



# County of San Diego

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DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
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August 2, 2022

## **CEQA Initial Study - Environmental Checklist Form (Based on the State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G)**

1. Title; Project Number:

Los Coches Low Flow Urban Runoff Diversion to Sewer Project; 1023735

2. Lead agency name and address:

County of San Diego, Department of Public Works  
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 410  
San Diego, CA 92123-1239

3. Contact Kimberly Jones, Land Use/Environmental Planner III

Phone number: (619) 241-5059

E-mail: [Kimberly.Jones@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Jones@sdcounty.ca.gov)

4. Project location:

The Los Coches Low Flow Urban Runoff Diversion to Sewer Project is located on Los Coches Road between Via Diego and Ha Hana Road in the unincorporated community of Lakeside. An existing 30-inch reinforced concrete pipe storm drain is located under Los Coches Road. The pipe connects directly with Los Coches Creek at the east wall of a triple reinforced concrete box culvert that is located west of the Los Coches Road/Via Diego intersection.

5. Project Applicant name and address:

County of San Diego, Department of Public Works  
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 410  
San Diego, CA 92123-1239

6. General Plan

Community Plan:	Lakeside
Land Use Designation:	Open Space-Conservation (OS-C) Open Space (OS) Medium Impact Industrial (I-2) Semi-Rural Residential (SR-4) Village Residential (VR-4.3) Village Residential (VR-7.3)

7. Zoning

Properties adjacent to the project are designated as:

Use Regulation:	M54, MH6, RR, RS, S80, S88
Minimum Lot Size:	N/A
Special Area Regulation:	N/A

8. Description of project:

The project is located on Los Coches Road between Via Diego and Ha Hana Road in the unincorporated community of Lakeside in San Diego County. An existing 30-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) is located under Los Coches Road, which collects storm water runoff and discharges into a reinforced concrete triple box culvert at Los Coches Creek. During the dry season, runoff from irrigation and other urban sources flows into the 30-inch RCP without receiving water quality treatment. The proposed Los Coches Low Flow Urban Runoff Diversion to Sewer Project would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated.

The goal of the project is to improve water quality by reducing the non-storm water flows from entering the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) within the County road right-of-way. Specifically, the project consists of installing a debris separating baffle box (DSBB) underneath Los Coches Road. As water passes through the DSBB, dry weather flows would be diverted to an existing sewer line where it would be routed for treatment. However, if the water flow rate exceeds five gallons per minute (i.e., during a moderate to heavy rain event), the stormwater would exit the DSBB through a new 36-inch RCP, which would outlet into Los Coches Creek. To facilitate proper drainage, an existing headwall at Los Coches Creek would be replaced to accommodate the new 36-inch RCP. Erosion control would be implemented in the disturbed area of the headwall and existing vegetation would be replaced in kind after construction of the new headwall is complete. Post-construction erosion control would include the installation of an energy dissipater (rip rap) as a best management practice (BMP) at the outlet of the new storm drainpipe that enters Los Coches Creek. Additional improvements would be made to the existing sidewalk, curb, gutter, and road surface. An island median would also be installed on Via Diego to properly direct traffic entering Los Coches Road. Lastly, existing utilities that are located within Via Diego and Los Coches Road, which conflict with the proposed system, would be relocated as part of the project.

Future maintenance of the proposed gravity flow system would be accessed within the County's right-of-way for Los Coches Road and Via Diego with parking of maintenance vehicles along the roadways. Traffic control may be needed during routine maintenance; therefore, an Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M), and Traffic Control Plan would be developed for ongoing maintenance as well as for construction activities. No road closures or night work will occur during construction activities. Lanes on Los Coches Road and Via Diego will remain open with traffic controls in place. The project's construction duration is estimated to be approximately three (3) months.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting (Briefly describe the project's surroundings):

The project site and surrounding area can be characterized as single-family residential and open space. Los Coches Road has wide asphalt lanes and concrete sidewalks with a generally flat topography. Rolling hills with large rock outcrops, native vegetation and ornamental landscaping can be observed from Los Coches Road. Located to the west of the project area are multiple utility boxes, a streetlight, and fire hydrant along with a chain linked fence and guard rail adjacent to the creek. To the east of the project area are residential housing, landscaped vegetation, and chain linked fences, and to the north are rock outcrops, rolling hills, a church, and guard rails, telephone poles, street signs, and a streetlamp.

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

<b><u>Permit Type/Action</u></b>	<b><u>Agency</u></b>
Clean Water Act, Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification	Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
Clean Water Act, Section 404 Permit – Dredge and Fill	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Streambed Alteration Agreement – California Fish and Wildlife Code, Section 1600	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan that includes consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

YES  
☒

NO  
☐

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB-52), consultation was conducted with culturally affiliated tribes. On June 9, 2022, the County Department of Public Works, Environmental Services Unit (County) sent letters to tribal representatives and followed up by phone or via email on June 27, July 7, July 12, and July 13, 2022.

Two (2) Native American tribes requested consultation: Jamul Indian Village (JIV) and Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Indians (Sycuan). Consultation with JIV occurred on July 5, 2022. During the consultation meeting, the County informed JIV that their staff participated in the extensive pedestrian survey with the County's consultant archaeologist which resulted in a negative survey. On July 23, 2022, the County received an email from the JIV representative that AB-52 had concluded.

Sycuan's request for consultation was submitted to the County on July 8, 2022. Although Sycuan acknowledged that the project boundaries were not within the recognized Sycuan Indian Reservation, they stated the project is within the boundaries of the Kumeyaay Nation's traditional territory. Accordingly, on July 8, 2022, and subsequently on July 13, 2022, the County requested a meeting to conduct the consultation with Sycuan, and in the interim, the County provided the draft Negative Cultural Resources Report prepared for the project. As of this writing, and after several attempts by the County to reach Sycuan, no further response has been received.

In addition, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians proactively provided feedback to the County's consultant (RECON Environmental, Inc.) on May 12 and May 13, 2022 in response to the project's Sacred Lands request performed by the Native American Heritage Commission. On June 9, 2022, the County directly notified Viejas of the proposed project under AB-52. After receiving no response, the County followed up via email on June 10 and June 27, 2022 to inquire about sacred lands or AB-52 consultation. At that time, the County confirmed it would comply with Viejas's requests for the project to provide adequate buffer zones to avoid sacred lands, as applicable, and to follow appropriate environmental laws, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Viejas responded via email on June 28, 2022 citing their original May 13, 2022 communication to the County's consultant. While Viejas did not formally request a consultation meeting under AB-52, the County has addressed Viejas's noted items, and no further action is needed.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:** The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project and involve at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or a "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

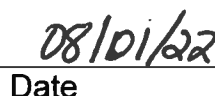
- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Aesthetics</u>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Agriculture &amp; Forestry Resources</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Air Quality</u>                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Biological Resources</u> |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

**DETERMINATION:** (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Public Works Environmental Services finds that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☒ On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Public Works Environmental Services finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Public Works Environmental Services finds that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

  
Signature

  
Date

Kimberly Jones  
Printed Name

Land Use/Environmental Planner III  
Title

## INSTRUCTIONS ON 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 Incorporated, 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. “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.
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 Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures that 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. 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

**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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

**Discussion/Explanation:**

A vista is a view from a particular location or composite views along a roadway or trail. Scenic vistas often refer to views of natural lands but may also be compositions of natural and developed areas, or even entirely of developed and unnatural areas, such as a scenic vista of a rural town and surrounding agricultural lands. What is scenic to one person may not be scenic to another, so the assessment of what constitutes a scenic vista must consider the perceptions of a variety of viewer groups.

The items that can be seen within a vista are visual resources. Adverse impacts to individual visual resources or the addition of structures or developed areas may or may not adversely affect the vista. Determining the level of impact to a scenic vista requires analyzing the changes to the vista as a whole and also to individual visual resources.

**No Impact:** The project site and surrounding area can be characterized as single-family residential and open space land use types. Los Coches Road has wide asphalt covered lanes and concrete sidewalks with a generally flat topography. Rolling hills with large rock outcrops, native vegetation and ornamental landscaping can be observed from Los Coches Road. Located to the west of the project area are multiple utility boxes, a streetlight, and fire hydrant along with a chain linked fence and guard rail adjacent to the creek. To the east of the project area are residential housing, landscaped vegetation, and chain linked fences, and to the north are rock outcrops, rolling hills, a church, and guard rails, telephone poles, street signs, and a streetlamp.

The proposed Los Coches Low Flow Urban Runoff Diversion to Sewer Project would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated. The proposed project's structural water quality, road and sidewalk improvements would not adversely change the surrounding aesthetics of the project area. The gravity flow system will be installed underground along with the proposed 36-inch RCP and new headwall, and improvements to the sidewalk, median and road surface would improve the surrounding area in addition to the existing road surface, median, and sidewalk improvements. Some vegetation would be removed during construction because the construction work would be required within the creek embankment area; however, the mature trees within the creek embankment will be protected in place, to the extent feasible. Construction will occur within the existing developed roadway and within County road-right-of-way. Modification of an existing storm drain infrastructure and road; sidewalk and median improvements would be consistent with the existing aesthetic of Lakeside and will not result in a significant visual change. Therefore, the proposed project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista.

- b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

State scenic highways refer to those highways that are officially designated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as scenic (Caltrans - California Scenic Highway Program). Generally, the area defined within a State scenic highway is the land adjacent to and visible from the vehicular right-of-way. The dimension of a scenic highway is usually identified using a motorist's line of vision, but a reasonable boundary is selected when the view extends to the distant horizon. The scenic highway corridor extends to the visual limits of the landscape abutting the scenic highway.

**No Impact:** The proposed project is not located near or visible within the viewshed of a State Scenic Highway. Table COS -1 of the County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element identifies four (4) roads that are part of the County Scenic Highway System located within approximately 2.5 miles of the proposed project site: 1) State Route 67; 2) Interstate 8; 3) El Monte Road; and 4) Willow Road. However, the proposed project will not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.

- c) In nonurbanized 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 points). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Visual character is the objective composition of the visible landscape within a viewshed. Visual character is based on the organization of the pattern elements line, form, color, and texture. Visual character is commonly discussed in terms of dominance, scale, diversity, and continuity. Visual quality is the viewer's perception of the visual environment and varies based on exposure, sensitivity, and expectation of the viewers. The existing visual character and quality of the project site and surrounding can be characterized as semi-rural residential, open space and medium industrial land uses. Existing development adjacent to the project site include single-family residential and open spaces. The proposed project's structural water quality improvements would be installed underground and within the embankment of Los Coches Creek and Los Coches Road. The existing sidewalk, road surface and median would improve the aesthetics and would be consistent with the rural aesthetic of Lakeside and would not result in a significant visual change.



The project will not result in cumulative impacts on visual character or quality because the proposed project, along with the projects listed in Section XXI, would not degrade the existing visual character, or quality of the site and its surroundings, or result in incompatible changes in visual character, or degrade the overall quality of a scenic vista. Therefore, the project will not result in any adverse project or cumulative level of effect on visual character or quality on-site or in the surrounding area.

- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not propose any use of outdoor lighting or building materials with highly reflective properties such as highly reflective glass or high-gloss surface colors. Therefore, the project will not create any new sources of light pollution that could contribute to skyglow, light trespass or glare and adversely affect day or nighttime views in area.

