INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

CENTRAL WATER SYSTEM NITRATE REMEDIATION PROJECT

FEBRUARY 2023

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PLAINVIEW MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
PLAINVIEW NITRATE RELIEF PROJECT

Prepared for:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Financial Assistance
1001 I Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact Person: Abbygayle Britton
Phone: (916) 319-0180

Consultant:

5080 California Avenue, Suite 220
Bakersfield, CA 93309
Contact: Jaymie L. Brauer
Phone: (661) 616-2600(661) 616-2600
Fax: (559) 733-7821

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Project #170252

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Assembly Bill
AB 32	Global Warming Solutions Act
ALUCP	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
BMPs	Best Management Practices
bgs	beneath ground surface
BPD	Bakersfield Police Department
BPS	Best Performance Standards
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
CAL/OSHA	California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH4	methane
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO2	carbon dioxide
CRHR	California Register of Historic Resources
CWSRF	Clean Water State Revolving Fund
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted Decibel
DOC	Department of Conservation
FCAA	Federal Clean Air Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
GAMAQI	Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts
GHGs	Greenhouse Gases
gpd	gallons per day
gpm	gallons per minute
GCWD	Greenfield County Water District
HAPs	Hazardous Air Pollutants
HCFCs	halogenated fluorocarbons
HFCs	hydrofluorocarbons
HMTUSA	Hazardous Materials Uniform Safety Act
Hp	horse power
IS	Initial Study
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
Ldn	day-night average sound level
LOS	level of service

MBGP	Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan
MBHCP	Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan
MCL	maximum contaminate level
mgd	million gallons per day
µg/L	microgram per liter
MM	Mitigation Measure
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zones
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO_2	nitrous oxide
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxide
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
O3	ozone
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
pcf	pounds per cubic foot
PFCs	perfluorinated carbons
pH	potential hydrogen
$PM_{2.5}$	Particulate Matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter
PM_{10}	Particulate Matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter
PRC	Public Resources Code
ROG	reactive organic gases
SF_6	sulfur hexaflouride
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SJVAPCD	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
SMARA	California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SR	State Route
SRF	State Revolving Funds
SSJVAIC	Southern San Joaquin Valley Archaeological Information Center
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TICs	toxic industrial chemicals
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VdB	vibration decibels
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

As Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance (Division) reviewed the Project described below to determine whether it could have a significant effect on the environment because of its development. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15382: "significant effect on the environment" means a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the Project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

Project Name

Plainview Nitrate Relief Project

Project Location

The proposed Plainview Mutual Water Company Plainview Nitrate Relief Project (Project) is located within the boundaries of the unincorporated community of Plainville in Tulare County and is within the Plainview Mutual Water Company (PMWC) service area. The Project area is bound by Avenue 196 to the north, Road 198 to the east, Avenue 194 to the south, and road 195 to the west, and is located at approximately 7.5 miles west of Strathmore and 6.5 miles west of SR-65. The land uses surrounding the Project include residential to the north, east and south and agricultural lands to the west. The Project components will primarily occur at the Well and Tank site, located at 19475 Road 196. Two additional solar arrays will be located at 19505 Road 198 and 19794 Avenue 194, City of Strathmore, within Tulare County.

Project Description

The Well and Tank site currently contains a well that is producing water with high levels of the primary nitrate contaminate, that is above the maximum contaminant level of 10 micrograms per liter (µg/L) as established by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board.

This proposed Project consists of the construction of a new drinking water supply well, well pump, replacement of the current distribution system's pipeline, installation of approximately 43 service connections, and construction of a new 250,000-gallon storage tank. Approximately 187 existing meters will require upgrades that allow remote meter readings. The upgrades to the metering system will not require any ground disturbance The new supply well will pump water out of a deeper aquifer that is not contaminated by nitrates. The proposed Project will also demolish an existing 736-square-foot house, 676-square-foot storage garage, and a swimming pool. Several mature ornamental (non-native species)trees will be removed. A 2,435.5 square foot (sq. ft.) photovoltaic (PV) solar array system will be installed at the Project's Well and Tank site to help offset the Project's electrical consumption.

Additionally, a 486.3 sq. ft. and a 97.4 sq. ft. PV solar array will be installed at 19505 Road 198 and 19794 Avenue 194, respectively, to help offset the Project's electrical consumption. . Installation of the two PV solar arrays will be completed within the existing pump/well facilities, which are completely fenced, and developed with related infrastructure, pavement and gravel.

Construction activities will require approximately 16–20 crew members for a period of six months.

Mailing Address and Phone Number of Contact Person

State Water Resources Control Board
Abbygayle Britton
Division of Financial Assistance
1001 I Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319 – 0180
Abbygayle.Britton@waterboards.ca.gov

Findings

As Lead Agency in compliance with Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 15070, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance (Division) finds that the Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. The Initial Study (IS) (see *Section 3 – Initial Study*) identified one or more potentially significant effects on the environment, but revisions to the Project have been made before the release of this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or mitigation measures would be implemented that reduce all potentially significant impacts less-than-significant levels. The Division further finds that there is no substantial evidence that this Project would have a significant effect on the environment.

Mitigation Measures Included in the Project to Avoid Potentially Significant Effects

MM BIO-1: No less than 14 days prior to the start of Project ground disturbance activities in any specific area, a pre-construction clearance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist knowledgeable in the identification of listed species. The surveys shall cover the Project site plus a 500-foot buffer. Pedestrian surveys achieving 100 percent visual coverage shall be conducted. Multiple surveys are anticipated to be needed as each Project phase is initiated. If no evidence of special-status species is detected, no further action is required.

MM BIO-2: If dens/burrows that could support the San Joaquin kit fox are discovered during the pre-construction surveys conducted under BIO-1, the avoidance buffers outlined below shall be established. No work would occur within these buffers unless the biologist approves and monitors the activity.

- Potential Den – 50 feet
- Atypical Den – 50 feet (includes pipes and other man-made structures)
- Known Den – 100 feet
- Natal/Pupping Den – 500 feet

MM BIO-3: The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented during all phases of the Project to reduce the potential for impact from the Project. They are modified from the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (USFWS 2011).

- Project-related vehicles shall observe a daytime speed limit of 20 mph throughout the site in all Project areas, except on County roads and State and federal highways.
- All Project activities shall occur during daylight hours, but if work must be conducted at night then a night-time construction speed limit of 10 mph shall be established.
- Off-road traffic outside of designated Project areas shall be prohibited.
- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes or other animals during construction of the Project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than two feet deep shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks shall be installed.
- Before holes or trenches are filled, they shall be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the USFWS and the CDFW shall be contacted before proceeding with the work.
- In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures shall be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the USFWS and CDFW shall be contacted for guidance.
- All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of four inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods shall be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes and burrowing owls before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe shall not be moved until the USFWS has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped.
- All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps shall be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or Project site.
- No firearms shall be allowed on the Project site.
- No pets, such as dogs or cats, shall be permitted on the Project site.
- Project-related use of rodenticides and herbicides shall be restricted.
- A representative shall be appointed by the Project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The representative

shall be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number shall be provided to the USFWS and CDFW.

- Upon completion of the Project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances (including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc.) shall be recontoured if necessary, and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions. An area subject to "temporary" disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the Project, but after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated.
- Any Project personnel who are responsible for inadvertently killing or injuring one of these species shall immediately report the incident to their representative. This representative shall contact the CDFW and USFWS immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped listed animal.
- The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife office and CDFW Region 4 office shall be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during project related activities. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information.
- New sightings of San Joaquin kit fox shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database. A copy of the reporting form and a topographic map clearly marked with the location of where the kit fox was observed shall also be provided to the USFWS.

MM BIO-4: If Project construction activities must occur during the nesting season (February 15 to August 31), pre-activity nesting bird surveys shall be conducted within seven days prior to the start of construction at the construction site plus a 250-foot buffer for songbirds and a 500-foot buffer for raptors (other than Swainson's hawk). The surveys shall be phased with construction of the Project. If no active nests are found, no further action is required. However, nests may become active at any time throughout the summer, including when construction activities are in progress. If active nests are found during the survey or at any time during construction of the Project, an avoidance buffer ranging from 50 feet to 500 feet may be required, with the avoidance buffer from any specific nest being determined by a qualified biologist. The avoidance buffer will remain in place until the biologist has determined that the young are no longer reliant on the nest. Work may occur within the avoidance buffer under the approval and guidance of the biologist, but full-time monitoring may be required. The biologist shall have the ability to stop construction if nesting adults show sign of distress.

MM BIO-5: If Project construction activities must occur during the nesting season (February 15 to August 31), pre-activity surveys shall be conducted for Swainson's hawk nests in accordance with the *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley*, Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (CDFW 2000). The surveys would be conducted on the Project site plus a 0.5-mile buffer. To meet the minimum level of protection for the species, surveys shall be conducted during at least two survey periods. The survey will be conducted in accordance

with the methodology outlined in existing protocols and shall phased with construction of the Project.

