activities.
- NOI-9 During future construction activities with heavy equipment within 300 feet of occupied residences, vibration field tests should be conducted at the nearest occupied structure. To the extent feasible, if vibrations exceed 72 VdB, the construction activities shall be revised to reduce vibration below this threshold.

Utilities and Service Systems

- UTIL-1 During future demolition and clearing activities conducted by the Lamont PUD, the OUD shall require all construction waste that can be recycled shall be recycled. At a minimum recycled material shall meet the current State construction material recycling percentage. Documentation of waste recycled shall be required of the contractor, including locations where specific recycling materials were delivered.

REFERENCES

CRM TECH, "Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties, Lamont Public Utilities District, Water Supply Improvement Project, Kern County, California" dated February 14, 2022

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Jacobs, "2022 Biological Resources Assessment for the Lamont Public Utilities District, Water Supply Improvement Project" dated February 2, 2022

Dee Jasper & Associates, Inc., "*Hydrogeologic Study (Draft Report)*" dated June 15, 2020

Dee Jasper & Associates, Inc., "*MEMORANDUM – Lamont Public Utility District Water Supply Improvement Project*" dated December 11, 2020

Dee Jasper & Associates, Inc., "*Preliminary Engineering System Evaluation*" dated November 2019

Kern County General Plan, September 22, 2009

Revised Update of Kern County General Plan and Amendment of the Kern County and Incorporated Cities Integrated Waste Management Plan Siting Element, Recirculated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (SCH#2002071027), January 2004

Websites:

<https://www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/attainment.htm>

<https://www.epa.gov/general-conformity/de-minimis-tables>

<https://www.cacities.org/UploadedFiles/LeagueInternet/1c/1c6e4716-42eb-4a2d-ac42-1353a6283a47.pdf>