## **II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES** -- Would the project:

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance (Important Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, or other agricultural resources, to non-agricultural use?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site does not contain any agricultural resources, lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. The proposed installation of the structural water quality improvements, such as the trash capture treatment control device (DSBB) and improvements to the road surface, sidewalk and median, would not alter any surrounding agricultural lands to a non-agricultural use or limit future agricultural uses because the project area is limited to the existing road, the County Road right-of-way. Therefore, no agricultural resources including Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance will be converted to a non-agricultural use with the implementation of this project.

- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site is zoned Residential Single (RS) and is not under a Williamson Act Contract. The proposed project improvements are limited to the roadway, the creek embankment, and the County Road right-of-way. Therefore, the proposed project does not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract.

- c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), or 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site does not contain forest lands or timberland. The project site is located within an existing developed residential area. The County of San Diego does not have any existing Timberland Production Zones. In addition, the project is consistent with existing zoning and a rezone of the property is not proposed. Therefore, project implementation would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland production zones.

- d) Result in the loss of forest land, conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site does not contain any forest lands as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g), therefore project implementation would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use. In addition, the project is not located in the vicinity of offsite forest resources.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site and/or surrounding area within a 1-mile radius does not contain any active agricultural operations or lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. In addition, the project site and/or surrounding area does not contain forest land. Therefore, no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, forest land, or active agricultural operations will be converted to a non-agricultural or non-forest use.

**III. AIR QUALITY** -- Would the project:

- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the San Diego Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) or applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project involves the implementation of structural water quality improvements to an existing storm drain system, in addition to road, sidewalk and median improvements that does not propose a land use change or result in an increase of operational emissions before or after construction. Temporary emissions from the construction of the proposed project, anticipated to last approximately three (3) months, would be caused from the construction equipment, construction materials, outgassing and fugitive dust. However, emissions would be minimal, temporary, and localized because standard construction measures used to reduce emissions and dust would be required. The project would not result in a change in land use designation or zoning that would conflict with SANDAG growth projections. Therefore, the project would not affect implementation of applicable air quality plans or SANDAG growth projections used in development of the RAQS and SIP. As such, the proposed project would not conflict with either the RAQS or the SIP on a project-based or cumulative level and impact would be less than significant.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

San Diego County is presently in non-attainment for the 1-hour concentrations under the California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) for Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>). San Diego County is also presently in non-attainment for the annual geometric mean and for the 24-hour concentrations of Particulate Matter less than or equal to 10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>) under the CAAQS. O<sub>3</sub> is formed

when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) react in the presence of sunlight. VOC sources include any source that burns fuels (e.g., gasoline, natural gas, wood, oil); solvents; petroleum processing and storage; and pesticides. Sources of PM<sub>10</sub> in both urban and rural areas include motor vehicles, wood burning stoves and fireplaces, dust from construction, landfills, agriculture, wildfires, brush/waste burning, and industrial sources of windblown dust from open lands.

**Less Than Significant:** The project proposes to implement structural water quality improvements to an existing storm drain system, such as the installation of a full trash capture treatment control device (DSBB), 36-inch RCP and headwall, in addition to road, sidewalk and median improvements. Maintenance operations of the upgraded storm drain system to a gravity flow system would not substantially change from the previous facility operations after construction of the proposed project. Thus, operational emissions would not increase from before or after construction. Furthermore, the proposed project would not involve an increase in average daily trips (ADTs) or road capacity, as the project is limited to the modification of an existing storm drain system to a gravity flow system, and as a result, O<sub>3</sub> operational emissions from traffic would not increase. Additionally, the construction and operational emissions associated with the proposed project are not expected to create a cumulatively considerable impact nor a considerable net increase of PM<sub>10</sub>, or any O<sub>3</sub> precursors.

Air quality emissions associated with the project include emissions of PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and VOCs from the construction and grading activities. Grading operations associated with project construction would be subject to County of San Diego Grading Ordinance, which requires the implementation of dust control measures. Emissions from the construction phase would be minimal, temporary, and localized, resulting in PM<sub>10</sub> and VOC emissions below the screening-level criteria established by the County guidelines for determining significance.

In addition, a list of past, present and future projects within the surrounding area were evaluated and none of these projects emit significant amounts of criteria pollutants (refer to Section XXII). Mandatory Findings of Significance for a comprehensive list of the projects considered. The proposed project as well as the past, present and future projects within the surrounding area, have emissions below the screening-level criteria, therefore, the operational emissions associated with the proposed project are not expected to create a cumulatively considerable impact nor a considerable net increase of PM<sub>10</sub>, or any O<sub>3</sub> precursors.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

Air quality regulators typically define sensitive receptors as schools (Preschool-12<sup>th</sup> Grade), hospitals, resident care facilities, or day-care centers, or other facilities that may house individuals with health conditions that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. The County of San Diego also considers residences as sensitive receptors since they house children and the elderly.

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Single-family residences have been identified within a quarter mile (the radius determined by the SCAQMD in which the dilution of pollutants is typically significant) of the proposed project. However, the project does not propose permanent or temporary uses or activities that would result in exposure of these identified sensitive receptors to significant pollutant concentrations and will not place sensitive receptors near carbon monoxide hotspots. Also, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations because the proposed project as well as the listed projects have emissions below the screening-level criteria established by the County guidelines for determining significance.

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project is a structural water quality improvement project that will modify an existing storm drain system to a gravity flow system, and other site improvements, such as sidewalk, median, and road improvements. Some temporary nuisance odors may be generated from the diesel equipment being used during construction; however, any exposure to odors would be temporary and short term in duration. No operational or permanent source of objectionable odors would be associated with the proposed project. As such, the proposed project would not result in objectionable odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people.

#### **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 CDFWU.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated:** Based on the Biological Resources Survey Letter Report dated July 6, 2022, the project area supports native vegetation, specifically coast live oak woodland and southern willow scrub. The project area also contains non-native riparian and urban/developed while the surrounding survey area contains disturbed southern riparian scrub, non-native riparian, non-native grasslands, non-vegetated channel, eucalyptus woodland, disturbed habitat, and urban/developed lands. No special status plant species were observed or are expected to occur within the survey area.

Three (3) special status wildlife species, specifically the Monarch, Belding's orange-throated whiptail, and least Bell's vireo were detected within or adjacent to the survey area. Additionally, four (4) special status reptile species (Coronado skink, San Diego tiger whiptail, San Diego legless lizard, and San Diego ring-necked snake) have a moderate potential to occur within the survey area, and one (1) special bird species (Cooper's Hawk) has a moderate potential to nest within the survey area.

The proposed project has the potential to impact candidate, sensitive, and/or special status species that were observed in the biological survey area, as discussed below.

### **Belding's orange-throated whiptail**

The Belding's orange-throated whiptail is a CDFW watch list species, a County of San Diego Group 2 species, and is a covered species by the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). Two (2) Belding's orange-throated whiptails were observed during the biological resource field survey conducted on April 7, 2022 by RECON Environmental, Inc. (RECON). This species' habitat range from the coast to the Peninsular Mountain ranges from the Santa Ana River in Orange County and Colton in San Bernardino County south to the tip of Baja California, Mexico. They are found in various habitats but are mostly found in sandy areas of low, open sage scrub or chapparal, and found in buckwheat or sage habitats. One individual was observed between the sidewalk and coast live oak woodland vegetation survey area along Via Diego. The other individual was observed along the non-vegetated channel within the wildlife survey area. No individuals were observed within the project footprint.

The proposed project site contains a small amount of coast live oak woodland, southern willow scrub, and non-vegetated channel. The minor permanent and temporary impacts to these vegetation communities are not anticipated to impact the local or regional long-term survival of the species, and therefore, would not be considered a significant impact. Additionally, mitigation measures for permanent and temporary impacts to coast live oak woodland, southern willow scrub, and non-vegetated channel would offset any impacts to this species' habitat (discussed in next section).

### **Least Bell's Vireo**

Least Bell's vireo is federally and state listed as endangered, a County of San Diego Group 1 species, and a covered species by the MSCP. Their breeding range extends from northwestern Baja California, Mexico to the interior of northern California and as far north as Tehama County, California. Least Bell's vireo are exclusively found in riparian habitats, including cottonwood willow woodlands and forests, oak woodlands, and mule fat scrub, and dense canopy and understory is required for foraging and nesting, respectively. There is no U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designated critical habitat for least Bell's vireo within the survey area; however, one (1) least Bells' vireo was heard outside of the project footprint within the adjacent southern willow scrub of the survey area and has the potential to nest within the southern willow scrub.

Direct impacts and indirect impacts to nesting least Bell's vireo could result if vegetation clearing, grubbing, grading, and other construction activities are conducted during this species nesting season of March 15 to September 15. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to avoid direct impacts and to reduce the potential for indirect impacts to a less than significant impact to the least Bell's vireo species. The mitigation measures are discussed below.

### **Mitigation Measure:**

**M-BIO-1:** To avoid impacts to least Bell's vireo, grading, brush clearing, and all other construction within or adjacent to (within 300 feet of southern willow scrub) occupied habitat should be conducted between September 16 and March 14. However, if construction must occur within 300 feet of southern willow scrub between March 15 and September 15, the following actions would be required:

- a) A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting birds within suitable habitat to determine whether avian species are nesting within 300 feet of the construction area.
- b) If least Bell's vireo are nesting within vegetation to be removed, no grading or clearing of said vegetation shall occur within 300 feet of the active nest until the young have fledged and are independent of the nest.
- c) If least Bell's vireo are nesting within vegetation not to be removed, construction activity should be avoided within 300 feet of the active nest, if possible. If construction must occur within 300 feet of an active nest, temporary sound barriers may be required, or grading may be restricted in construction areas near the nest site to reduce noise levels. Temporary sound barriers must be placed within or surrounding the project footprint and not in the habitat outside the project boundary. In addition, an acoustician shall measure noise levels during construction activities at the edge of the project footprint near the occupied habitat closest to the nest. Noise levels must be less than 60 decibels (dB) averaged over a one-hour period on an A-weighted decibel (dB[A]) scale (i.e., 1-hour  $L_{eq}/dB[A]$ ) or the ambient noise level, whichever is greater.
- d) If no least Bell's vireo are observed nesting within 300 feet of the project boundary, no grading or construction restrictions associated with least Bell's vireo would apply. In addition, no restrictions are required for this species outside its nesting season.

### **Monarch**

The monarch butterfly is a federal candidate species and recognized as sensitive by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) due to the overwintering populations. Monarch butterflies have been known to roost in lemon-scented gum and Canary Island pine trees in San Diego County. One (1) monarch butterfly was observed outside of the project footprint within the adjacent coast live oak woodland during the biological resource field survey conducted on April 7, 2022.

The proposed project site contains a small amount of coast live oak woodland, approximately 103 square feet. Because the impacts to the monarch butterfly would occur in such a small area, the loss is not anticipated to impact the local or regional long-term survival of the species, and therefore, would not be considered a significant impact. Moreover, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in significant impacts to any roosting or overwintering sites, and habitat-based mitigation measures for impacts to coast live oak woodland would offset any impacts to the monarch's habitat.

### **Other Special Status Wildlife Species Not Observed with Potential to Occur**

Five special status wildlife species have the potential to occur within the project site but were not observed. Four of these species are reptiles. The Coronado skink and San Diego legless lizard

are CDFW species of special concern and a County Group 2 species. The San Diegan tiger whiptail has no official federal or state status but was a former USFWS federal candidate for listing and is also a County Group 2 species. The San Diego ring-necked snake is a County Group 2 species.