If no Swainson's hawk nests are found, no further action is required.

MM BIO-6: If an active Swainson's hawk nest is discovered at any time within 0.5 miles of active construction, a qualified biologist will complete an assessment of the potential for current construction activities to impact the nest. The assessment will consider the type of construction activities, the location of construction relative to the nest, the visibility of construction activities from the nest location, and other existing disturbances in the area that are not related to construction activities of this Project. Based on this assessment, the biologist will determine if construction activities can proceed and the level of nest monitoring required. Construction activities shall not occur within 500 feet of an active nest but depending upon conditions at the site this distance may be reduced. Full-time monitoring to evaluate the effects of construction activities on nesting Swainson's hawks may be required. The qualified biologist shall have the authority to stop work if it is determined that Project construction is disturbing the nest. These buffers may need to increase depending on the sensitivity of the nest location, the sensitivity of the nesting Swainson's hawk to disturbances, and at the discretion of the qualified biologist.

MM BIO-7: Prior to the initiation of construction activities, all personnel shall attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Training program developed by a qualified biologist. The program shall include information on the life histories of special-status species with potential to occur on the Project, their legal status, course of action shall these species be encountered onsite, and avoidance and minimization measures to protect these species.

MM CUL-1: In the event that new historical or archaeological resources are discovered during the project, all ground-disturbing activities in the vicinity of the find shall cease, an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (National Park Service 1983) shall be retained to evaluate the find, and the lead agency will be notified. Work may continue on other parts of the project while evaluation and, if necessary, mitigation takes place (CEQA Guidelines Section15064.5 [f]).

MM CUL-2: Upon discovery of human remains or potential human remains, implement Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and notify the lead agency. Health and Safety Code requires that the County Coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery and no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area may continue until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, he or she is required to notify the NAHC in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant shall complete their inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains.

MM GEO-1: Prior to issuing of grading or building permits, if required, (a) the Project applicant shall submit to the Lead Agency (1) the approved Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and (2) the Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. The requirements of the SWPPP and NPDES shall be incorporated into design specifications and construction contracts. Recommended best management practices for the construction phase may include the following:

- Stockpiling and disposing of demolition debris, concrete, and soil properly;
- Protecting existing storm drain inlets and stabilizing disturbed areas;
- Implementing erosion controls;
- Properly managing construction materials; and
- Managing waste, aggressively controlling litter, and implementing sediment controls.
- Evidence of the approved SWPPP shall be submitted to the Lead Agency.

Or (b) prepare and implement a Type 1 Linear Underground/Overhead Projects SWPPP.

MM GEO-2: The property owner shall avoid and minimize impacts to paleontological resources. If a potentially significant paleontological resource is encountered during ground disturbance activities, all construction within a 100-foot radius of the find shall immediately cease until a qualified paleontologist determines whether the resources require further study. The owner shall include a standard inadvertent discovery clause in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. The paleontologist shall notify the Lead Agency and the Project proponent of the procedures that must be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location of the find.

If the find is determined to be significant and the Lead Agency determines avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist shall design and implement a data recovery plan consistent with the applicable standards. The plan shall be submitted to the Lead Agency for review and approval. Upon approval, the plan shall be incorporated into the Project.

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 - Overview

Plainview Mutual Water Company (PMWC) is proposing water system improvements to provide a safe water supply to the residents of the unincorporated community of Plainview in Tulare County. The Project's objectives are to achieve nitrate compliance, replace a failing distribution system, and provide adequate backup storage capacity. The proposed Project includes the construction and operation of a water storage tank, a new well and pump station, replacement of the distribution pipeline system, installation of approximately 43 service connections and meters, and related appurtenances in the Plainview community. Approximately 187 existing meters will require upgrades that allow remote meter readings. Additionally, the Project requires the demolition of a house and storage structures, as well as installation of photovoltaic solar array system at three separate locations. The PMWC has applied for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) funds administered through the Division. The Lead Agency has developed this CEQA document to fulfill the CEQA.

1.2 - California Environmental Quality Act

This IS/MND examines the potential environmental effects of the demolition of a house and storage structures along with the construction and operation of the Project. The Project site is located within the PMWC service area.

The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance (Division) is the Lead Agency for this Project pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (Public Resources Code Section 15000 *et seq.*). Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines requires the Lead Agency to prepare an IS to determine whether a discretionary Project will have a significant effect on the environment. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is appropriate when an IS has been prepared and a determination can be made that no significant environmental effects will occur because revisions to the Project have been made or mitigation measures will be implemented that reduce all potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels. The content of an MND is the same as a Negative Declaration, with the addition of identified mitigation measures and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) (See *Section 4 - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan*).

Based on the findings, the Division determined that a MND would satisfy the requirements of CEQA, (PRC Section 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.)

1.3 - Impact Terminology

The following terminology is used to describe the level of significance of impacts.

- A finding of *no impact* is appropriate if the analysis concludes that the Project would not affect the particular resource area in any way.

- An impact is considered *less than significant* if the analysis concludes that it would not cause a substantial adverse change to the environment and requires no mitigation.
- An impact is considered *less than significant with mitigation incorporated* if the analysis concludes that it would cause no substantial adverse change to the environment with the inclusion of environmental commitments that have been agreed to by the applicant.
- An impact is considered *potentially significant* if the analysis concludes that it could have a substantial adverse effect on the environment.

1.4 - Document Organization and Contents

The content and format of this IS/MND is designed to meet the requirements of CEQA. The report contains the following sections:

- *Section 1 – Introduction:* This section provides an overview of CEQA requirements, intended uses of the IS/MND, document organization, and a list of regulations that have been incorporated by reference.
- *Section 2 – Project Description:* This section describes the Project and provides data on the site's location.
- *Section 3 – Initial Study:* This section contains the evaluation of 21 different environmental resource factors contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Each environmental resource factor is analyzed to determine whether the proposed Project would have an impact. One of four findings is made which include: no impact, less-than-significant impact, less than significant with mitigation, or significant and unavoidable. If the evaluation results in a finding of significant and unavoidable for any of the 21 environmental resource factors, then an Environmental Impact Report will be required.
- *Section 4 – Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan:* This section contains a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that summarizes the impacts, mitigation measures, and level of significance after mitigation.
- *Section 5 – List of Preparers:* This section identifies the individuals who prepared the IS/MND.
- *Section 6 – References:* This section contains a full list of references that were used in the preparation of this IS/MND.

1.5 - Regulation Incorporated by Reference

The following regulations are incorporated into this IS/MND by reference. Other applicable federal, State, and regional regulations are referenced throughout this document:

- Tulare County General Plan http://generalplan.co.tulare.ca.us/documents/GP/001Adopted%20Tulare%20County%20General%20Plan%20Materials/000General%20Plan%202030%20Part%20I%20and%20Part%20II/GENERAL%20PLAN%202012.pdf

- Tulare County Zoning Ordinance
  https://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/rma-documents/planning-documents/tulare-county-zoning-ordinance/

- The Plainview Community Plan 2019
  https://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/planning-building/community-plans/draft-community-plans/plainview-community-plan-2019/plainview-community-plan-2019-pdf/

- Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Plainview Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report
  https://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/projects/planning-projects/environmental-documents/plainview-wastewater-system/draft-environmental-impact-report-for-plainview-wastewater-system/

- Final Environmental Impact Report (SCH No. 2014041078), Plainview Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report
  https://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/projects/planning-projects/environmental-documents/plainview-wastewater-system/final-environmental-impact-report-for-plainview-wastewater-system/

- Tulare County Climate Action Plan
  http://generalplan.co.tulare.ca.us/documents/GP/001Adopted%20Tulare%20County%20General%20Plan%20Materials/220Climate%20Action%20Plan/CLIMATE%20ACTION%20PLAN%202018%20UPDATE.pdf

- Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Plan
  https://greaterkaweahgsa.org/resources/gsp/

SECTION 2 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 - Introduction/Background

The Plainview Mutual Water Company (PMWC) owns and operates two water systems serving the community of Plainview, the PMWC water system and the PMWC Central (PMWC – Central) water system. The PMWC water system serves the area of the community east of Road 196, while the PMWC – Central water system serves the area of the community west of 196 (see Figure 2-2). These two water systems are not physically connected, but the proposed Project will physically consolidate the two systems into one water system.

The PMWC water system is served by Well #3, a hypochlorinated supply well that provides compliant water, South Well (a backup well), a six-inch PVC distribution system, an 8,000-gallon hydropneumatic tank and service connections that are metered but inoperable.