FIGURES

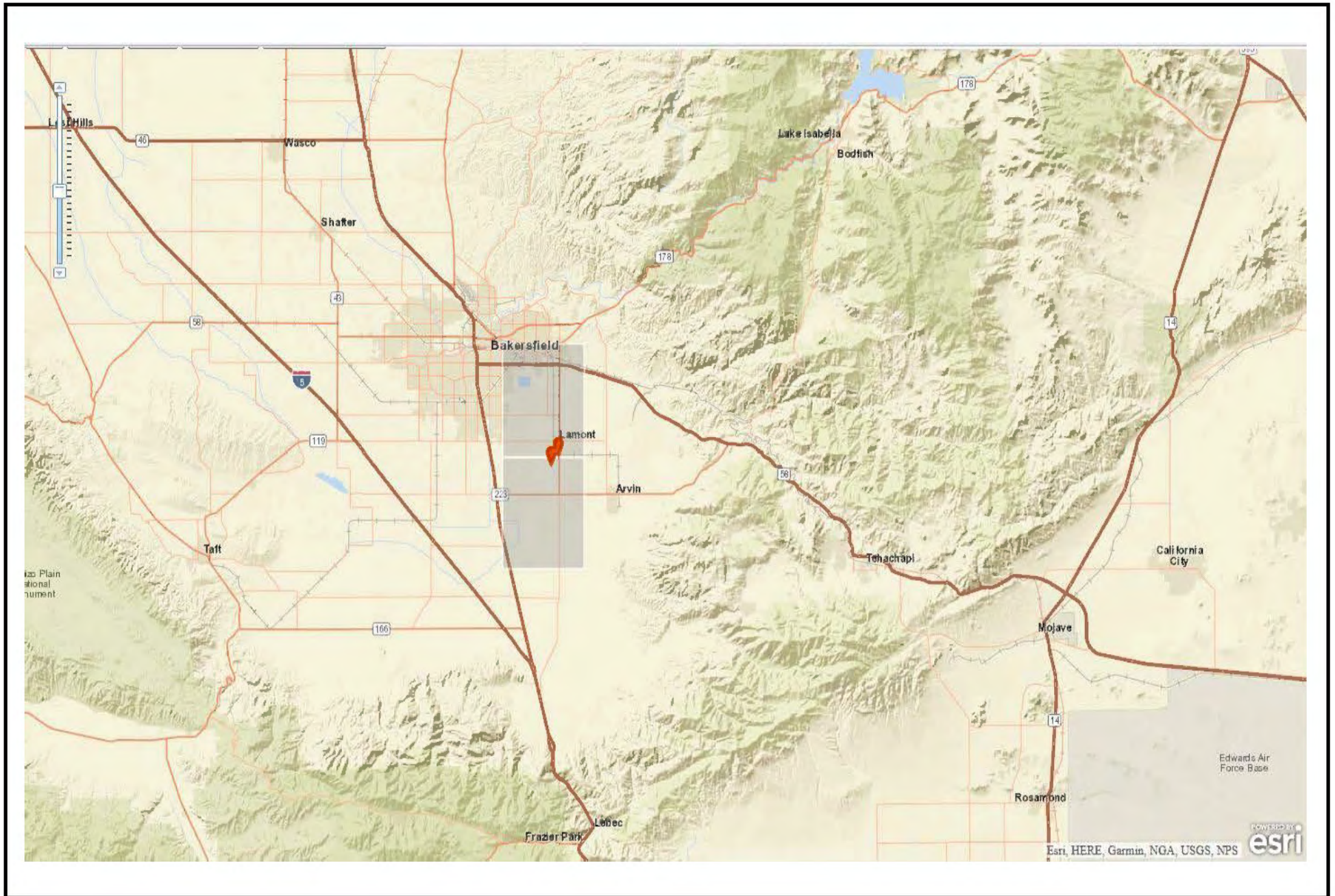