All four reptile species (Coronado skink, San Diego legless lizard, San Diegan whiptail, and San Diego ring-necked snake) have a moderate potential to occur within the project survey area because of: 1) the presence of non-native grasslands and the coastal live oak woodland located north of Los Coches Road and in both of the northwest and southwest corners of the survey area; 2) the presence of herbaceous layers with loose soil in the southern willow scrub, disturbed southern riparian scrub and the non-vegetated channel located east and west of Los Coches Road; 3) the presence of the non-vegetated channel of Los Coches Creek located on the eastern and western side of Los Coches Road; 4) the presence of rocky areas in wet locations, such as the southern willow scrub located east of Los Coches Road, respectively.

However, because the project would only result in disturbance to a small amount of habitat (combined 0.06 acre) relative to the amount of coast live oak woodland, southern willow scrub, and non-vegetated channel in the survey area, this disturbance is not anticipated to impact the local or regional long-term survival of these species and, therefore, would not be considered significant. In addition, mitigation for permanent and temporary impacts to coast live oak woodland, southern willow scrub, and non-vegetated channel would offset any impacts to these species' habitat.

The fifth special status wildlife species (Cooper's Hawk) is a CDFW watch list species, a MSCP covered species and a County Group 1 species. Cooper's Hawk has moderate potential to occur and nest within the project survey area because of the presence of suitable trees for nesting within the coast live oak woodland, eucalyptus woodland, and ornamental vegetation located on the south side of Los Coches Road.

Direct impacts to migratory and nesting birds, including Cooper's hawk, could result if nests are accidentally destroyed through the removal of disturbed land during project construction, if these activities occur during the general bird and raptor breeding season (collectively between January 15 and September 15). The following mitigation measures would prevent direct impacts to migratory and nesting birds, including the Cooper's hawk species.

#### **Mitigation Measure:**

**M-BIO-2:** If construction initiation occurs between January 15 and September 15, a pre-construction nesting bird and raptor survey of the project impact area shall be completed by a qualified biologist prior to vegetation removal. The pre-construction survey shall be conducted prior to the start of construction activities (including removal of vegetation). If any active nests are detected, the area will be flagged and mapped along with a buffer as recommended by the qualified biologist. The buffer area(s) established by the qualified biologist will be avoided until the nesting cycle is complete or it is determined that the nest is no longer active. The qualified biologist shall be a person familiar with bird breeding behavior and capable of identifying the bird species of San Diego County by sight and sound and determining alterations of behavior as a result of human interaction. Buffers will be based on species-appropriate buffers and/or local topography and line of sight, species behavior and tolerance to disturbance, and existing disturbance levels, as determined appropriate by the qualified biologist.



In conclusion, any 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 are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

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 US Fish and Wildlife Service?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated:** Based on the Biological Resources Letter Report dated July 6, 2022, prepared by RECON, nine vegetation communities were identified in the project survey area: coast live oak woodland (MSCP Tier I), southern willow scrub (MSCP Tier I), disturbed habitat (MSCP Tier IV), disturbed southern riparian scrub (MSCP Tier I), non-native riparian (MSCP Tier I), non-native grassland (MSCP Tier III), non-vegetated channel (no MSCP Tier, but considered sensitive because its association with Los Coches Creek), eucalyptus woodland (MSCP Tier IV), and urban/developed (no MSCP Tier).

Of these nine vegetation communities surveyed, only two sensitive vegetation communities are located within the 0.40-acre project site and would be impacted by the project (coast live oak woodland and southern willow scrub).

Permanent impacts would involve the reconstruction of a new headwall and new outfall connection of the 36-inch RCP from the full trash capture device, whereas the temporary impacts would include surrounding workspace and staging area used for the construction of the project.

As shown in Table 1 below, the proposed project would permanently impact 0.01 acre of southern willow scrub. The southern willow scrub impact area does not qualify as a Biological Resource Core Area because the project site is located outside of the pre-approved mitigation area and regional corridor wherein the project impacts are not expected to impact the long-term survival of special status species. In addition, temporary impacts would occur to 0.05 acre of southern willow scrub and less than 0.01 acre (103 square feet) of coast live oak woodland.

In addition, the project would also result in impacts to urban/developed land non-vegetated channel; however, these two vegetation communities/land cover types would not be considered significant because the land cover types are not sensitive.

The following mitigation would be implemented in accordance with the Biological Mitigation Ordinance.

**Mitigation Measure:**

**M-BIO-3:** In-kind mitigation for 0.01 acre of permanent impacts to southern willow scrub would be implemented at a 1:1 ratio. This compensatory mitigation shall be accomplished

in the form of either enhancement, restoration, and/or creation of habitat; deduction of credits from a County-approved mitigation area; or other off-site preservation totaling 0.01 acre of in-kind or better habitat. Mitigation for impacts to temporarily impacted sensitive vegetation communities shall occur at 1:1 via the restoration of these temporary impact areas to their pre-impact conditions.

**Table 1**  
**Impacts and Mitigation for Sensitive Vegetation Communities**

Vegetation Community/ Land Cover Type	Existing Vegetation in Survey Area (acres)	Temporary Impacts <sup>1</sup>	Permanent Impacts (acres)	Mitigation Ratio <sup>2</sup>	Mitigation (acres)
Coast Live Oak Woodland (71160)	0.26	<0.01 acre (103 sq. ft.)	-	1:1	-
Southern Willow Scrub (63320)	0.20	0.05 acre	0.01	1:1	0.01
Disturbed Southern Riparian Scrub (63300)	0.18	-	-	1:1	-
Non-native Riparian (65000)	0.05	-	-	1:1	-
Non-native Grassland (42200)	0.06	-	-	1:1	-
Non-vegetated Channel (64200)	0.10	<0.01 acre (13 sq. ft.)	-	1:1	-
Eucalyptus woodland (79100)	0.56	-	-	-	-
Disturbed Habitat (11000)	0.25	-	-	-	-
Urban/Developed (12000) <sup>3</sup>	2.33	0.22 acre	0.12	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.89</b>	<b>0.27 acre</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.01</b>

sq. ft. = square feet

Source: Biological Resources Letter Report prepared by RECON Environmental Services, Inc., July 2022

<sup>1</sup> Areas of temporary impacts to coast live oak woodland, southern willow scrub, and non-vegetated channel would be restored at 1:1 to their pre-impact conditions.

<sup>2</sup> Ratio is based on the location of impact being outside of a Biological Core Resource Area, and the mitigation occurring within a Biological Core Resource Area.

<sup>3</sup> 0.11 acre of non-vegetated channel culverted beneath the road included in the total urban/developed acreage as no impacts will occur to the culvert below the road.

Therefore, with implementation of the above mitigation measures, project impacts to riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

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?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
 ☐ Less than Significant Impact  
☒ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
 ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated:** Based on an Aquatic Resources Letter Report dated July 6, 2022 prepared by RECON, a total of 0.83 acre of riparian and non-wetland aquatic resources were delineated within the review area (project area and buffer). No federal wetlands were present within the review area because the three (3) wetland parameters were not met. However, the proposed project would result in direct, permanent, and temporary impacts of aquatic resources under the following jurisdictions through the removal of vegetation and fill: 1) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (waters of the U.S.), 2) Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWCQB) (non-wetland waters of the state), and 3) California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (streambed and riparian habitat).

The project would result in permanent impacts to a small patch of riparian habitat (0.01 acre) south of Los Coches Road. The riparian habitat consists of southern willow scrub. Additionally, temporary impacts may occur to 0.05 acre of CDFW riparian habitat, and 0.0003 acre of non-wetland waters under each jurisdiction – USACE, RWQCB and CDFW, which overlap.

Permanent impacts to non-wetland waters would be mitigated as described below and summarized in Table 2 of this Initial Study. Ultimately, the project would result in a no-net-loss of jurisdictional resources through mitigation at a 2:1 ratio. In addition, since the project would result in permanent and temporary impacts to USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW jurisdictional resources, the County would apply for the following permits: a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit from the USACE, a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW, and a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB. The proposed mitigation would be implemented to reduce impacts to jurisdictional resources to a level of less than significant.

### Mitigation Measure:

**M-BIO-4:** The project would result in the permanent loss of the following jurisdictional resources: 0.01 acre of CDFW riparian habitat. To mitigate this permanent impact, mitigation will be in the form of either enhancement, restoration, and/or creation of habitat; deduction of credits from a County-approved mitigation area; or other off-site preservation. This is the same 0.01-acre impact associated with the habitat-based mitigation described in M-BIO-1; however, mitigation is proposed at a higher ratio (2:1) for permanent impacts to CDFW jurisdiction. Mitigation for proposed temporary impacts to a total of 0.0003 acre (13 square feet) of wetland waters of the U.S./State and an additional 0.05 acre of CDFW riparian would occur via the restoration of these temporary impact areas to their pre-impact conditions. Final detailed mitigation ratios and configuration would be determined through negotiation with the resource agencies.

<b>Table 2</b> <b>Impacts and Mitigation for Jurisdictional Resources</b>					
Jurisdictional Resources	Existing in Survey Area	Permanent Impact	Temporary Impact <sup>2</sup>	Mitigation Ratio	Mitigation for Permanent Impacts
<b>USACE Jurisdiction</b>					
Non-wetland waters of the U.S.	0.21 ac (387 lf)	-	0.0003 ac (13 sq. ft) <sup>1</sup>	2:1	-
<b>RWQCB Jurisdiction</b>					
Non-wetland waters of the State	0.21 ac (387 lf)	-	0.0003 ac (13 sq. ft) <sup>1</sup>	2:1	-
<b>CDFW Jurisdiction</b>					
Streambed	0.21 ac (387 lf)	-	0.0003 ac (13 sq. ft) <sup>1</sup>	2:1	-
Riparian Habitat	0.73 ac	0.01 ac	0.05 ac	2:1	0.02 ac
<b>TOTAL MITIGATION</b>					<b>0.02 ac</b>
<small>If = linear feet; ac = acre; sq. ft. = square feet  Source: Biological Resources Letter Report prepared by RECON Environmental Services, Inc., July 2022  <sup>1</sup> USACE non-wetland waters of the U.S., RWQCB non-wetland state waters, and CDFW streambed overlap.  <sup>2</sup> Temporary impact areas (coast live oak woodland, southern willow scrub, and non-vegetated channel) would be restored at 1:1 to their pre-impact conditions.</small>					

Furthermore, to avoid indirect impacts to adjacent jurisdictional resources that could potentially result in altered hydrology, fugitive dust, chemical and particulate pollution, and introduction of

non-native plant species during project construction, the following design features would be implemented to prevent indirect impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waterways.

**Project Design Features:**

- Prior to any grading, clearing, or construction activities, a qualified biologist will be retained to provide periodic biological monitoring during project construction to prevent inadvertent disturbance to potentially jurisdictional wetlands and waters. The project biologist shall verify the implementation of the following measures during construction:
- Prior to any grading, clearing, or construction activities, the project applicant shall install prominently colored Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing or silt fencing wherever the limits of grading are adjacent to potential jurisdictional wetlands and waters, as identified by the qualified biologist. Fencing shall remain in place during all construction activities.
- During construction, the project shall use silt fences, fiber rolls, gravel bags, and soil stabilization measures such as erosion control mats and hydroseeding as necessary and applicable.
- Staging/storage areas for construction equipment and materials will not be located in jurisdictional wetlands or waters.
- No spoils, debris, rubbish, cement, or concrete, or washing thereof, oil, or petroleum products will be stored where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into jurisdictional waters.
- No equipment maintenance or fueling will be performed within or near jurisdictional wetlands or waters, where petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter these areas. Any equipment or vehicles driven and/or operated adjacent to a jurisdictional water will be checked and maintained by the operator daily to prevent leaks of oil or other petroleum products.
- When construction operations are completed, any excess materials or debris will be removed from the work area.