The PMWC - Central is served by a 3,000-gallon hydropneumatic tank and hypochlorinated Well #1 that has exceeded the nitrate MCL set by the EPA and State Water Resources Control Board. The noncompliant nitrate (NO_3) contaminated water is provided through an in-easement water distribution system of six-inch recycled oilfield piping in bad repair. The groundwater in the area is known to have high levels of Nitrates; in 2014 Well #1 had 62 mg/l of nitrate present in the source water, which exceeds the MCL of 45 mg/l (County of Tulare Resource Management Agency, 2016). The PMWC – Central water system has no meters, fire hydrants or valving (see Figure 2-3). In response to the noncompliant water provided by the PMWC – Central water system, residents are provided with bottled water through a State funded program.

2.2 - Project Location

The unincorporated community of Plainview is located within the central portion of Tulare County in California's Central Valley (Figure 2-1). The Project area, as portrayed on Figure 2-2, includes the portion of Plainview, bound by Avenue 196 to the north, Road 198 to the east, Avenue 194 to the south, and Road 195 to the west, in the unincorporated community of Plainview in Tulare County. The Project components will primarily occur at the Well and Tank site, located at 19475 Road 196, with two additional solar arrays located at 19505 Road 198 and 19794 Avenue 194.

2.3 - Project Environment

The Project site is located approximately 75 miles east of the Coastal Range and approximately 10 miles west of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The topography of Plainview comprises a relatively flat, level surface with no major slopes, mountain hillsides, or bodies of water. Plainview sits at an approximate elevation of 354 feet above mean sea level.

The Project is in Section 35, Township 20 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian of the Public Land Survey System. It can be found within the Cairns Corner United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

Figure 2-1
Regional Map

Figure 2-2
Project Area

Figure 2-3
PMWC – Central Existing Infrastructure

2.4 - Proposed Project

The proposed Project will have several major components: (1) demolition and removal of a house, garage, and swimming pool (2) construction of a new supply well, pump station and 250,000-gallon water storage tank that will supply compliant drinking water; (3) replacement of the existing pipeline and installation of approximately 43 service connections and meters within the PMWC - Central water system west of Road 196; and (4) connection of PMWC water system to PMWC Central water system (see Figure 2-3); (5) installation of three PV solar arrays (6) upgrades to the existing metering system of the PMWC water system east of Road 196.

Associated with these major components are installation of fire hydrants, distribution system valving, and abandonment of the PMWC – Central Well #1. A photovoltaic solar array system will be installed at three separate sites to help offset the Project's electrical consumption (see figure 2-2). The Project will extend the new, in-streets-rights of way service connections to each residence, replacing existing service connections from the easement-housed old distribution system.

The demolition and removal of existing structures include a 736-square-foot house, 676-square-foot storage garage, and a swimming pool. Several mature trees will be removed from the Project site.

The proposed supply well will be located south of Avenue 195 and west of Road 196 at the Well and Tank site. The proposed Project site was determined to provide both an adequate and compliant drinking water supply, without impacting the existing PMWC water system Well #2, located east of Road 196. The site is of sufficient size to accommodate a 250,000-gallon storage tank to serve the Plainview community, that was previously served by two separate water systems (see Figure 2-5 for a well and storage tank site plan).

2.4.1 - THE WELL

The proposed well will be located approximately 1,400 feet west from the existing west-of-Road 198 wells. The site development includes the recommended 250,000-gallon storage tank with a 40-foot diameter. There are no major agricultural wells adjacent to the wellsite.

The PMWC – Central Well #1, on the west side of County Road 196, will be physically disconnected from the Project distribution system and abandoned in place.