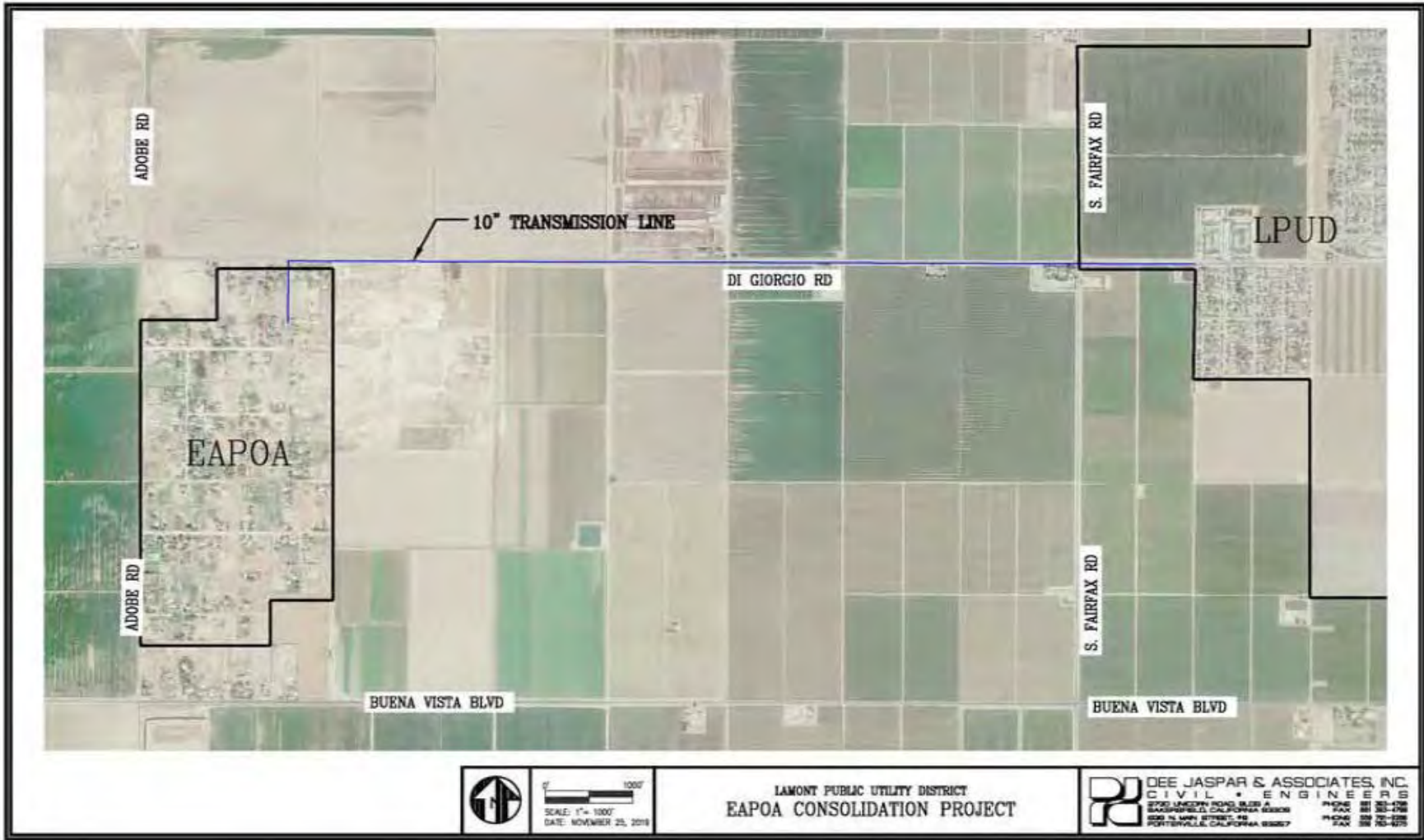