While the project would result in permanent and temporary impacts to potential jurisdictional resources, treatment of the dry weather flows during dry season through the installation of a gravity flow system and upgrading the headwall and piping for proper drainage and support will improve water quality. Therefore, the proposed project, along with other current and reasonably foreseeable projects would not have a significant cumulative impact to jurisdictional resources.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant Impact:** Based on the Biological Resources Letter Report dated July 6, 2022 prepared by RECON, the project site is located in a developed area and outside of any regional wildlife corridors, and, therefore, is not anticipated to result in impacts to regional wildlife movement. The proposed project would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated. However, the existing culvert within the project impact area would not be affected by the project and would not obstruct wildlife movement through the culvert.

Therefore, the project would not substantially interfere with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impeded the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

- e) Conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project is located within the boundaries of the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment of the MSCP, which is located outside of the Pre-Approved Mitigation Area. The project would comply with the County's MSCP Subarea Plan, Biology Guidelines, and BMO; therefore, the project would not affect the subregional NCCP Process.

In accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, if construction activities are to occur within the avian or raptor breeding seasons and/or within 300 feet of occupied southern willow scrub as discussed in Biological Resources Section IV(a), pre-construction surveys proposed in mitigation measures **M-BIO-1** and **M-BIO-2** would preclude impacts to nesting birds.

In addition, construction activities would have the potential to impact sensitive vegetation communities; however, implementation of mitigation measures **M-BIO-3** and **M-BIO-4** would mitigate for potentially significant impacts to these vegetation communities. Furthermore, project design features as discussed in Biological Resources Section IV(c) would prevent indirect impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waterways.

Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources.

**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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Based on an analysis of records obtained from the California Historical Resources Information System, South Coastal Information System (SCIC) on April 11, 2022, 53 cultural investigations occurred within the survey area (1-mile radius search buffer). Twenty-eight cultural resources are recorded within the search area: 18 are prehistoric (8 of which are isolates), 7 are historic-era resources, one is a multicomponent resource (comprised of both prehistoric and historic resources), one form is missing information, and one site was subsumed. Historic resources within the survey area include single-family houses, trash scatters, a dairy complex, a water tank, and some isolated ceramic sherds. Also included within the search buffer are three historic addresses. One previously recorded cultural resource is located within the project footprint or Area of Potential Effect (APE).

A pedestrian survey of the 0.40-acre project area was conducted on April 18, 2022 by County-approved RECON archaeologist, Nathaniel Yerka, and accompanied by Jose “Pepé” Aguilar from the Jamul Indian Village. The results of the survey are provided in a Negative Cultural Resources Report dated July 19, 2022 prepared by RECON.

Although historic resources have been documented within one mile of the project, no historic resources were observed within the project APE. Therefore, due to the fully disturbed nature of the site, based on previous cultural resource recordings, and prior development of the area, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA §15064.5.

- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant Impact:** Based on an analysis of records obtained from the California Historical Resources Information System, South Coastal Information System (SCIC) on April 11, 2022, 53 cultural investigations occurred within the survey area. In addition, a pedestrian survey of the 0.40-acre project area was conducted on April 18, 2022 by County-approved RECON archaeologist, Nathaniel Yerka, and accompanied by Jose “Pepé” Aguilar from the Jamul Indian Village. The results of the SCIC records and pedestrian survey are evaluated in a Negative Cultural Resources Report dated July 19, 2022 prepared by RECON.

According to the SCIC records search, the proposed project's APE includes a portion of one archaeological resource (P-37-005046), which was originally recorded in 1979 by A.C Oetting. A large milling area was identified with 13 slicks, 15 basins, and 1 mortar on numerous boulders located on the south side of Los Coches Creek. In addition, two sherds five feet from the road and one flake with one sherd were identified on a hilltop, that may have been associated with the milling site, during a 1991 road widening survey of Los Coches Road by Roth and Associates. Two shovel test pits were excavated with no subsurface recovery. It was determined that the western portion of the milling site was destroyed by the construction of Los Coches Road. In addition, further construction and monitoring of the area occurred in 2019 in the western edge of the mapped site boundary. No cultural materials were observed during excavation or observed within the APE. Based upon further review of the 1979 site descriptions and sketch maps made by Oetting, it is likely that the resource does not extend across Los Coches Road.

Most of the survey area includes the developed Via Diego and the Los Coches Road. Through the cultural resources' records investigation and based on existing conditions, the project area is fully disturbed because of construction of the bridge that crosses Los Coches Creek, the construction of Via Diego, and including other supplemental water diversion infrastructure, such as the concrete headwall of the creek crossing, concrete gutter, and the existing RCP. In addition, it is anticipated that the project activities would require excavation in the previously disturbed soils to remove the existing 30-inch RCP, headwall, and other water quality infrastructure.

Based upon the project description, the proposed project would encounter similarly disturbed conditions due to the site fully being disturbed, the low likelihood of archaeological resources being present based on previous cultural resource recordings, and prior development of the area, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA §15064.5.

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** Based on an analysis of records obtained from the California Historical Resources Information System, South Coastal Information System (SCIC) on April 11, 2022, 53 cultural investigations occurred within the survey area. It was determined that that the mapped boundary of one archaeological resource (P-37-005046) was partially recorded within the current project's APE. Most of the survey area includes the developed Via Diego and the Los Coches Road. Through the cultural resources' records investigation and based on existing conditions, the project area is fully disturbed because of construction of the bridge that crosses Los Coches Creek, the construction of Via Diego, and other supplemental water diversion infrastructure, such as the concrete headwall of the creek crossing, concrete gutter, and the existing RCP. In addition, it is anticipated that the project activities would require excavation in the previously disturbed soils to remove the existing 30-inch RCP and headwall. In addition, it is anticipated that the project activities would require excavation in the previously disturbed soils to remove

the existing 30-inch RCP, headwall, and other water quality infrastructure. Therefore, it has been determined that the project will not disturb any human remains because the project site does not include a dedicated cemetery or any archaeological resources that might contain interred human remains.

Nonetheless, if human remains are discovered during construction, work shall halt in that area and the procedures set forth in the California Public Resources Code (Section 5097.98), State Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5), and Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act would be followed.

Therefore, due to the site fully being disturbed, the low likelihood of historical resources being present based on previous cultural resource recordings, and prior development of the area, the project would not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.

**VI. ENERGY** -- Would the project:

- a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project involves improvement to an existing storm drain system to a gravity flow system for the purpose of improving water quality that does not involve or introduce a new source of energy consumption. Temporary consumption of energy resources would occur during construction, maintenance operations. Compliance with local, state, and federal regulations, such as limiting engine idling times and requiring recycling debris associated with the project, would reduce short-term energy demand during the project's construction and maintenance activities to the extent possible. The project would not result in a wasteful or inefficient energy use. Therefore, the project will not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during maintenance activities.

- b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** State and local authorities regulate energy consumption and use through various programs. The regulations are intended to reduce energy include, among others, California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 6-Energy Efficiency Standards and



California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 11-California Green Building Standards. Temporary energy consumption is proposed during construction of the structural water quality improvements, and only minimal energy consumption would occur during project maintenance activities with the maintenance area being limited to the roadway, the creek embankment and culvert, and the newly built structural water quality facilities, such as the gravity flow system and other improvements.

**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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project site is underlain by cretaceous plutonic rock. According to the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping Application, the proposed project is not within a quaternary or pre-quaternary fault zone, therefore, the project is not located in a fault rupture hazard zone identified by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, Special Publication 42, Revised 1997, Fault-Rupture Hazards Zones in California, or located within any other area with substantial evidence of a known fault. Therefore, there will be no impact from the exposure of people or structures to adverse effects from a known fault-rupture hazard zone as a result of this project.

- ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** To ensure the structural integrity of the water quality improvements, the project's design and construction would be required to follow the California Building Code and the County Code. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects from strong seismic ground shaking.

- iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
|---|--|

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project site is not within a “Potential Liquefaction Area” as identified in the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Geologic Hazards. The project proposes the installation of structural water quality improvements and other road and sidewalk improvements. Therefore, there will be no impact from the exposure of people or structures to adverse effects from a known area susceptible to ground failure, including liquefaction. In addition, since liquefaction potential at the site is low, earthquake-induced lateral spreading is not considered to be a seismic hazard at the site and impacts would be less than significant.

iv. Landslides?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact  
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Landslide Susceptibility Areas were developed based on landslide risk profiles included in the *Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, San Diego, CA* (URS, 2004). Landslide risk areas from this plan were based on data including steep slopes (greater than 25%); soil series data (SANDAG based on USGS 1970s series); soil-slip susceptibility from USGS; and Landslide Hazard Zone Maps (limited to western portion of the County) developed by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology (DMG). Also included within Landslide Susceptibility Areas are gabbroic soils on slopes steeper than 15% in grade because these soils are slide prone.

The site is located within a “Landslide Susceptibility Area” as identified in the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Geologic Hazards. The proposed project would improve water quality and other road and sidewalk enhancements. The project would not expose people or structures to landslides as the project would install structural water quality, pedestrian, and road improvements within the County right-of-way. Therefore, there will be no potentially significant impact from the exposure of people or structures to adverse effects from adverse effects of landslides.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact  
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** According to the Soil Survey of San Diego County, the project area soil is identified as Tujunga sand 0 to 5 percent slopes that has a low soil erodibility rating

as indicated by the Soil Survey for the San Diego Area, prepared by the US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation and Forest Service dated December 1973. Surrounding soils include Ramona sandy loam 5 to 9 percent slopes, Vista coarse sandy loam 15 to 30 percent slopes, Grangeville fine sandy loam 0 – 2 percent slopes, Cienega very rocky coarse sandy loam 30 to 75 percent slopes, and Vista rocky coarse sandy loam 15 to 30 percent slopes. Additionally, there are no high shrink soils within the project area and implementation of appropriate best management practices (BMPs) during construction would minimize erosion. Therefore, the project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil for the following reasons:

- i. The project will not result in unprotected erodible soils; will not alter existing drainage patterns; and will not develop steep slopes.
- ii. A Storm Water Quality Management Plan (SWQMP) has been prepared for the project. The SWQMP will include the following Best Management Practices to ensure sediment does not erode from the project site: 1) erosion control for disturbed slopes: a) vegetation stabilization planting; b) hydraulic stabilization hydroseeding; 2) erosion control for disturbed flat areas (slope<5%): a) County standard lot perimeter protection detail; b) mulch, straw, wood chips, soil application; 3) sediment control for all disturbed areas: a) silt fence, b) fiber rolls (straw wattles), c) gravel and sand bags; d) storm drain inlet protection; 4) preventing offsite tracking of sediment: a) street sweeping and vacuuming; 5) materials management: a) material delivery & storage; b) spill prevention and control; and 6) waste management: a) waste management concrete waste management; b) solid waste management; c) sanitary waste management and hazardous waste management. Permanent post-construction erosion control involves the installation of a rip rap energy dissipater as a best management practice (BMP) at the outlet of the new storm drainpipe diversion.
- iii. The project involves grading. However, the project is required to comply with the San Diego County Code of Regulations, Title 8, Zoning and Land Use Regulations, Division 7, Sections 87.414 (DRAINAGE - EROSION PREVENTION) and 87.417 (PLANTING). Compliance with these regulations minimizes the potential for water and wind erosion.