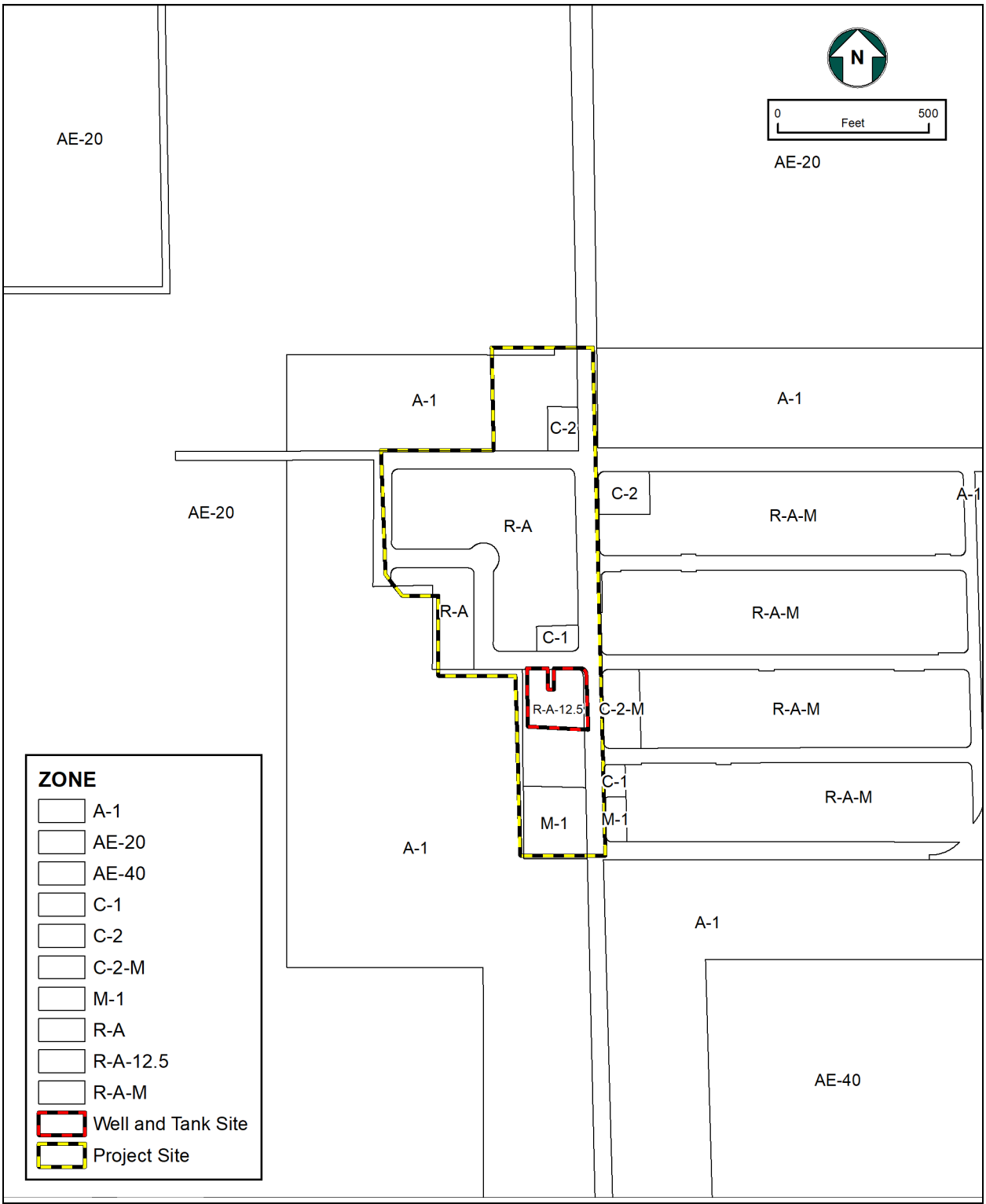

Figure 2-4
Tulare County Zoning

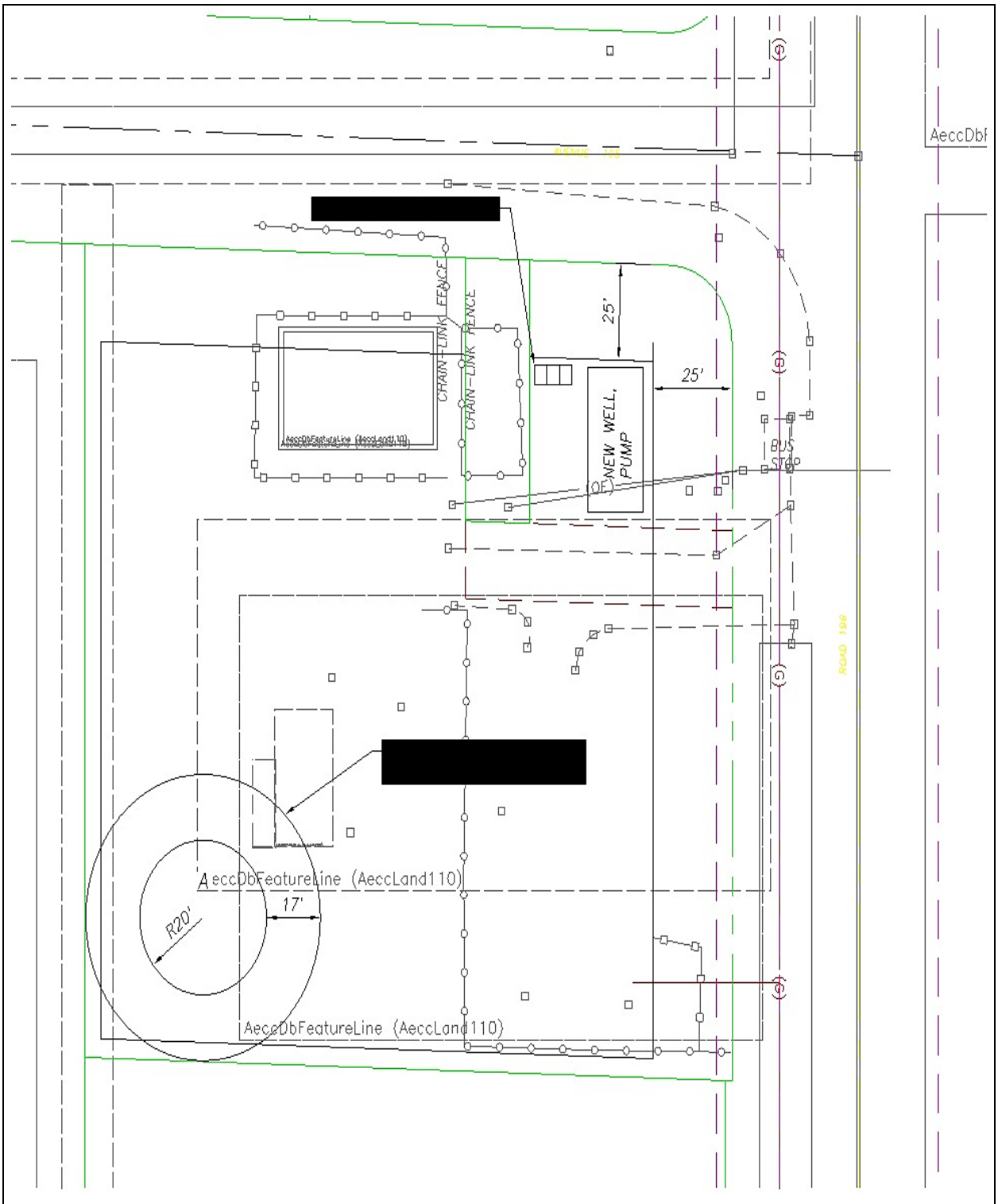

Figure 2-5
Site Plan

The well depth and capacity were determined with a test well at the Well and Tank site. The Well and Tank site is currently vacant with a few trees, the site is 70 feet by 73 feet to accommodate both drilling operations and the new well pump. The new onsite storage tank will be constructed on the southwest corner of the property. The proposed well and pump will be located adjacent to the Well #1, on the northeast corner of the property (see Figure 2-5).

2.4.2 - DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

The existing PMWC – Central six-inch distribution system, principally installed in the 1940s, is composed of reused oilfield steel pipe. It is primarily located in rear-of-lot six-foot-width easements and includes no intra-system valving; repairs require shutoff of the entire system. It is independent of (not connected to) the PMWC's distribution system east of Road 196. The pipeline's depth will be no more than five feet deep and trenching will be three feet wide. The current pipeline serves 44 residences and one commercial enterprise (neighborhood grocery), it includes no meters and two substandard wharf hydrants. The pipeline has dead-end lines that are a potential source of bacterial noncompliance and the total line length is roughly 2,500 feet.

The proposed distribution system will be composed of roughly 3,500 feet of six-inch and eight- inch PVC (C900, Class 150) piping, with no dead-ends, interconnected at two points across. These two interconnections will physically consolidate PMWC water system and PMWC-Central water system. The entire distribution system will be installed in County road rights of way. The new system will be valved for ease of maintenance and all service connections will be metered.

2.4.3 - STORAGE TANK

Neither the PMWC- Central water system nor the PMWC system have adequate water storage facilities. Currently there is a 3,000-gallon hydropneumatic tank that serves the PMWC – Central and 3,000 gallon and 5,000-gallon hydropneumatic tanks that serve PMWC water system. It is proposed that a toroidal steel 250,000-gallon tank will be constructed on the proposed Well and Tank site. Once connected and physically consolidated the new water system, will considered the PMWC water system and is required to comply with Chapter 16 California Waterworks Standards for 250,000 gallons of storage.

2.5 - Associated Facilities

The essential facilities associated with Project well, distribution system and storage include:

- Service connections and service water meters.

It is recommended that all residential service connections be one-inch diameter and that meters be remote-read. The new meters installed in the PMWC – Central water system will be similar to those installed in 2008 in the PMWC water system.

Service connection size, design and metering for the one commercial facility (the neighborhood grocery store) will be specified at the time of preparation of Project plans and specifications but is assumed for this report to be a 1.5-inch metered connection.

- Proposed fire hydrant spacing will be approved by the Tulare County Fire Department.
- Standby power will be provided for both the well pump and the storage tank booster pump.
- The two proposed interconnections between the PMWC water system and the PMWC – Central watersystem will require bored connection under the County road and will be valved to enable backflow prevention should either system have water quality noncompliant or major pressure loss problems.
- A PV solar array system will be installed at at the Well and Tank site. Two additional PV solar arrays will be installed within existing pump/well facilities located at 19505 Road 198 and 19794 Avenue 194. The combined PV system is estimated to generate 161,263 kWh/year that will supplement the Project's annual energy usage.

2.6 - Alternatives to the Project

Analysis of possible alternatives was presented in the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), prepared for the Project (QK, 2019c), which is included in Appendix E of this IS/MND. The PER outlines the constraints impacting the various options and the rationale for the final choice of the Project.

2.7 - Climate Change

The proposed Project and the associated facilities are vulnerable to climate change. At the same time, the Project is a solution to combat climate change factors facing the community of Plainview.

- Vulnerability:
    - Water Supply Quality
      The Plainview community has not been served by a water supply system that has been in compliance with health-related State drinking water standards. The community is currently served by an old well providing non-compliant water that has nitrates exceeding State

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Some residents are provided with compliant bottled water.

Implementation of the Project will significantly improve water supply quality and provide clean, safe drinking water to the Plainview community.

- Drought

  The installation of the new water 250,000-gallon storage tank will enable the PMWC to manage groundwater resources and local groundwater sustainability more effectively,, as well as improve resiliency to reduce vulnerability and impacts from, long term drought conditions currently experienced in the San Joaquin Valley.

- Adaptation:

  - Alternative Energy Source

    The AB 32 Scoping Plan is the core of California's climate mitigation efforts. Water related AB 32 mitigation measures target reducing energy requirements associated with providing reliable water supplies (water use efficiency, water recycling, and reuse of urban runoff), and reducing the amount of non-renewable energy associated with conveying and treating water.

    As such, the Project proposes to install a 100 kW PV solar array system. The PV system is estimated to generate 161,263 kWh/year that will supplement the Project's annual energy usage and offset the energy used by the water pumps to convey the water to the community. The greenhouse gas emissions reductions from this measure may be indirectly realized through reduced energy requirements, and these actions often also have adaptation co-benefits of improving water quality and water supply reliability. The use of renewable energy will reduce the carbon footprint of the water facility by eliminating the use of diesel or other fossil fuels for the pump. This reduces GHG emissions and also improves air quality by reducing criteria pollutants that impact health.

  - Additional Storage

    The installation of the new water storage tank will enable the PMWC to more effectively manage groundwater resources and local groundwater sustainability to reduce vulnerability to and impacts from long term drought conditions. It will provide a compliant water supply (correcting nitrates non-compliance), replace a failing water distribution system, and provide adequate backup water supply and fire suppression storage capacity for the entire community water system.

- Mitigation

  Renewable Energy Source- 100 kW PV solar array to offset the Project's annual energy usage.

SECTION 3 - INITIAL STUDY

3.1 - Environmental Checklist

1. **Project Title:**

   Plainview Nitrate Relief Project

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**

   California State Water Resources Control Board
   1001 I Street, 16th Floor
   Sacramento, CA 95814

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:**

   Abbygayle Britton
   (916) 319 – 0180

4. **Project Location:**

   The Project area is located within the unincorporated Community of Plainview in a designated Urban Development Boundary (UDB) within Tulare County. Plainview is located approximately 7.5 miles west of Strathmore and 6.5 miles west of SR-65.

5. **Tulare County General Plan Designation:**

   The unincorporated community of Plainview is located entirely within an Urban Development Boundary (UDB) with a Mixed-Use land use designation.

6. **Zoning:**

   Zoning within the Project area consists of these zones:

   - R-A: (Rural Residential) allows single-family dwellings and farming uses.
   - C-1: (General Commercial) Zone is intended for retail stores and businesses, which do not involve manufacturing and/or processing.
   - M-1: (Light Manufacturing) Zone is intended for establishments engaged in the manufacturing, assembling, packaging, treatment and processing of products other than those which may be obnoxious or offensive by reason of emission of odor, dust, smoke, gas, noise, or other similar causes.
   - R-A-12.5 (Rural Residential), C-1 (General Commercial), and M-1 (Light Manufacturing).

7. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**

The surrounding land uses include residential land use to the north, east and south and agricultural land to the west.

8. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May be Required:

- California State Water Resources Control Board- Division of Drinking Water
- County of Tulare
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

3.2 - Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

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

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

3.3 - Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed Project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect (a) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (b) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENT IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.

Signature	Date
Printed Name	For

3.4 - 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 offsite as well as onsite, cumulative as well as Project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3. Once the Lead Agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less-Than-Significant Impact." The Lead Agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

    a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

    b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

    c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the Project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a Project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9. The explanation of each issue should identify:

    a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
    b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.1 - AESTHETICS					
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:					
a.	Have a substantial 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c.	In nonurbanized area, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d.	Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

Technical reports relied upon in the impact analysis of Aesthetic Resources include: the *Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR* (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b) and the *2019 Plainview Community Plan* (Tulare County Resources Management Agency, 2019a) and other available data.

Impact #3.4.1a – Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

The proposed Project is located in an area that is developed, built up and not located in or near any designated scenic vistas. The areas to the north, east and south of the Project are residential while the west is comprised of agricultural fields. There are no known aesthetic resources existing on or near the Project sites. The majority of the Project will be installed underground with the exception of the pumphouse, water storage tank, and solar arrays. Construction of the water storage tank and solar arrays will have a minor impact and obstruct public views of the property but will not block or preclude views to any area containing important or what would be considered visually appealing landforms. The

proposed Project will not have an adverse effect on known scenic vistas. Therefore, the Project will have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact.***

Impact #3.4.1b – Would the Project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?

See Impact #3.4.1a, above.

The Project area does not contain any scenic highways. Pursuant to the California Streets and Highways Code, Sections 260 through 263 there are certain elements that make a highway scenic, which include the amount of natural landscape that can be seen by drivers, the scenic quality of the landscape, and the extent of development. There are eligible segments of State Route (SR) 198 and SR 190 that are being considered as State scenic highways (Tulare County Resources Management Agency, 2019a), but at this time, neither road has been formally designated as such. State Highways 198 is 25 miles northwest of Plainview and State Highway 190 is 16.5 miles south of Plainview and the Project would not be visible to motorists.

Additionally, the Tulare County 2030 General Plan lists a series of Scenic County Routes, several of which are located in agricultural areas. Avenue 196, which is the northern-most east-west roadway in Plainview, is designated as a Scenic County Route. During construction-related activities, the visual character of the Project would be impacted as a result of trenching and other construction-related activities. However, these impacts would be short-term, temporary, and are typical of these types of construction projects. The long-term operation of the underground pipelines would not present the potential to impact the visual character of the Avenue 196 view-shed. While the water storage tank and other related structures may be constructed above ground, these structures are visually consistent with the existing agricultural infrastructure along Avenue 196 and would not result in a significant impact.

There are no known historic buildings, trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings or scenic highways that have been identified within six miles of the Project. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact on scenic resources within a scenic highway.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.1c – In nonurbanized area, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

See discussion of Impact #3.4.1a and #3.4.1b, above.

The Well and Tank site, as well as the two additional solar arrays, will be located on a flat parcel surrounded by single-family homes. The pump house will be of a similar visual character as the residence and outbuildings that were originally on the property and the water related infrastructure visually consistent with the existing agricultural infrastructure in the area and would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The tank may have a minor impact to public views for the southern properties along Road 196.

Project pipelines will all be placed within the public road rights of way along rural residential areas comprised of single-family homes and commercial properties. All work will be temporary and may obstruct views within the community during the installation of the pipeline along each section of road. The Project's appearance will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. The Project will not conflict with local zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality. Therefore, the Project will have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be *no impact.*

Impact #3.4.1d – Would the Project create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Construction

Construction activities on the Project would typically be conducted during daylight hours, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. In the unlikely event that work is performed between dusk and 6:00 a.m., construction crews will use minimal illumination to perform the work safely. All construction lighting would be directed downward and shielded to focus illumination on the desired work areas only and prevent light spillage onto adjacent properties.

Operation

Once operational, the storage tank may require the use of security lighting. Any required Project lights will be designed to ensure all lighting will be directed downward and shielded to focus illumination on the desired work areas only and prevent light spillage onto adjacent properties. The design of the nitrate remediation well along with the discharge meter and standby power facilities would comply with applicable provisions of all pertinent lighting standards.

Compliance with Plainview Community Plan Policies LI-1 through LI-6 would ensure that the proposed Project would not adversely affect day or nighttime views significantly in the area and impacts related to light or glare would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact

3.4.2 - AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the State's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the Project:

a.	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	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]), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104[g])?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d.	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e.	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Technical reports relied upon in the impact analysis of Agriculture and Forestry Resources include *the Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR* (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b)*, and the Plainview Community Plan 2019* was also relied upon (Tulare County Resources Management Agency, 2019a).

Discussion

Impact #3.4.2a – Would the Project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?

Zoning within the Project area consists of these zones:

- R-A: (Rural Residential) allows single-family dwellings and farming uses.
- C-1: (General Commercial) Zone is intended for retail stores and businesses, which do not involve manufacturing and/or processing.
- M-1: (Light Manufacturing) Zone is intended for establishments engaged in the manufacturing, assembling, packaging, treatment and processing of products other than those which may be obnoxious or offensive by reason of emission of odor, dust, smoke, gas, noise, or other similar causes.
- R-A-12.5 (Rural Residential), C-1 (General Commercial), and M-1 (Light Manufacturing).

The Project sites are not zoned for agricultural uses and are not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Important Farmland) as designated by the Department of Conservation's (DOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). The Project area, and entire Plainview Community is designated as Urban and Built-up Land by the DOC FMMP (Department of Conservation, 2020). The proposed Project will not convert Prime, Unique or Statewide Important Farmland; therefore, the Project will have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.2b – Would the Project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract?

The Project area, and entire Plainview community is within an Urban Development Boundary (UDB) with a Mixed-Use land use designation. As seen on Figure 3.4.2-1, no parcels in the Project area are subject to a Williamson Act Land Use contract. There are surrounding properties that are zoned for agricultural and under cultivation and /or subject to a Land Use contract. However, implementation of the Project would not conflict with land zoned for agricultural uses or cause conversion to a nonagricultural use of a property under a Williamson Act land use contract. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***no impact.***

Impact #3.4.2c – Would the Project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220[g]), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104[g])?

The California Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) defines "Forest Land" as "land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits."

There is no land in or near the Project sites that are identified as forest land or timberland. The Project sites are in an Urban Development Boundary and are zoned for residential, commercial, and manufacturing uses. Therefore, implementation of the Project would have no impact on forest land or timberland.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.2d – Would the Project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

See discussion of Impact #3.4.2c, above.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.2e – Would the Project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

See discussion of Impacts #3.4.2a, #3.4.2b, and #3.4.2c, above. The Project sites consists of developed areas within the community of Plainview, and will use existing road rights of way, paved roadways and dirt/gravel shoulders. As such, no Farmland or forest land would be impacted or converted to a nonagricultural use during construction-related activities. The Project would not result in the conversion of agriculturally productive land to nonagricultural uses. There would be no impacts.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***no impact.***