FIGURE 1

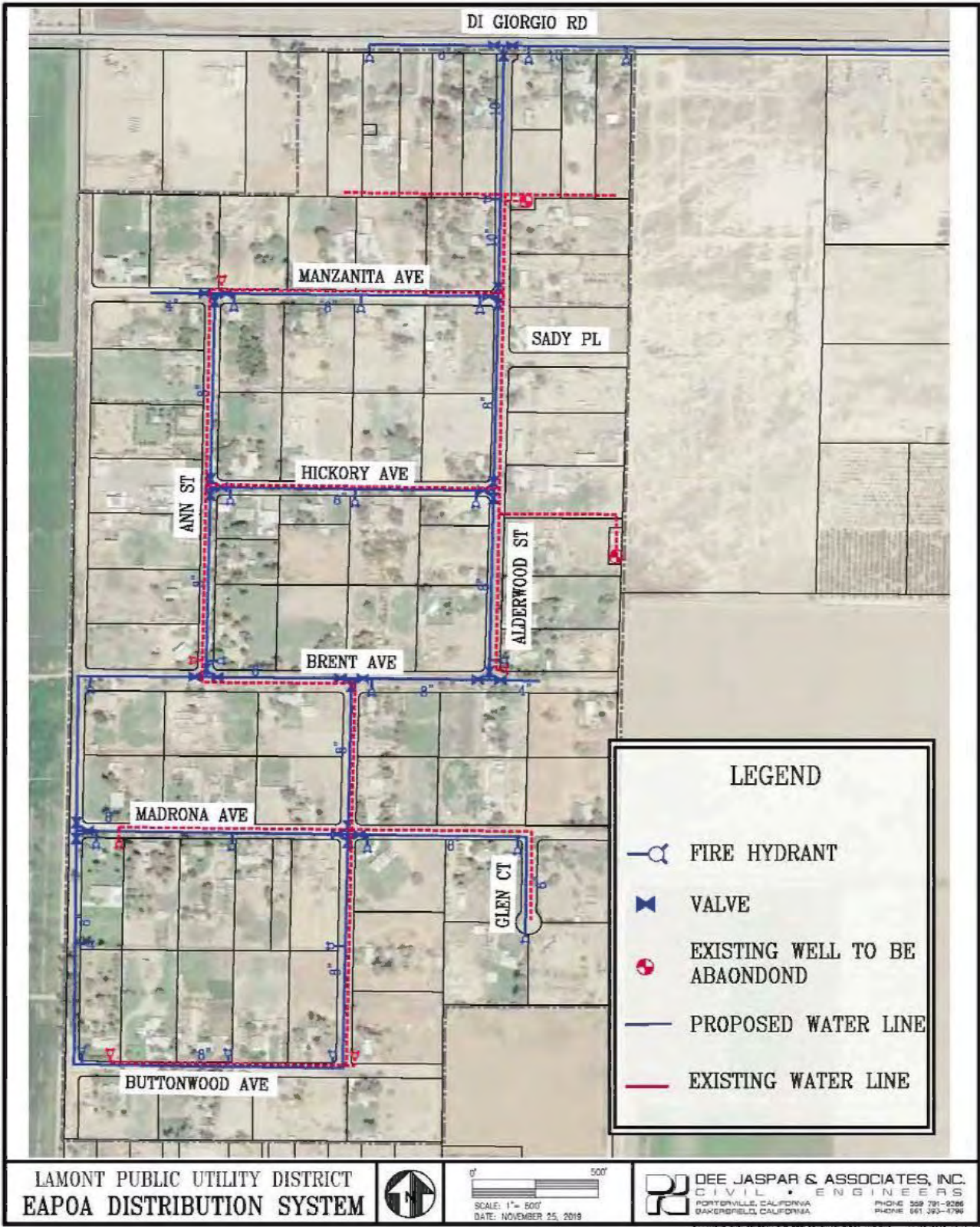


FIGURE 2



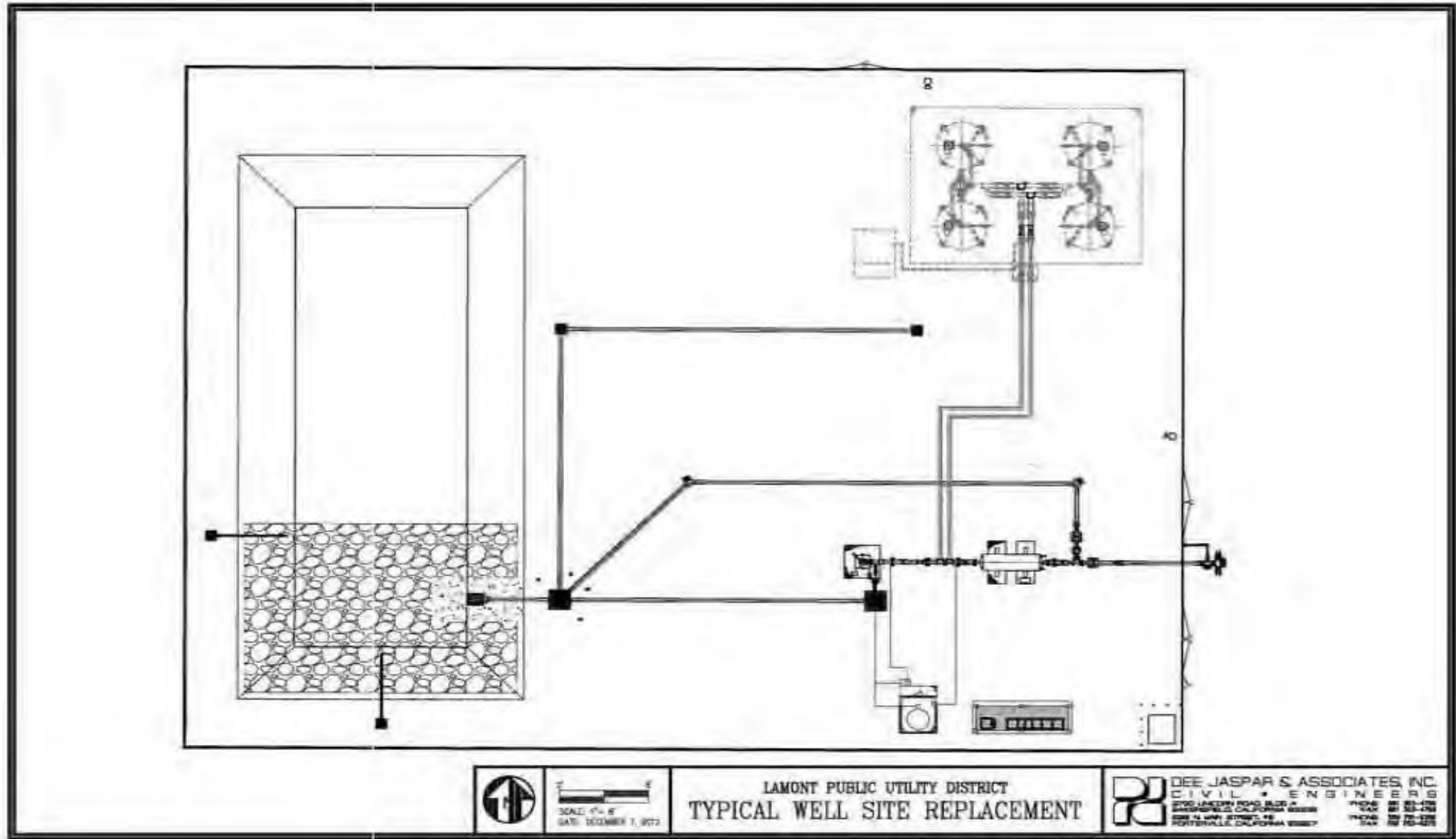
SOURCE: Dee Jasper & Associates, Inc., Lamont PUD Preliminary Engineering Report System Evaluation, November 2019