Due to these factors, it has been found that the project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil on a project level. In addition, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact because all the of past, present and future projects included on the list of projects that involve grading or land disturbance are required to follow the requirements of the San Diego County Code of Regulations, Title 8, Zoning and Land Use Regulations, Division 7, Sections 87.414 (DRAINAGE - EROSION PREVENTION) and 87.417 (PLANTING); Order 2001-01 (NPDES No. CAS 0108758), adopted by the San Diego Region RWQCB on February 21, 2001 and addendum; County Watershed Protection, Storm Water Management, and Discharge Control Ordinance (WPO); and County Storm water Standards Manual adopted on February 20, 2002, and amended January 10, 2003 (Ordinance No. 9426). Refer to XVIII. Mandatory Findings of Significance for a comprehensive list of the projects considered.

- 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 an on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project is comprised of structural water quality improvements, such as the installation of the gravity flow system to capture and divert dry weather flows, pedestrian, and road surface improvements. The project involves 146 cubic yards of grading that would result in the creation of areas of cut and areas underlain by fill. However, no buildings are being proposed as part of the project. In addition, the project site is not located in a fault rupture hazard zone, therefore, the project is not located on an unstable geologic unit or soil, nor would it cause the area to become unstable, so the potential for impacts due to the implementation of the project would be less than significant. For further information regarding landslides, liquefaction, and lateral spreading, refer to VI Geology and Soils, Question a., iii-iv listed above.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project does not contain expansive soils as defined by Table 18-I-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994). The soils on-site is Tujunga sand 0 to 5 percent slopes. This soil has a shrink-swell behavior of low and represent no substantial risks to life or property. Therefore, the project will not create a substantial risk to life or property. This was confirmed by staff review of the Soil Survey for the San Diego Area, prepared by the US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation and Forest Service dated December 1973.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated. The project does not propose any septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems since no wastewater will be generated.

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** A review of the County's Paleontological Resources Maps indicates that the project is located entirely on cretaceous plutonic rock which does not have a paleontological sensitivity rating and no paleontological monitoring is required and, therefore, has no potential for producing fossil remains. The site does not contain any unique geologic features that have been listed in the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for Unique Geology Resources nor does the site support any known geologic characteristics that have the potential to support unique geologic features.

**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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

The State of California has developed guidelines to address the significance of climate change impacts based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, which contains two significance criteria for evaluating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of a project. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4 states that the "determination of the significance of greenhouse gas emissions calls for a careful judgment by the lead agency consistent with the provisions in Section 15064. A lead agency should make a good-faith effort, based to the extent possible on scientific and factual data, to describe, calculate or estimate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from a project."

Section 15064.4(b) further states that a lead agency should consider the following nonexclusive list of factors when assessing the significance of GHG emissions:

- The extent to which the project may increase or reduce GHG emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting.
- The extent to which project emissions exceed a threshold of significance that the lead agency determines applies to the project; and
- The extent to which the project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement statewide, regional, or local plans for the reduction or mitigation for GHG emissions.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(h)(1) states that “the lead agency shall consider whether the cumulative impact is significant and whether the effects of the project are cumulatively considerable.” A cumulative impact may be significant when the project’s incremental effect, though individually limited, is cumulatively considerable.

GHGs include carbon dioxide, methane, hydrofluorocarbons, and nitrous oxide, among others. Human-induced GHG emissions are a result of energy production and consumption, and personal vehicle use, among other sources.

The County of San Diego adopted a comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP) in February 2018 that inventories existing GHG emissions in the unincorporated County and from County operations and outlines how emissions will be reduced over time to meet the statewide 2030 GHG emissions reduction target. The CAP was subsequently litigated, and on September 30, 2020, the County Board of Supervisors voted to set aside its approval of the 2018 CAP. However, the County CAP continues to serve as guidance for the County’s long-term GHG emissions reduction goals, including the identification of required GHG emissions reduction measures, and continues to be the best available source regarding the County’s GHG emissions data and emissions forecasts, as the data was not challenged in the lawsuit. A CAP update is in process that will identify necessary actions for the County, based on anticipated future GHG emissions from the current General Plan Land Use Element. As a result, a project that is consistent with the County’s General Plan and would identify and implement applicable GHG emissions reduction strategies, would generate less than significant GHG emissions, and therefore, would comply with the County’s efforts to achieve state reduction targets.

In the interim, the County of San Diego Department of Public Works (DPW) prepared a Greenhouse Gas Guidance Memorandum, dated November 24, 2020, with Harris & Associates (DPW GHG Guidance Memorandum), to estimate the potential GHG emissions associated with recurring infrastructure maintenance activities that DPW regularly performs. The DPW GHG Guidance Memorandum uses an established screening level that determines which projects warrant a project-specific climate impact analysis.

As explained in the DPW GHG Memorandum, a screening level based on the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association’s (CAPCOA) report CEQA & Climate Change has typically been used to determine whether further analysis would be needed to examine the GHG impacts of a proposed project. CAPCOA developed a specific screening threshold by analyzing the capture of 90 percent or more of future discretionary development for residential and commercial projects across the state. A screening level that would capture 90 percent of aggregate annual GHG emissions would not impede achievement of the statewide GHG emissions reduction targets codified by Assembly Bill 32 (2006) and Senate Bill 32 (2016), and therefore, impacts under CEQA would be less than cumulatively considerable.

The annual emissions screening level of 900 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> was originally developed to address operational impact of the GHG emissions from land use development. Since the introduction of the CAPCOA guidance, several air districts in the state have issued additional guidance that construction emissions should be included in assessment of operational GHG emissions by amortizing the total GHG construction emissions over the lifespan of a project, and then adding that amortized total to the operational emissions. This approach ensures all GHG emissions that occur from a project are included in the assessment. While similar to land use developments, different improvements or maintenance activities can vary depending on the improvement, unlike

typical land use developments where an average lifespan is used, infrastructure projects should be assessed based on the specific improvement lifespan.

Although the 2018 CAP was rescinded, its quantified emissions demonstrated that construction activity accounts for less than one percent of annual GHG. Accordingly, a screening level of 900 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> for ongoing emissions would represent capture of 99 percent of total community emissions. Therefore, it can be reasonably anticipated that a contribution to ongoing annual GHG emissions of less than 900 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> would not be cumulatively considerable and would not interfere with the County or state plans to achieve 2030 emissions reductions targets.

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project involves structural water quality improvements such as the installation of a gravity flow system which to capture and divert dry weather flows from an existing storm drain to an existing County sewer system. In addition, the proposed project would involve improvements to sidewalk, curb, gutter, and road resurface within the project area. Temporary emissions would occur during the installation of the proposed project that could include removal of construction debris, the hauling of equipment and materials and by the construction crew commuting to and from the project site. The proposed project does not involve land use development that would generate long-term operational impacts because the project is limited to emissions from construction activities only. Therefore, emissions from the construction phase would be minimal, temporary, and localized and would end once the project is constructed. Future maintenance emissions of the structural water quality improvements would involve temporary, minimum, and localized emissions that would not be any different between the maintenance operations before the proposed project is implemented.

The project proposes grading operations would involve approximately 146 cubic yards for the entire project and involves installation of an underground trash capture system, upgrades to existing drainage pipeline segments, headwall replacement, installation of a water dissipater (riprap) within the culvert area, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and road surface improvements that would include grading and materials hauling.

As discussed above, the DPW GHG Guidance Memorandum was prepared to estimate the potential GHG emissions associated with recurring infrastructure maintenance activities that DPW regularly performs. As such, the following Table 3 outlines the various categories analyzed in the DPW GHG Guidance Memorandum that are most applicable to the proposed project, including their estimated quantified emissions.

<b>Table 3 - GHG Emissions from Proposed Project</b>					
Activity Category	Gross Emissions Rate (MT CO <sub>2e</sub> )	Project Units <sup>a</sup>	GHG Emissions (MT CO <sub>2e</sub> )	Facility Lifetime (years)	Amortized GHG Emissions (MT CO <sub>2e</sub> )
Line Relining or Replacement (Water or Sewer)	205.7 per mile	0.10 mile	20.57	30	0.686
Concrete Pathway Installation (curb, gutter, sidewalk)	31.1 per mile	0.10 mile	3.11	30	0.104
Asphalt Concrete Resurfacing	26.5 per mile per lane	0.10 mile	2.65	20	0.133
Culvert Rehabilitation	4.04 per culvert	1 culvert <sup>b</sup>	4.04	40	0.101
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>30.37</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1.024</b>
Source: Greenhouse Gas Guidance Memorandum (Harris 2020) <sup>a</sup> The entire project site is approximately 545 linear feet (i.e., 0.10 mile). <sup>b</sup> The project includes new headwall at Los Coches Creek and establish connection with the new 36-inch RCP. The minimum unit (1) was applied; therefore, 4.04 MT is likely an overestimation for these minor improvements.					

As shown in the table above, the proposed project would result in a total of 30.37 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> GHG emissions from construction activities. When amortized over each facilities' lifecycle, the assumed average lifespan of the structural water quality improvements, the proposed construction activities would contribute approximately 1.024 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> per year. Accordingly, the construction emissions would not exceed 900 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> per year. Therefore, GHG impacts from construction of the project would be less than significant.

The project would not result in additional vehicular traffic because the project is upgrading and improving public water quality, road, and pedestrian infrastructures. Furthermore, the project's incremental contribution to cumulative GHG emissions is determined to not be cumulatively considerable because emissions are far below relevant numerical thresholds. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** In 2006, the State passed the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, commonly referred to as AB 32, which set the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for the State of California into law. The law requires that by 2020, state emissions must be reduced to 1990 levels by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from significant sources via regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions. Assembly Bill 32 directed the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to prepare and approve a Scoping Plan to achieve the maximum



technologically feasible and cost-effective GHG emissions reductions from sources or categories of sources of GHGs by 2020 and to update the Scoping Plan every 5 years. The most recently adopted update (2017 Scoping Plan) outlines the framework for achieving the 2030 reductions as established in Executive Order B-30-15 and Senate Bill 32. The 2017 Scoping Plan identifies GHG emissions reductions by emissions sector to achieve a statewide emissions level that is 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. CARB recommends statewide targets of no more than 6 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> per capita by 2050 (CARB 2017). Therefore, the 2017 Scoping Plan is the applicable plan with which the project must demonstrate consistency regarding state goals. It should be noted that a Draft 2022 Scoping Plan has also been published; however, at the time of this writing the 2022 Scoping Plan has not been adopted.

Senate Bill 375 (SB 375), passed in 2008, links transportation and land use planning with global warming. It requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to set regional targets for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles. Under this law, if regions develop integrated land use, housing and transportation plans that meet SB 375 targets, new projects in these regions can be relieved of certain review requirements under CEQA. SANDAG has prepared a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) which is a new element of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The strategy identifies how regional greenhouse gas reduction targets, as established by the ARB, will be achieved through development patterns, transportation infrastructure investments, and/or transportation measures or policies that are determined to be feasible.

The proposed project would comply with statewide targets and regional regulations for GHG emissions reductions because it would include improvements and upgrades to an existing public water quality, road and pedestrian infrastructures that will be used in the same or similar capacity. The project would not result in additional vehicular traffic because the project is upgrading and improving existing public infrastructures, and therefore, would not conflict with the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

In addition, as demonstrated in the previous section, construction of the proposed project is estimated to emit a total of approximately 30.37 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> or 1.024 MT CO<sub>2e</sub> annually when amortized and would be well below the applicable threshold. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to cumulative GHG emissions is determined to not be cumulatively considerable. Impacts would be less than significant. As such, the project would not conflict with the County CAP or GHG goals and policies of the General Plan. Therefore, the project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

**IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS** -- Would the project:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Exposure of the public or the environment to hazardous materials could occur if the following conditions occurred: improper handling or use of hazardous materials or hazardous wastes, particularly by untrained personnel; transportation accidents; environmentally improper disposal methods; and/or fire, explosion, or other emergencies. The severity of potential effects varies within the activity being conducted, the concentration and type of hazardous material or waste present, and the proximity of sensitive receptors.