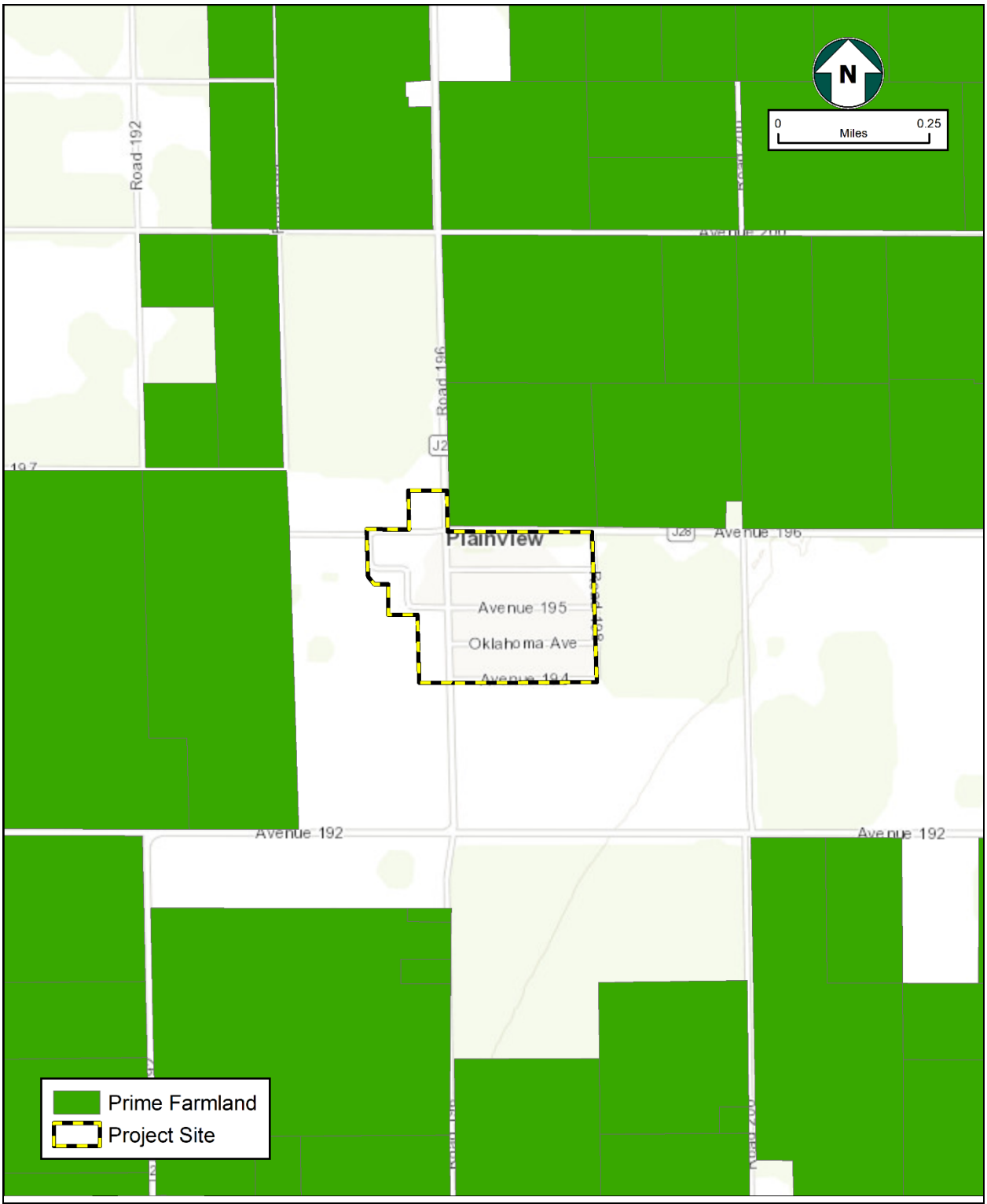

Figure 3.4.2-1
Williamson Act Land Use Contract

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact

3.4.3 - AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the Project:

a.	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c.	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d.	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odor) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

The following analysis is based on the Small Project Analysis Level Assessment for the Project (Trinity Consultants, 2020), a Demolition Emissions Memorandum completed (Insight Environmental, 2019) and an Asbestos Inspection Report (Rooster Enviromental Servcies, Inc., 2020), found in Appendix A of this document.

Impact #3.4.3a – Would the Project Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Demolition and Construction

The Project would generate short-term demolition emissions from the removal of a house and garage/carport, a swimming pool, and during construction activities. Demolition emissions were compared to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's (SJVAPCD) significance thresholds for criteria pollutant emissions as outlined in their *Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts*.

The following assumptions were made for emissions modeling (Insight Environmental, 2019):

- Demolition activities will occur for one day.
- Off-road demolition equipment will include one excavator to be used for eight hours.
- Structures to be demolished include one 736-square-foot home and one 676-square-foot garage/carport for a total of 1,412 square feet of demolished structure.
- Demolition-related hauling trip lengths were adjusted from a default of 20 miles to 8.3 miles, the distance from the proposed demolition site to the Teapot Dome Landfill.
- No construction-related mitigation was incorporated except for the requirements under SJVAPCD's Regulation VIII, which includes watering the site three times per day and reducing onsite vehicle speed to 15 miles per hour.

All other modeling parameters were left as CalEEMod default assumptions, including:

- Default off-road equipment horsepower and load factors.
- Default trip numbers and vehicle classes for worker, vendor, and hauling trips.
- Default trip lengths for worker and vendor trips.

As seen on Table 3.4.3-1 the emissions from the proposed demolition activities are anticipated to be extremely minimal and would not exceed the SJVAPCD's significance thresholds. Table 3.4.3-2 shows that construction emissions are similarly minimal and do not exceed the adopted thresholds.

Table 3.4.3-1
Summary Emissions Related to Demolition Activities

	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10	PM2.5
			(Tons/Year)			
2019 *Unmitigated* Emissions	0.0002	0.0019	0.0018	0.0000	0.0008	0.0002
2019 *Mitigated* Emissions	0.0002	0.0019	0.0018	0.0000	0.0004	0.0001
SJVAPCD Significance Threshold	10	10	100	27	15	15
Exceeds Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: (Insight Environmental, 2019)

Table 3.4.3-2
Construction Emissions

	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10	PM2.5
			(Tons/Year)			
2020 Construction Emissions	0.008	0.078	0.051	0.0001	0.005	0.004
SJVAPCD Significance Threshold	10	10	100	27	15	15
Exceeds Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: (Insight Environmental, 2019)

Operation

The following three criteria will be used for determining whether the Project will conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the applicable air quality plan (AQP):

1. Will the project result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations or cause or contribute to new violations, or delay timely attainment of air quality standards or the interim emission reductions specified in the AQPs?
2. Will the project conform to the assumptions in the AQPs?
3. Will the project comply with applicable control measures in the AQPs?

CONTRIBUTION TO AIR QUALITY VIOLATIONS

The Air District's Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (GAMAQI) provides the following guidance on determining whether a project would conflict or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan:"…the District has established thresholds of significance for criteria pollutant emissions, which are based on District New Source Review (NSR) offset requirements for stationary sources. Stationary sources in the District are subject to some of the toughest regulatory requirements in the nation. Emission reductions achieved through implementation of District offset requirements are a major component of the District's air quality plans. Thus, projects with emissions below the thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants would be determined to "Not conflict or obstruct implementation of the District's air quality plan."

The Project would not result in short-term construction related criteria air pollutant emissions. As shown in Table 3.4.3-1, Project-related construction emissions would be below the Air District's thresholds of significance for all criteria pollutants. Operational emissions associated with the Project would result from the vehicle trips associated with the maintenance of the pipelines. As shown in Table 3.4.3-2, the Project qualifies as a "small project" under the SJVACD Small Project Analysis Level (SPAL) screening tool. According to the SJVAPCD, it is determined that if a Project qualifies as a small project, the Project has "no possibility of exceeding criteria pollutant emissions thresholds." (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, 2019) Therefore, the Project would not increase the frequency or severity of existing air quality violation, nor would it cause or contribute to new violations.

Table 3.4.3-3
Small Project Analysis in Units for Office (Commercial)

Land Use Category – Office	Project Size (square feet) *
General Light Industrial	510,000
Heavy Industrial	920,000
Industrial Park	370,000
Manufacturing	400,000
Proposed Project	52,917

SPAL Exceeded?	No

*Project size based on SPAL Table 5-3(d), as posted on SJVAPCD webpage: https://www.valleyair.org/transportation/CEQA%20Rules/SPALTables61912.pdf
**Proposed Project size includes the entire parcel were construction activities will take place and square footage of piping trenching.

CONSISTENCY WITH ASSUMPTIONS IN AQPS

The Air District estimates future emissions in the air basin and develops strategies required to reduce emissions through new regulations. Emissions are calculated based on population, vehicle, and development trends. A project may be inconsistent with an air quality plan if it results in population or employment growth greater than estimates in the air quality plans. Projects that propose growth greater than anticipated projections would conflict with air quality plans and may result in potentially significant impacts as a result of emissions levels in excess of established thresholds.

The Project would neither increase population nor employment within the air basin as the project is sized to serve the existing unincorporated community of Plainview. Also, it is anticipated that there would be no change to the PMWC staffing levels to maintain its operations. As noted earlier, the Project remains subject to all applicable Air District rules and regulations and it has been shown that emission levels would not exceed Air District thresholds during construction or operations-related activities. As such, the Project is consistent with the Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update, as well as the Air District's ozone and particulate matter plans that are included in the State Implementation Plan (Trinity Consultants, 2020). Therefore, the impacts would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant.***

Impact #3.4.3b – Would the Project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

As discussed in Impact #3.4.3a above, the Project would be required to comply with all applicable Air District and ARB standards, rules, and regulations for construction activities. As shown in Table 3.4.3-1 and 3.4.3-2, Project-related demolition and construction emissions do not exceed the Air District's thresholds of significance for any criteria pollutant.

The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Sac Metro Road

Construction Emissions Model (Version 7.1.5.1) data. The Project would result in short-term construction emissions. Ongoing operation and maintenance of the pipeline would result in a limited number of vehicle trips associated with maintenance of the pipeline. Maintenance to the solar arrays will minimal and will also result in a limited number of vehicle trips. As discussed in Impact #3.4.3a above, the Project construction and operations related emissions would not exceed the Air District's thresholds of significance and would not contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violations. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant***.