FIGURE 3



SOURCE: Dee Jasper & Associates, Inc., Lamont PUD Preliminary Engineering Report System Evaluation, November 2019

FIGURE 4



SOURCE: Dee Jasper & Associates, Inc., Lamont PUD Preliminary Engineering Report System Evaluation, November 2019

FIGURE 5

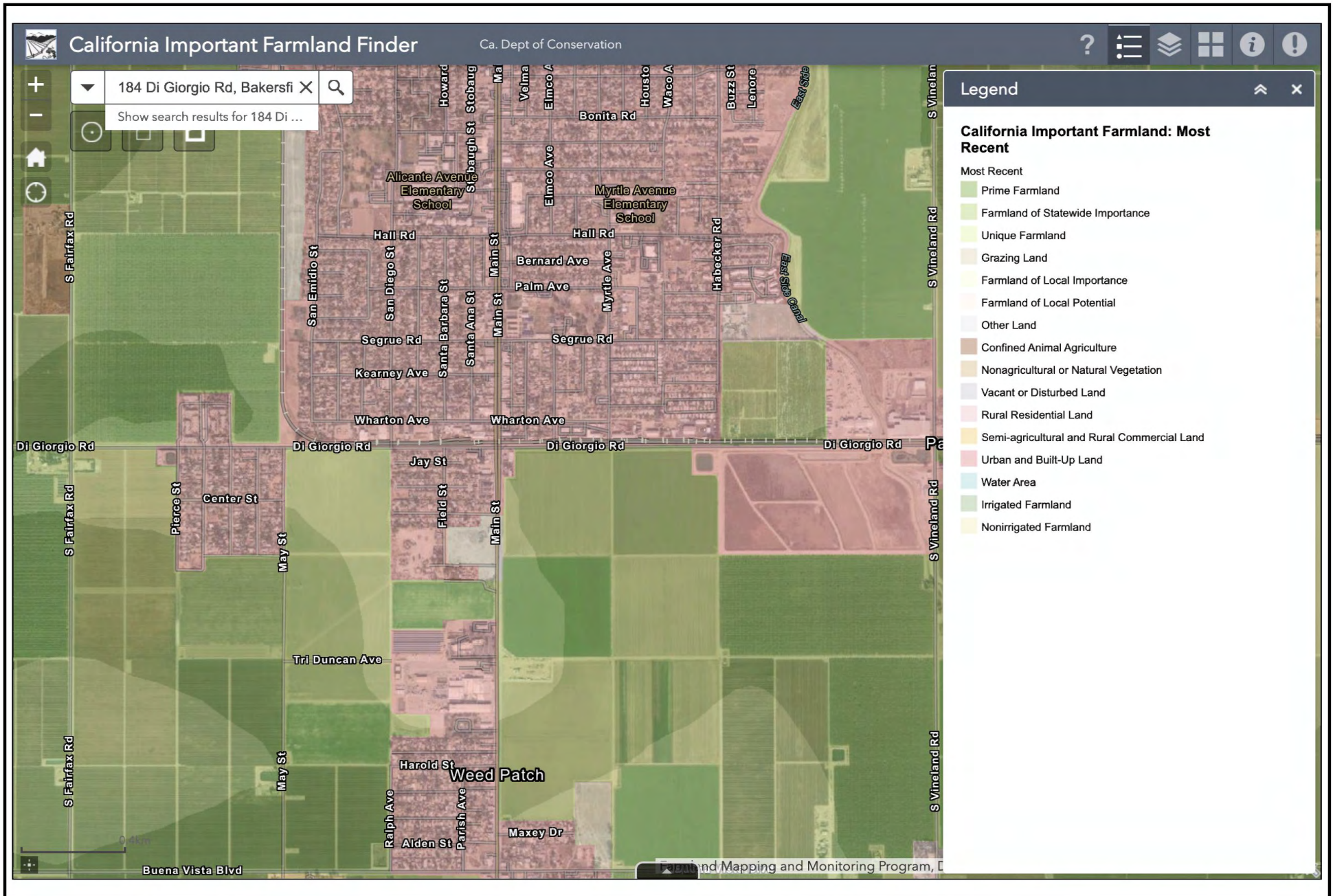
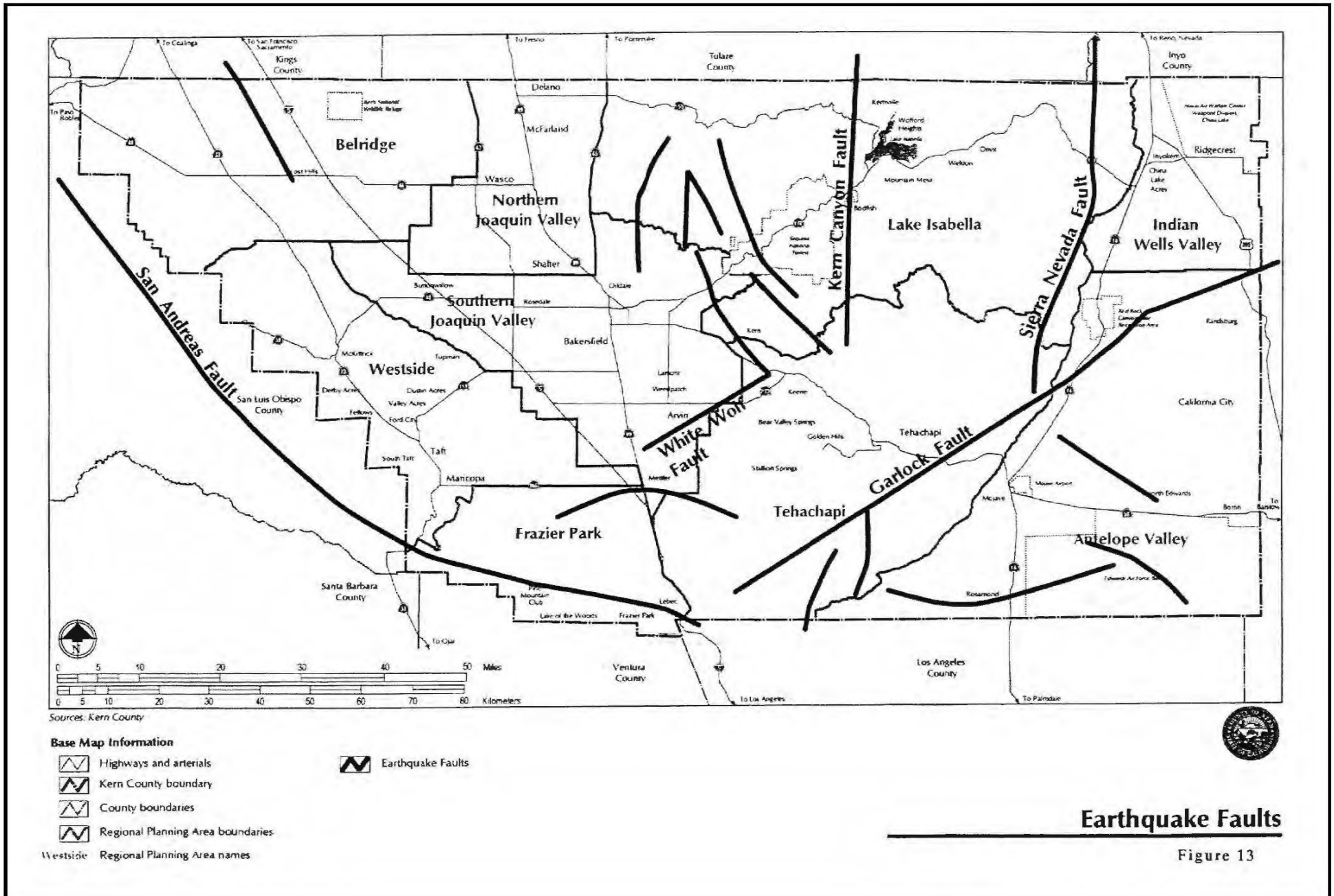
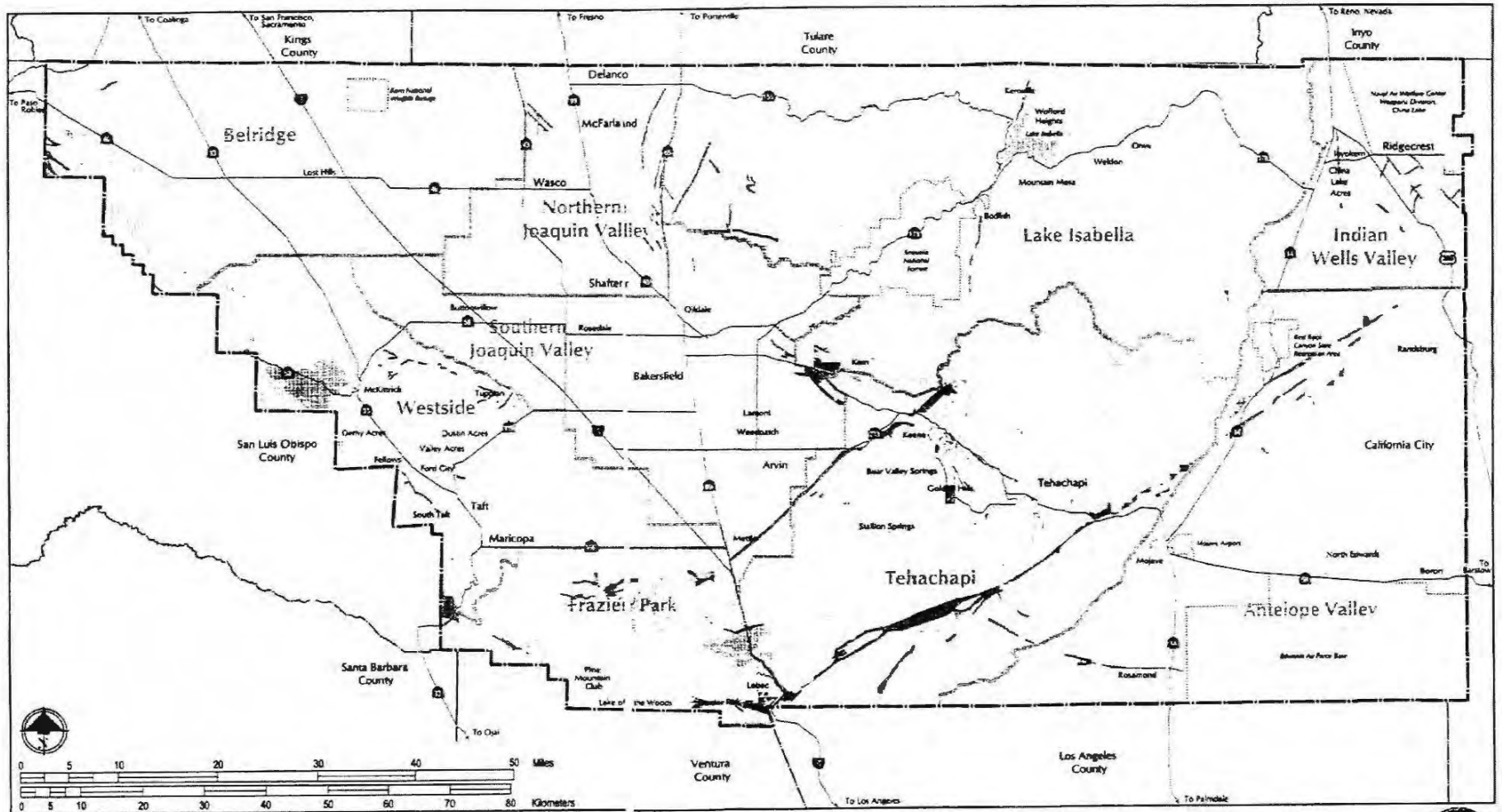