As-needed use of limited amounts of potentially hazardous materials, including but not limited to solvents, fuels, oils, transmission fluids associated with construction vehicles and equipment would be involved during the construction of the proposed project. The materials used during construction would be properly contained, stored, and handled to comply with the applicable standards and regulations established by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Any associated risk would be adequately reduced to a less than significant impact through compliance with these standards and regulations.

Operation of the project would be limited to routine maintenance activities that would not involve hazardous substance uses. The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment because it does not propose the storage, use, transport, emission, or disposal of Hazardous Substances, nor are Hazardous Substances proposed or currently in use in the immediate vicinity. In addition, the project does not propose to demolish any existing structures onsite and therefore would not create a hazard related to the release of asbestos, lead based paint or other hazardous materials from demolition activities.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project would involve the limited use of potentially hazardous materials during construction; however, the facilities include stormwater infrastructure, and therefore, would not involve the use of hazardous materials. Project implementation would comply with the applicable standards and regulations as noted in Section IX(a). Therefore, the project will not 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.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The nearest school is Lakeview Elementary School at 0.58 miles to the northeast of the project site. The handling, storage, and/or transport of the limited use of potential hazardous materials, such as fuels or solvents from construction activities only would comply with the applicable standards and regulations as noted in Section IX(a). Additionally, Lakeview Elementary School is outside of the one-quarter mile radius of the project site. Therefore, the project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

- d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or is otherwise known to have been subject to a release of hazardous substances and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** Based on a site visit and regulatory database search, the project site has not been subject to a release of hazardous substances. The project site is not included in any of the following lists or databases: the State of California Hazardous Waste and Substances sites list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5., the San Diego County Hazardous Materials Establishment database, the San Diego County DEH Site Assessment and Mitigation (SAM) Case Listing, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program Database ("CalSites" Envirostor Database), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS) listing, the EPA's Superfund CERCLIS database or the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). Additionally, the project does not propose structures for human occupancy or significant linear excavation within 1,000 feet of an open, abandoned, or closed landfill, is not located on or within 250 feet of the boundary of a parcel identified as containing burn ash (from the historic burning of trash), is not on or within 1,000 feet of a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS), does not contain a leaking Underground Storage Tank, and is not located on a site with the potential for contamination from historic uses such as intensive agriculture, industrial uses, a gas station or vehicle repair shop.

Furthermore, according to the California State Water Resource Control Board GeoTracker mapping application, there are no Lust Cleanup Sites, Waste Discharge Requirement Sites, Permitted Underground Storage Tanks (USTs), or Land Disposal Sites, were identified. Based on the proposed excavation depth and no hazardous materials being identified within or adjacent to the project impact area, it is anticipated that no issues will arise during construction activities. Therefore, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment.

- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project is not located within an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP), an Airport Influence Area, or a Federal Aviation Administration Height Notification Surface. Also, the project does not propose construction of any structure equal to or greater than 150 feet in height, constituting a safety hazard to aircraft and/or operations from an airport or heliport. Therefore, the project will not constitute a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

- f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

The following sections summarize the project's consistency with applicable emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.

- i. OPERATIONAL AREA EMERGENCY PLAN AND MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The Operational Area Emergency Plan is a comprehensive emergency plan that defines responsibilities, establishes an emergency organization, defines lines of communications, and is designed to be part of the statewide Standardized Emergency Management System. The Operational Area Emergency Plan provides guidance for emergency planning and requires subsequent plans to be established by each jurisdiction that has responsibilities in a disaster situation. The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan includes an overview of the risk assessment process, identifies hazards present in the jurisdiction, hazard profiles, and vulnerability assessments. The plan also identifies goals, objectives and actions for each jurisdiction in the County of San Diego, including all cities and the unincorporated areas. The project will not interfere with this plan because it will not prohibit subsequent plans from being established or prevent the goals and objectives of existing plans from being carried out.

- ii. SAN DIEGO COUNTY NUCLEAR POWER STATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

**No Impact:** The San Diego County Nuclear Power Station Emergency Response Plan will not be interfered with by the project due to the location of the project, plant, and the specific requirements of the plan. The emergency plan for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station includes an emergency planning zone within a 10-mile radius. All land area within 10 miles of the plant is not within the jurisdiction of the unincorporated County and as such a project in the unincorporated area is not expected to interfere with any response or evacuation.

iii. OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY ELEMENT

**No Impact:** The Oil Spill Contingency Element will not be interfered with because the project is not located along the coastal zone or coastline.

iv. EMERGENCY WATER CONTINGENCIES ANNEX AND ENERGY SHORTAGE  
RESPONSE PLAN

**No Impact:** The Emergency Water Contingencies Annex and Energy Shortage Response Plan will not be interfered with because the project does not propose altering major water or energy supply infrastructure, such as the California Aqueduct.

v. DAM EVACUATION PLAN

**No Impact:** The Dam Evacuation Plan will not be interfered with because the project is not located within a dam inundation zone.

- g) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project is surrounded by residential and open space lands. The proposed project would involve the construction of structural water quality improvements, road, and pedestrian improvements. The project impact area contains small patches of vegetation (i.e., coast live oak woodland, southern willow scrub) which theoretically could be subject to wildfire adjacent to Los Coches Creek. However, the project is not installing more vegetation (only replacing what currently exists and would be impacted by the project). In addition, traffic controls would be in place to manage traffic flows during project construction. Consequently, access to homes and access for emergencies will be maintained throughout the construction duration. Therefore, based on the location of the project and project type, the project is not expected to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving hazardous wildland fire and as a result, no impact would result because of the implementation of this project.

- h) Propose a use, or place residents adjacent to an existing or reasonably foreseeable use that would substantially increase current or future resident's exposure to vectors, including mosquitoes, rats, or flies, which are capable of transmitting significant public health diseases or nuisances?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed Los Coches Low Flow Urban Runoff Diversion to Sewer Project would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated. An existing 30-inch RCP is located under Los Coches Road, which collects storm water runoff and discharges into a reinforced concrete triple box culvert at Los Coches Creek. During the dry season, runoff water from irrigation and other urban sources flows into the 30-inch RCP without receiving water quality treatment. The project consists of installing a debris separating baffle box (DSBB) underneath Los Coches Road. As water passes through the DSBB, dry weather flows would be diverted to an existing sewer line where it would be routed for treatment. However, if the water flow rate exceeds five gallons per minute (i.e., during a moderate to heavy rain event), the stormwater would exit the DSBB through a new 36-inch RCP, which would outlet into Los Coches Creek. To facilitate proper drainage, an existing headwall at Los Coches Creek would be replaced to accommodate the new 36-inch RCP.

As such, the project does not involve, or support uses that allow water to stand for a period of 72 hours (3 days) or more (e.g., artificial lakes, agricultural irrigation ponds). Additionally, the project does not involve, or support uses that will produce or collect animal waste, such as equestrian facilities, agricultural operations (chicken coops, dairies etc.), solid waste facility or other similar uses. Therefore, the project will not substantially increase current or future resident's exposure to vectors, including mosquitoes, rats or flies.

**X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY** -- Would the project:

- a) Violate any waste quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** According to the State Water Quality Control Board's 2020-2022 Integrated Report<sup>1</sup> for Clean Water Act Section 303(d) and 305(b), Los Coches Creek is listed as impaired due to pathogens (indicator bacteria), nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), and metals (selenium). However, the project would not contribute these pollutants to the impaired water body. In fact, the project would install structural water quality facility improvements to divert untreated dry weather flows to the County sewer system to improve stormwater quality within the project area. In addition, the project is required to implement the following best management practices (BMPs), such as source control BMPs and/or treatment control BMPs to reduce potential pollutants to the maximum extent practicable from entering storm water runoff: gravel bags, fiber rolls, environmental site area fencing (ESAs), silt fencing, spill prevention and control, concrete waste management, solid waste management, and sanitary waste management. Post-construction erosion control would include the installation of

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_assessment/2020\\_2022\\_integrated\\_report.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/2020_2022_integrated_report.html)

a rip rap energy dissipater as a best management practice (BMP) at the outlet of the new storm drainpipe that enters Los Coches Creek.

Per the County's 100% engineering design plans, dewatering during construction is not anticipated because groundwater was not encountered during subsurface exploration for the project. However, where groundwater seepage or perched water conditions are encountered, dewatering measures during excavation operations should be performed in accordance with guidelines of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) or in accordance with an approved sewer discharge through the appropriate governing agency.

These measures will enable the project to meet waste discharge requirements as required by the Land-Use Planning for New Development and Redevelopment Component of the San Diego Municipal Permit (San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region Order No. R9-2013-0001), as amended by Order No. R9-2015-0001 and Order No. R9-2015-0100 requirements for storm water management and implemented by the San Diego County Jurisdictional Runoff Management Program (JRMP) and BMP Design Manual (BMP DM). Adherence to applicable requirements and implementation of the appropriate BMPs would ensure that potential water quality degradation associated with construction activities are minimized.

The project's conformance to the waste discharge requirements listed above ensures the project will not create cumulatively considerable water quality impacts related to waste discharge because, through the permit, the project will conform to Countywide watershed standards in the JURMP and BMP DM, derived from State regulation to address human health and water quality concerns. Therefore, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact to water quality from waste discharges.

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project will not use any groundwater for any purpose, including irrigation, domestic or commercial demands. In addition, the project does not involve operations that would interfere substantially with groundwater recharge including, but not limited to the following: the project does not involve regional diversion of water to another groundwater basin; or diversion or channelization of a stream course or waterway with impervious layers, such as concrete lining or culverts, for substantial distances (e.g., ¼ mile). These activities and operations can substantially affect rates of groundwater recharge. Therefore, no impact to groundwater resources is anticipated.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of a 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 on- or off-site:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project does not include altering the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of a course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. The project proposes installation of structural water quality improvements to divert dry weather flows to a County sanitary sewer system to improve stormwater quality within the project area. In addition, because erosion and sedimentation will be controlled within the boundaries of the project, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact. For further information on soil erosion refer to VII., Geology and Soils, Question b.

ii.) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project will have no adverse impacts to the existing performance capacity of the conveyance capacity of the storm drain conveyance; therefore, the proposed project will not alter established drainage patterns or significantly increase the amount of runoff for the following reasons,

- The project would install permanent BMPs to improve water quality by diverting dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing for treatment of the runoff water before entering Los Coches Creek.
- The project would not result in an increase in the amount of runoff. Instead, the proposed modifications would improve the amount of retention, infiltration, and treatment of stormwater flows.

Therefore, the project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site. Moreover, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable alteration or a drainage pattern or increase in the rate or amount of runoff. Because of the project's structural water quality improvements, such as the gravity flow system, a new 36-inch RCP, and energy dissipater, water quality will improve through treatment of the runoff water, providing proper runoff capacity, and infiltration. Therefore, the proposed project will not increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site.



- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project would not result in an increase in impervious surfaces. In fact, the proposed improvements would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated. The project would install permanent BMPs to improve water quality and with the installation of the structural water quality improvements, such as the gravity flow system, a new 36-inch RCP, and energy dissipater, water quality will improve through treatment of the runoff water, providing proper runoff capacity, and infiltration. Therefore, the proposed improvements would not contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems.