Impact #3.4.3c – Would the Project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Sensitive receptors are those individuals who are sensitive to air pollution and include children, the elderly, and persons with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular illness. Examples of sensitive receptors include schools, parks and playgrounds, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential dwelling units. The closest school is Sunnyside Elementary School at 2.5 miles to the east. The closest hospital is Sierra Valley Medical Center at 7.8 miles southwest. The closest nursing home is Lindsey Gardens Nursing and Rehabilitation 4.7 miles to the north.

As noted in Impact #3.4.3a-b, demolition, construction and operational emissions are expected to be minimal and would not exceed the adopted Air District thresholds for criteria pollutants. Impacts to sensitive receptors would be less than significant.

An Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) inspection was conducted on the existing structures on the Project site (Rooster Enviromental Servcies, Inc., 2020). The inspection encompassed the interior and exterior areas of the single family residence, garage, and pool. Bulk samples are collected of each suspect material at the discretion of the inspector. Samples are assigned a unique identification number, then shipped to a certified laboratory for analysis. It appears that no building material with an asbestos content greater than one tenth of one percent ($>0.1\%$) was identified.

Based on the predicted operational emissions and activity types, the proposed Project is not expected to affect any onsite or offsite sensitive receptors and is not expected to have any adverse impacts on any known sensitive receptor.

Therefore, the Project will have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.3d – Would the Project result in emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

While offensive odors do not cause any physical harm, they can be unpleasant, leading to distress among the general public and generates citizen complaints to local government agencies (such as the Sheriff, Fire or Environmental Health Departments) and the local air district. Any Project with the potential to expose members of the public to objectionable odors has the potential to adversely impact the atmosphere (environment). Because of the subjective nature of odor impacts there are no quantitative or formulaic methodologies to determine if potential odors would have a significant impact. Projects should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if there are anticipated impacts to the environment associated with objectionable odors.

It is anticipated that the Project construction-related activities would result in diesel emissions exhaust from construction equipment used for demolition, trenching along the existing distribution pipeline system, site preparations and grading for the Project sites. These activities may release odors into the atmosphere. However, construction-related emissions would be short-term, temporary, and are not anticipated to affect a substantial number of receptors at any given time. Once operational, the Project is not anticipated to generate or emit odors. Therefore, the Project will have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact

3.4.4 - BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the Project:

a.	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b.	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e.	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f.	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The analysis of impacts to Biological Resources is based upon a Biological Analysis Report prepared for the Project (QK, 2019a), which is included as Appendix B.

Impact #3.4.4a – Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

The biological resources evaluation is based upon a review of available literature and databases and existing site conditions evaluated during a reconnaissance survey. These studies evaluated the potential for sensitive biological resources to occur on and in the vicinity of the Project, and any impacts that could potentially occur.

Based on the results of wildlife agency database and literature review, and a reconnaissance level survey conducted on August 30, 2019, two special-status wildlife species were determined to have the potential to occur within the Biological Study Area (BSA): Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*). Nesting migratory birds also have the potential to occur within the BSA. These three biological resources have the potential to be impacted by the Project. Direct impacts could include direct injury or mortality of individual special-status species and/or their young during the breeding and/or nesting season.

All Project activities will occur on previously developed land (i.e. paved surfaces, residential lots), so habitat loss for special-status species will be minimal. Indirect impacts are not expected to occur because the Project will have a short duration of construction. If construction of the Project occurs during the nesting season, compliance with MM BIO-1 requires a preconstruction clearance survey prior to ground disturbance activities. This measure will ensure that the Project site and vicinity is clear to avoid and minimize impacts to Swainson's hawk, San Joaquin kit fox, and nesting birds, as well as other special status species.. The Project is not expected to impact any other sensitive resources.

Site Conditions

The entirety of the Project, and the majority of the BSA, is comprised of urban habitat, which includes paved roads, residences, a small park (unvegetated), and some commercial developments. Vegetation commonly associated with this habitat includes ornamental herbs (grass lawns, weeds, and flowers), shrubs, hedges, and trees, as well as ruderal species. Species composition within this urban habitat varies with the type of ornamental plantings. Common plants in the Project sites included Italian cypress (*Cupressa sempervirens*), fan palm (*Washingtonia* sp.), bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea spectabilis*), and common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* ssp*. officinale*). As noted in the biological study, no protected or special status plant species were observed on the Well and Tank site (QK, 2019a).

Special-Status Species

Two special-status wildlife species determined to have potential to occur onsite.

SWAINSON'S HAWK

There is no evidence that Swainson's hawk is present within the BSA and no nests or individuals were observed during the reconnaissance survey. However, suitable nesting habitat exists on the Project site and foraging habitat exists in the surrounding agricultural areas. Direct impacts to Swainson's hawks could occur if construction activities occur near an active nest during the nesting season. Several trees may be removed, but the trees would be visually inspected for nests by a qualified biologist prior to removal.

The nearest recorded occurrence was a nesting pair with one young in the nest was approximately 4.6 miles northwest of the Project observed in 2017. Based onsite conditions during the reconnaissance survey, there are trees within the Project that could support nesting Swainson's hawks (i.e., large trees in the front or back yards of residences). The agricultural lands adjacent to the Project, specifically the fallow grain field to the east, provides potential foraging habitat.

SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX

There is no positive evidence that San Joaquin kit fox is present within the BSA, but suitable foraging habitat exists within and around the Project. Because this species is highly mobile, it may be present from time to time on the Project site as a transient forager.

The nearest occurrence to the Project sites were of active dens observed between 1972 and 1975, approximately 2.5 miles east of the Project although there are several more recent San Joaquin kit fox records within 10 miles of the Project. There is low-quality denning habitat present within the Project, and the presence of domestic dogs within the community of Plainview makes it unlikely that San Joaquin kit fox would inhabit the Project site or vicinity.

NESTING BIRDS

Habitat within the BSA supports nesting native bird species, which are protected by the federal MBTA. During the reconnaissance survey a fledgling northern mockingbird was observed (although the nest could not be located). Various species of migratory birds will construct nests in a variety of habitats and structures, and nests may be found in trees or shrubs, in man-made structures, and directly on the ground. The proposed removal of 2-3 ornamental trees on the Well and Tank site will be conducted following appropriate avoidance and minimization measures.

Construction

The Project activities will occur on previously disturbed, developed land, and habitat loss would be minimal. Indirect impacts are not expected to occur because the Project will have a short duration of construction.

SWAINSON'S HAWK

As noted above, there is no positive evidence that Swainson's hawk is present within the Project area, but suitable nesting habitat exists on the site and foraging habitat exists in the surrounding agricultural areas. Direct impacts to Swainson's hawks could occur if construction activities occur near an active nest during the nesting season. Direct impacts (i.e. noise and vibration) from construction of the Project and the presence of construction workers could alter the normal behaviors of nesting adults that might occur near the Project, resulting in harm or death to eggs or nestlings. No indirect impacts (i.e. loss of suitable habitat, increase in traffic) are anticipated given the short duration of construction in any given area and no loss of suitable nesting or foraging habit would occur as a result of the Project.

SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX

There is no direct evidence that San Joaquin kit fox is present within the Project area, but suitable foraging habitat exists within and in the vicinity. Because this species is highly mobile, it may be present from time to time on the Project site as a transient forager. Direct impacts resulting in injury or death of pups could occur if an active natal den is located near the construction area, causing the adults to alter normal behaviors. Direct impacts by vehicles is a concern for San Joaquin kit foxes in urban environments, but the proposed Project would not cause an increase in traffic at night when the species is most active. Direct impacts could also include entrapment in trenches or pipes during construction. No indirect impacts (i.e. loss of suitable habitat, increase in traffic) are anticipated given the short duration of construction in any given area and no loss of suitable denning or foraging habit would occur as a result of the Project.

NESTING BIRDS

The Project sites contains suitable habitat for a wide variety of nesting bird species. Project activities adjacent to nesting birds could result in direct impacts to nests from noise and vibration caused by construction activities. Normal behaviors in nesting adults could result from construction activities and human presence that could lead to nest failure. No indirect impacts (i.e. loss of suitable habitat, increase in traffic) are anticipated given the short duration of construction and loss of nesting habitat would be negligible (i.e., limited to tank and well construction).

CONCLUSION

The limited disturbance footprint for this Project and the short duration of construction activities at any given location, coupled with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels and would not result in a substantial adverse effect on special-status wildlife species and migratory birds. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 requires a preconstruction clearance survey prior to ground disturbance activities. This measure will ensure that the Project sites and vicinity are clear to avoid and minimize impacts to Swainson's hawk, San Joaquin kit fox, and nesting birds, as well as

other special status species. Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and BIO-3 outline the necessary actions should San Joaquin kit fox be observed on the Project prior to construction. Mitigation Measure BIO-4 outlines the need for preconstruction nesting bird survey if the Project construction commences during nesting season. Mitigation Measures BIO-5 through BIO-7 outlines requirements to minimize impacts to Swainson's hawk, should they be observed during preconstruction surveys. Mitigation Measure BIO-7 requires construction personnel to receive training and information on the life histories of special-status species with potential to occur on the Project, their legal status, course of action should these species be encountered onsite, and avoidance and minimization measures to protect these species. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 though BIO-7 would reduce Project related construction impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Operations

Once operational, the potential for impacts to occur would be minimal. Activities would include routine maintenance visits by existing Water District staff. However, operational maintenance activities would be of short duration and cause negligible impacts.