FIGURE II-1



SOURCE: Kern County General Plan, Figure 13

FIGURE VII-1



Sources: Kern Council of Governments, CBA, Inc., 2001

Base Map Information

- Highways and arterials
- Kern County boundary
- County boundaries
- Regional Planning Area boundaries
- Regional Planning Area names

Seismic Hazards

- Seismic Hazards (2.1)
- Seismic Hazards (2.1-4.4)

Landslides

- Landslides (2.2)

Steep Slopes

- Steep Slopes (2.4)

**Overlay Constraints:
Seismic, Landslides, and Steep Slope Hazards**

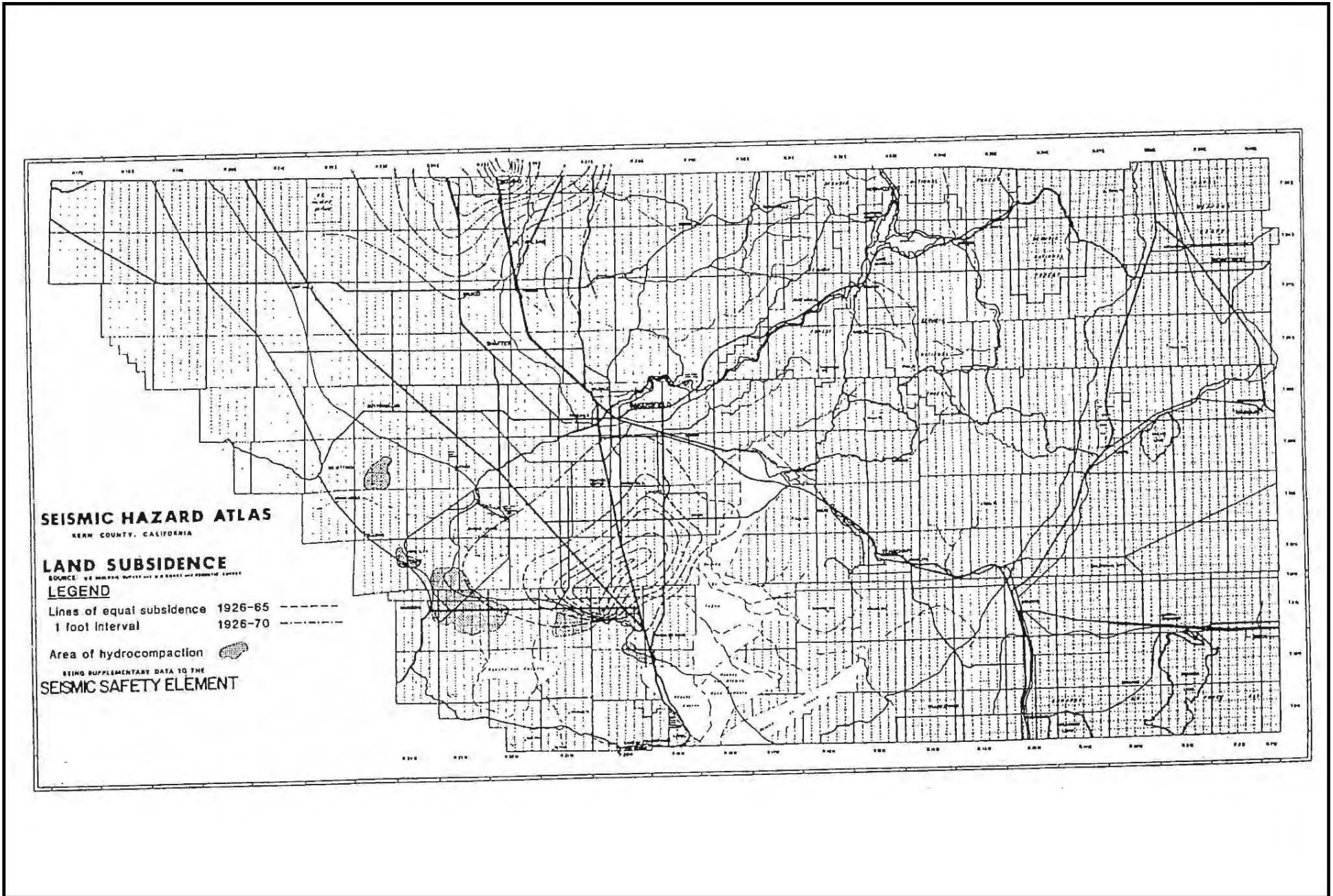
Figure 12

SOURCE: Kern County General Plan, Figure 12

FIGURE VII-2

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

Overlay Constraints



SOURCE: Kern County General Plan, Figure 15

FIGURE VII-3