- iv. impede or redirect flood flows?

<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact

**Less Than Significant:** The proposed project's goal is to divert dry weather flows to an existing County sanitary system to improve water quality by treating the water runoff before it enters Los Coches Creek. Redirection of the dry weather flows will occur; however, the amount of water runoff entering the stormwater drainage system will not change from the current conditions. Therefore, impacts from the redirection of flows within the project area would be less than significant.

- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project site is not located along the shoreline or a lake or reservoir and therefore, could not be inundated by a seiche. The project site is not located near the coast; therefore, in the event of a tsunami, would not be inundated. While portions of the project are located within in a 100-year floodway and flood plain, the proposed project is designed to filter and treat stormwater runoff, therefore, the project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones. Moreover, the

project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable risk of release of pollutants due to project inundation in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, as detailed above.

- e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated. The project would install permanent BMPs to improve water quality and with the installation of the structural water quality improvements, such as the gravity flow system, a new 36-inch RCP, and energy dissipater, water quality will improve through treatment of the runoff water, providing proper runoff capacity, and infiltration. A Storm Water Quality Management Plan (SWQMP) has been prepared for the project. The project is required to implement the following best management practices (BMPs), such as source control BMPs and/or treatment control BMPs to reduce potential pollutants to the maximum extent practicable from entering storm water runoff: gravel bags, fiber rolls, environmental site area fencing (ESAs), silt fencing, spill prevention and control, concrete waste management, solid waste management, hazardous waste management, and sanitary waste management. Permanent post-construction erosion control involves the installation of a rip rap energy dissipater as a best management practice (BMP) at the outlet of the new storm drainpipe diversion. The project is designed to improve stormwater quality and downstream water quality of the project area, and therefore will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan at this location.

**XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING** -- Would the project:

- a) Physically divide an established community?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not propose the introduction of new infrastructure such as major roadways or water supply systems, or utilities to the area. The project simply involves treating and conveying existing storm water runoff. Therefore, the proposed project will not significantly disrupt or divide the established community.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project is subject to the Lakeside Community Plan. The project will not conflict with any Policies or Recommendations identified in the community plan. Preservation of Lakeside's unique natural environmental and the rural atmosphere is emphasized within the community plan. The proposed project involves the installation and upgrades to the existing structural water quality facilities to improve the water quality of the runoff entering Los Coches Creek. In addition, the project involves the implementation of temporary and permanent BMPs, and improvements to the existing pedestrian and road facilities. The community plan indicates minimizing the urban improvements, such as sidewalks, curbs, and gutters and to blend in roadways to the natural terrain to preserve the rural atmosphere of the community (Land Use Policy #2). The project is making improvements to the pedestrian and roadway facilities that will help facilitate the stormwater direction as well as provide improved access for pedestrians and vehicles within the project area. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency who may have jurisdiction over the project.

**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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant:** The project site has been classified by the California Department of Conservation – Division of Mines and Geology (Update of Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Western San Diego Production-Consumption Region, 1997) as an area of where mineral resource could potentially be present. The project site and surrounding area can be characterized as single-family residential and open space land types with the project impact area being fully developed, which are incompatible to future extraction of mineral resources for the project site. A future mining operation at the project site would likely create a significant impact to neighboring properties for issues such as noise, air quality, traffic, and possibly other impacts. Therefore, implementation of the project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value since the mineral resource has already been lost due to incompatible land uses.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project site is not located in an area that has MRZ-2 designated lands or is located within 1,300 feet of such lands. In addition, the proposed project will not result in the loss of locally important mineral resources because the project site is currently surrounded by densely developed land uses including single-family residential, and open space, which are incompatible to future extraction of mineral resources on the project site. The proposed project involves the installation of structural water quality improvements to divert dry weather flows into a County sanitary system and to treat the runoff before entering the Los Coches Creek, pedestrian and roadway facility improvements that would not result in a loss of mineral resources because the feasibility of future mining at the site is already impacted by existing land use incompatibilities. Based on current land use conditions, a future mining operation at the project site would likely create a significant impact to neighboring properties for issues such as noise, air quality, traffic, and other impacts, thereby reducing the feasibility of future mining operations occurring, regardless of the proposed project.

Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource of locally important mineral resource recovery (extraction) site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

**XIII. NOISE** -- Would the project result in:

- a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The surrounding area supports single-family residential, and open space land uses and is occupied by residents. Construction of the project would require operation of heavy equipment, power equipment, tools, and associated with work vehicles. It is likely to result in short-term, intermittent, temporary increase in noise levels over the 3-month construction period. The project will not expose people to potentially significant noise levels that exceed the allowable limits of the County of San Diego General Plan, County of San Diego Noise Ordinance, and other applicable standards for the following reasons:

General Plan – Noise Element

The County of San Diego General Plan, Noise Element, Tables N-1 and N-2 addresses noise sensitive areas and requires an acoustical study to be prepared for any use that may expose noise sensitive areas to noise in excess of a Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) of 60 decibels (dBA) for single residences (including senior housing, convalescent homes), and 65 dBA CNEL for multi-family residences (including mixed-use commercial/residential). Moreover, if the project is excess of 60 dBA CNEL or 65 dBA CNEL, modifications must be made to the project to reduce noise levels. Noise sensitive areas include residences, hospitals, schools,

libraries, or similar facilities as mentioned within Tables N-1 and N-2. The proposed project would not implement any noise sensitive land uses. The proposed project is a water quality improvement project and is not anticipated to have any sources of noise, other than during the construction phase, and would not have any ongoing noise generating activity.

#### **Noise Ordinance – Section 36.409**

The project will not generate construction noise that may exceed the standards of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (Section 36.409). Construction operations will occur only during permitted hours of operation pursuant to Section 36.409. Also, it is not anticipated that the project will operate construction equipment in excess of an average sound level of 75dB between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM.

Furthermore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is currently enforcing a policy of limiting noise adjacent to areas where nesting birds are present to less than 60 dB to protect nesting birds from noise disturbances. Please refer to Biological Resources (Section IV) for mitigation measures M-BIO-1 and M-BIO-2 associated with nesting birds during raptor and bird breeding seasons.

Finally, the project's conformance to the County of San Diego General Plan Noise Element and County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (Sections 36.409 and 36.410) ensures the project will not create cumulatively considerable noise impacts, because the project will not exceed the local noise standards for noise sensitive areas; and the project will not exceed the applicable noise level limits at the property line or construction noise limits, derived from State regulation to address human health and quality of life concerns. Therefore, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable exposure of persons or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan, noise ordinance, and applicable standards of other agencies.

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project involves structural water quality improvements to improve water quality, in addition to pedestrian and roadway improvements. The project does not propose any of the following land uses that can be impacted by groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

1. Buildings where low ambient vibration is essential for interior operation, including research and manufacturing facilities with special vibration constraints.
2. Residences and buildings where people normally sleep including hotels, hospitals, residences, and where low ambient vibration is preferred.
3. Civic and institutional land uses including schools, churches, libraries, other institutions, and quiet office where low ambient vibration is preferred.
4. Concert halls for symphonies or other special use facilities where low ambient vibration is preferred.

Also, the project does not propose any major, new, or expanded infrastructure such as mass transit, highways or major roadways or intensive extractive industry that could generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels on-site or in the surrounding area.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, or an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) for airports or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, the project will not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive airport-related noise levels.

**XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING** -- Would the project:

- a) Induce substantial unplanned 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project will not induce substantial population growth because the project does not propose any physical or regulatory change that would remove a restriction to or encourage population growth. Specifically, the project would not involve new or extended infrastructure or public facilities; new commercial or industrial facilities; large-scale residential development; accelerated conversion of homes to commercial or multi-family use; or regulatory changes including General Plan amendments, specific plan amendments, zone reclassifications, sewer or water annexations; or LAFCO annexation actions. Therefore, no impacts related to population growth would occur.

- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project will not displace any existing housing since the proposed project involves the installation of structural water quality improvements, pedestrian and roadway improvements within the County road-right-of-way.

**XV. PUBLIC SERVICES** -- Would the project:

- a) 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 service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- a. Fire protection?
- b. Police protection?
- c. Schools?
- d. Parks?
- e. Other public facilities?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project would involve upgrades to an existing water quality system to divert dry weather flows to a County sanitary sewer system and treat runoff before entering into Los Coches Creek to improve water quality. The project would also include pedestrian and roadway improvements. The project does not involve the construction of new or physically altered governmental facilities including but not limited to fire protection facilities, sheriff facilities, schools, or parks in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance service ratios or objectives for any public services. Therefore, the project will not have an adverse physical effect on the environment because the project does not require new or significantly altered services or facilities to be constructed.

**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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not propose any residential use, included but not limited to a residential subdivision, mobile home park, or construction for a single-family residence that may

increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, the project would have no impact associated with recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

**XVII. TRANSPORTATION** -- Would the project:

- a) Conflict with a program, plan, or ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated. Additional improvements would be made to the existing sidewalk, curb, gutter, road surface, and median. The project will not result in any additional vehicle trips, vehicle miles traveled, or increase to the capacity of the roads. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of the effectiveness of the circulation system.

- b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

**No Impact:** The proposed project would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated. Additional improvements would be made to the existing sidewalk, curb, gutter, road surface, and median. The project would not increase vehicle miles traveled or change traffic patterns or capacity. Therefore, the project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b).

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated. Additional improvements would be made to the existing sidewalk, curb, gutter, road surface, and median. The proposed project will not alter traffic patterns, roadway design, place incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) on existing roadways, or create or place curves, slopes or walls which impedes adequate site distance on a road.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project will not result in inadequate emergency access. During construction, traffic controls will be put in place to ensure one lane of Los Coches Road and Via Diego would remain open to provide emergency access to emergency vehicles. Periodic and temporary detours may be needed during equipment or materials mobilization, and installation of the trash capture device and upgraded 36-inch RCP located in the roadway at the intersection of Los Coches Road and Via Diego; however, the proposed project would not result in inadequate emergency access for the surrounding community.

**XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, as defined in Public Resources Code §21074 as either a site, feature, place, or cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
- i. 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 §5020.1(k), or
  - ii. 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 §5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code §5024.1, the Lead Agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
|---|---|

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

### **Discussion/Explanation:**

**No Impact:** A Negative Cultural Resources Report dated July 19, 2022 was prepared by RECON, which concluded that no cultural material was observed within the project area and the project would not have a significant impact on cultural resources.

Furthermore, pursuant to AB-52, consultation was initiated with culturally affiliated tribes. On June 9, 2022, the County Department of Public Works, Environmental Services Unit (County) staff sent letters to tribal representatives and followed up by phone or via email on June 27, July 7, July 12, and July 13, 2022. Two (2) Native American tribes requested consultation: Jamul Indian Village (JIV); and Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Indians (Sycuan). The County consulted with JIV on July 5, 2022, and because their staff participated in the extensive pedestrian survey with the County's consultant's archaeological staff for the project, the JIV concluded their consultation with the County via email on July 23, 2022.

Sycuan's request for consultation was submitted to the County on July 8, 2022. Although Sycuan acknowledged that the project boundaries were not within the recognized Sycuan Indian Reservation, they stated the project is within the boundaries of the Kumeyaay Nation's traditional territory. Accordingly, on July 8, 2022, and subsequently on July 13, 2022, the County requested a meeting to conduct the consultation with Sycuan, and in the interim, the County provided the draft Negative Cultural Resources Report prepared for the project. As of this writing, and after several attempts by the County to reach Sycuan, no further response has been received.

In addition, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians proactively provided feedback to the County's consultant (RECON Environmental, Inc.) on May 12 and May 13, 2022 in response to the project's Sacred Lands request performed by the Native American Heritage Commission. On June 9, 2022, the County directly notified Viejas of the proposed project under AB-52. After receiving no response, the County followed up via email on June 10 and June 27, 2022 to inquire about sacred lands or AB-52 consultation. At that time, the County confirmed it would comply with Viejas's requests for the project to provide adequate buffer zones to avoid sacred lands, as applicable, and to follow appropriate environmental laws, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Viejas responded via email on June 28, 2022 citing their original May 13, 2022 communication to the County's consultant. While Viejas did not formally request a consultation meeting under AB-52, the County has addressed Viejas's noted items, and no further action is needed.

In conclusion, no information regarding tribal cultural resources was provided to the County during consultation with the Native American tribes. Furthermore, based upon the project description and prior roadway improvements, the proposed project would encounter similarly disturbed conditions; therefore, the potential for intact buried cultural resources is considered low. Nonetheless, through consultation with the Native American tribes mentioned above, the County will include the following avoidance and minimization measures.

### **Project Design Features:**

- If human remains are encountered, consistent with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made

the necessary findings as to the origin of the remains. Further, consistent with California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(b), human remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made.

- If the County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be contacted within twenty-four (24) hours. The NAHC shall immediately identify the "most likely descendant(s)" (MLD) and notify them of the discovery. The MLD shall make recommendations within forty-eight (48) hours after being allowed access to the site and engage in consultations with the landowner concerning the treatment of the remains. The immediate vicinity where the Native American human remains are located is not to be damaged or disturbed by further construction activity until consultation with the MLD regarding their recommendations as required by Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 has been conducted. Public Resources Code §5097.98, CEQA §15064.5 and Health & Safety Code §7050.5 shall be followed.

In conclusion, the proposed project involves improvements to existing water quality, pedestrian, and road infrastructures. While no tribal cultural resources were provided during consultation with the Native American tribes, and due to the site being fully disturbed with the low likelihood of historical or archaeological resources being present in the project area, the County included avoidance and minimization efforts, as stated above, to address inadvertent finds during project construction. As such, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA §15064.5 and Public Resources Code §5024.1(c), nor will the project cause a substantial adverse change to 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 §5020.1(k).

**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 storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant Impact:** The proposed project would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated. A SWQMP has been prepared for the project to identify measures to avoid water quality impacts during construction. The project proposes to divert the dry weather flows by incorporating a trash capture device and replacing the existing 30-inch RCP to a 36-inch RCP to handle current capacity for the stormwater drainage. The low flow urban runoff will be diverted to an existing County sewer line that has sufficient capacity; therefore, the project does not include new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities, nor does the require the

construction or expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, the project will not require any construction of new or expanded facilities, which could cause significant environmental effects.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project would capture and divert dry weather flows to an existing County sewer line using a gravity flow system allowing the runoff water to be treated. Maintenance activities of the improved storm drain system to a gravity flow system would not substantially change from the current facility maintenance activities after construction of the project. Therefore, the project would not be required to serve future development. During construction, water may be temporarily needed to ensure post-construction hydroseeding is successful to restore the project site to pre-construction conditions. However, this temporary water use would not have an effect on water supply.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project provides circumvents wet weather flows allowing storm water to discharge into Los Coches Creek during wet weather conditions and diverting the dry weather flows to the County's sanitary sewer system. The project requires wastewater service from the County's Sanitation District. Agreement by the County's Watershed Protection Program, the Capital Improvement Program and Wastewater Management indicated adequate wastewater service capacity is available to serve the requested demand. Therefore, the project will not interfere with any wastewater treatment provider's service capacity.

- d) Generate solid waste in excess of the 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project involves structural water quality improvements to improve water quality. If the export of solid waste or other materials is needed due to construction activities, the project will deposit all solid waste at a permitted solid waste facility and therefore, will comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, the project will not generate any solid waste that would place any burden on the existing permitted capacity of any landfill or transfer station within San Diego County.

- e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project involves the installation of structural water quality improvements to improve water quality in the project area by diverting dry weather flows to the County's sanitary sewer system. If the export of solid waste or other materials is needed due to construction activities, the project will deposit all solid waste at a permitted solid waste facility and therefore, will comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. The project will not generate any solid waste that would place any burden on the existing permitted capacity of any landfill or transfer station within San Diego County.

**XX. WILDFIRE** -- If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire severity zones, would the project:

- a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project involves the installation of structural water quality improvements to improve water quality in the project area. The project will not interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan because it will not prohibit subsequent plans from being established or prevent the goals and objectives of existing plans from being carried out. Therefore, the project would not result in an impact to emergency plans.

- 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 a wildfire?

<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project involves the installation of structural water quality improvements to improve water quality in the project area. Therefore, the project would not add or increase occupants, or exacerbate wildfire risks thereby exposing occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project involves the installation of structural water quality improvements to improve water quality in the project area. As such, the project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.

- 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project involves the installation of structural water quality improvements to improve water quality in the project area. As such, the project would not 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.

**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 populations 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"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:

Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory were considered in the response to each question in Section IV – Biological Resources of this form. In addition to project specific impacts, this evaluation considered the projects potential for significant cumulative effects. Resources that have been evaluated as significant would be potentially impacted by the project, particularly Biological Resources. However, mitigation has been included that reduces these effects to a level below significance. This mitigation includes avoiding and/or minimizing impacts to sensitive biological resources through pre-construction nesting surveys, flagging of adjacent riparian habitat, mitigating for permanent impacts to sensitive riparian habitat and jurisdictional aquatic resources, mitigating for temporary impacts to sensitive natural communities through on-site restoration, implementing standard water quality best management practices, and including as-needed biological monitoring during construction to reduce the effects to a level below significance. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that, after mitigation, significant effects associated with this project would result. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

- 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)?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact      ☒ Less than Significant Impact  
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated      ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The following list of past, present and future projects were considered and evaluated as a part of this Initial Study:

PROJECT NAME	PERMIT/MAP NUMBER
12535 VIA DIEGO AT&T CALIFORNIA JOB# AC28830	88996/4930
TM54231	54231/4910
SEWER MAIN EXTENSION	5886/4910
9176 LOS COCHES, TPM, 3 LOTS	PDS2006-3200-21033
9176 LOS COCHES, TPM, 3 LOTS	PDS2006-3200-21033
9176 LOS COCHES, TPM, 3 LOTS	PDS2006-3200-21033
Panwebster Investment TPM	PDS2013-TPM-21204
Mini Subdivision Improvement Plan	PDS2015-TPM-21220

Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse cumulative effects were considered in the response to each question in sections I through XX of this form. In addition to project specific impacts, this evaluation considered the

projects potential for incremental effects that are cumulatively considerable. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that there are cumulative effects associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

In the evaluation of environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse direct or indirect impacts to human beings were considered in the response to certain questions in sections I. Aesthetics, III. Air Quality, VII. Geology and Soils, IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials, X. Hydrology and Water Quality, XIII. Noise, XIV. Population and Housing, and XVII. Transportation. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that there are adverse effects on human beings associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.



## XXII. REFERENCES USED IN THE COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

All references to Federal, State and local regulation are available on the Internet. For Federal regulation refer to <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>. For State regulation refer to [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov). For County regulation refer to [www.amlegal.com](http://www.amlegal.com). All other references are available upon request.

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County of San Diego, Board Policy I-73: Hillside Development Policy. ([www.co.san-diego.ca.us](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us))

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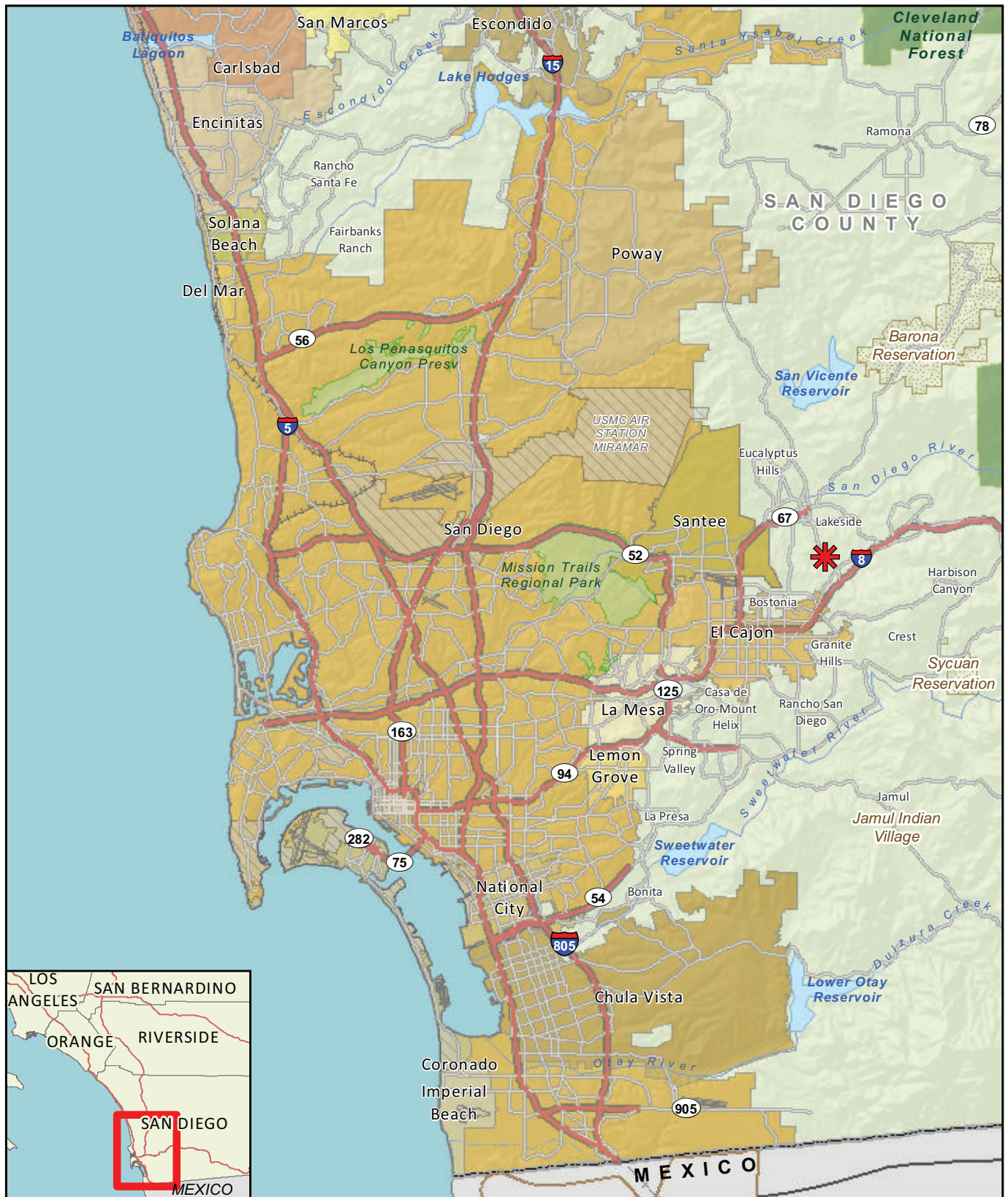
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 Project Location

FIGURE 1  
Regional Location





 Project Boundary

FIGURE 2  
Project Location on Aerial Photograph