The limited disturbance footprint for this Project and the short duration of activities at any given location, coupled with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-7 would reduce impacts to less-than significant levels and would not result in a substantial adverse effect on special-status wildlife species and migratory birds. The following measures are recommended to avoid and minimize impacts to Swainson's hawk, San Joaquin kit fox, nesting birds and other special status species.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

MM BIO-1: No less than 14 days prior to the start of Project ground disturbance activities in any specific area, a pre-construction clearance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist knowledgeable in the identification of listed species. The surveys shall cover the Project site plus a 500-foot buffer. Pedestrian surveys achieving 100 percent visual coverage shall be conducted. Multiple surveys are anticipated to be needed as each Project phase is initiated. If no evidence of special-status species is detected, no further action is required.

MM BIO-2: If dens/burrows that could support the San Joaquin kit fox are discovered during the pre-construction surveys conducted under BIO-1, the avoidance buffers outlined below shall be established. No work would occur within these buffers unless the biologist approves and monitors the activity.

- Potential Den – 50 feet
- Atypical Den – 50 feet (includes pipes and other man-made structures)
- Known Den – 100 feet
- Natal/Pupping Den – 500 feet

MM BIO-3: The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented during all phases of the Project to reduce the potential for impact from the Project. They are modified from the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (USFWS 2011).

- Project-related vehicles shall observe a daytime speed limit of 20 mph throughout the site in all Project areas, except on County roads and State and federal highways.
- All Project activities shall occur during daylight hours, but if work must be conducted at night then a night-time construction speed limit of 10 mph shall be established.
- Off-road traffic outside of designated Project areas shall be prohibited.
- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes or other animals during construction of the Project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than two feet deep shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks shall be installed.
- Before holes or trenches are filled, they shall be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the USFWS and the CDFW shall be contacted before proceeding with the work.
- In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures shall be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the USFWS and CDFW shall be contacted for guidance.
- All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of four inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods shall be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes and burrowing owls before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe shall not be moved until the USFWS has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped.
- All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps shall be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or Project site.
- No firearms shall be allowed on the Project site.
- No pets, such as dogs or cats, shall be permitted on the Project site.
- Project-related use of rodenticides and herbicides shall be restricted.
- A representative shall be appointed by the Project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The representative shall be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number shall be provided to the USFWS and CDFW.
- Upon completion of the Project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances (including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc.) shall be recontoured if necessary, and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to

pre-project conditions. An area subject to "temporary" disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the Project, but after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated.

- Any Project personnel who are responsible for inadvertently killing or injuring one of these species shall immediately report the incident to their representative. This representative shall contact the CDFW and USFWS immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped listed animal.
- The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife office and CDFW Region 4 office shall be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during project related activities. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information.
- New sightings of San Joaquin kit fox shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database. A copy of the reporting form and a topographic map clearly marked with the location of where the kit fox was observed shall also be provided to the USFWS.

MM BIO-4: If Project construction must occur during the nesting season (February 15 to August 31), pre-activity nesting bird surveys shall be conducted within seven days prior to the start of construction at the construction site plus a 250-foot buffer for songbirds and a 500-foot buffer for raptors (other than Swainson's hawk). The surveys shall be phased with construction of the Project. If no active nests are found, no further action is required. However, nests may become active at any time throughout the summer, including when construction activities are in progress. If active nests are found during the survey or at any time during construction of the Project, an avoidance buffer ranging from 50 feet to 500 feet may be required, with the avoidance buffer from any specific nest being determined by a qualified biologist. The avoidance buffer will remain in place until the biologist has determined that the young are no longer reliant on the nest. Work may occur within the avoidance buffer under the approval and guidance of the biologist, but full-time monitoring may be required. The biologist shall have the ability to stop construction if nesting adults show sign of distress.

MM BIO-5: If Project construction must occur during the nesting season (February 15 to August 31), pre-activity surveys shall be conducted for Swainson's hawk nests in accordance with the *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley*, Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (CDFW 2000). The surveys would be conducted on the Project site plus a 0.5-mile buffer. To meet the minimum level of protection for the species, surveys shall be conducted during at least two survey periods. The survey will be conducted in accordance with the methodology outlined in existing protocols and shall phased with construction of the Project.

If no Swainson's hawk nests are found, no further action is required.

MM BIO-6: If an active Swainson's hawk nest is discovered at any time within 0.5 miles of active construction, a qualified biologist will complete an assessment of the potential for

current construction activities to impact the nest. The assessment will consider the type of construction activities, the location of construction relative to the nest, the visibility of construction activities from the nest location, and other existing disturbances in the area that are not related to construction activities of this Project. Based on this assessment, the biologist will determine if construction activities can proceed and the level of nest monitoring required. Construction activities shall not occur within 500 feet of an active nest but depending upon conditions at the site this distance may be reduced. Full-time monitoring to evaluate the effects of construction activities on nesting Swainson's hawks may be required. The qualified biologist shall have the authority to stop work if it is determined that Project construction is disturbing the nest. These buffers may need to increase depending on the sensitivity of the nest location, the sensitivity of the nesting Swainson's hawk to disturbances, and at the discretion of the qualified biologist.

MM BIO-7: Prior to the initiation of construction activities, all personnel shall attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Training program developed by a qualified biologist. The program shall include information on the life histories of special-status species with potential to occur on the Project, their legal status, course of action shall these species be encountered onsite, and avoidance and minimization measures to protect these species.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated.***

Impact #3.4.4b – Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

The literature and database review identified nine special-status plant species known to occur or with potential to occur within the vicinity of the Project. None of those plant species were determined to have a potential to occur within the BSA because there was no suitable habitat or soils present to support those species. The database and literature review did not identify any sensitive natural communities within the vicinity of the Project. This is not unexpected, because the Project sites have been completely developed for residential land use and surrounding areas have been repeatedly disturbed for decades for agricultural purposes.

The literature and database review identified 19 special-status wildlife species known to occur or with the potential to occur in the Project vicinity. Of those species, two were determined to have the potential to occur onsite:

- **Swainson's hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*) – State Threatened
- **San Joaquin kit fox** (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) – Federally Endangered, State Threatened

Additionally, the Project sites do not contain any USFWS-designated Critical Habitat. Critical habitat for California condor foraging is located approximately 7.5 miles to the east and critical habitat for Keck's checker-mallow is located approximately 15 miles southeast (Figure 3.4.4-1).

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-7.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated.***

Impact #3.4.4c – Would the Project 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?

There are no jurisdictional waters or wetlands within the BSA, as defined by the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) and National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (Figure 3.4.4-2). Additionally, no waterways or permanent bodies of water were observed onsite during the reconnaissance survey (QK, 2019a). Therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands or waters as a result of the Project.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***no impact.***

Impact #3.4.4d – Would the Project 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?

Wildlife migratory corridors are described as a narrow stretch of land that connects two open pieces of habitat that would otherwise be unconnected. These routes provide shelter and sufficient food supplies to support wildlife species during migration. Movement corridors generally consist of riparian, woodlands, or forested habitats that span contiguous acres of undisturbed habitat and are important elements of resident species' home ranges.

The Project is not located within any identified wildlife linkages or corridors identified by the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project (QK, 2019a). There are no drainages, riparian areas, or other natural features in the vicinity of the Project that might serve as movement corridors. Various species may disperse through the surrounding agricultural areas (e.g., through orchard or vineyard rows), but there is little cover for wildlife to pass

through the community of Plainview. Because the area of urban development is so small (approximately 55 acres), the community of Plainview itself does not present an impediment to wildlife movement, and the Project does not incorporate any changes into the structure or layout of the community (QK, 2019a).

The proposed Project would not interfere 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. Therefore, the Project's impacts would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be *less than significant.*

Impact #3.4.4e – Would the Project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

The Project does not conflict with the 2030 Tulare County General Plan and is not subject to any local ordinances. The trees to be removed from the Well and Tank site are ornamental, introduced species (non-native) that are not protected by Tulare County Ordinance 3592 regarding the protection of oak trees. Therefore, there are no impacts with respect to local policies and ordinances and no mitigation measures are warranted. Therefore, there would be no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be *no impact*.

Impact #3.4.4f – Would the Project conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?

The PG&E San Joaquin Valley Operations and Maintenance Habitat Conservation Plan is the only conservation plan overlying the proposed Project, but it does not apply to any projects that are not implemented by PG&E (QK, 2019a). The proposed Project will not conflict with any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan, so there will be no impacts and no measures are warranted. Therefore, implementation of the Project would have no impacts related to habitat conservation or natural community plans.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

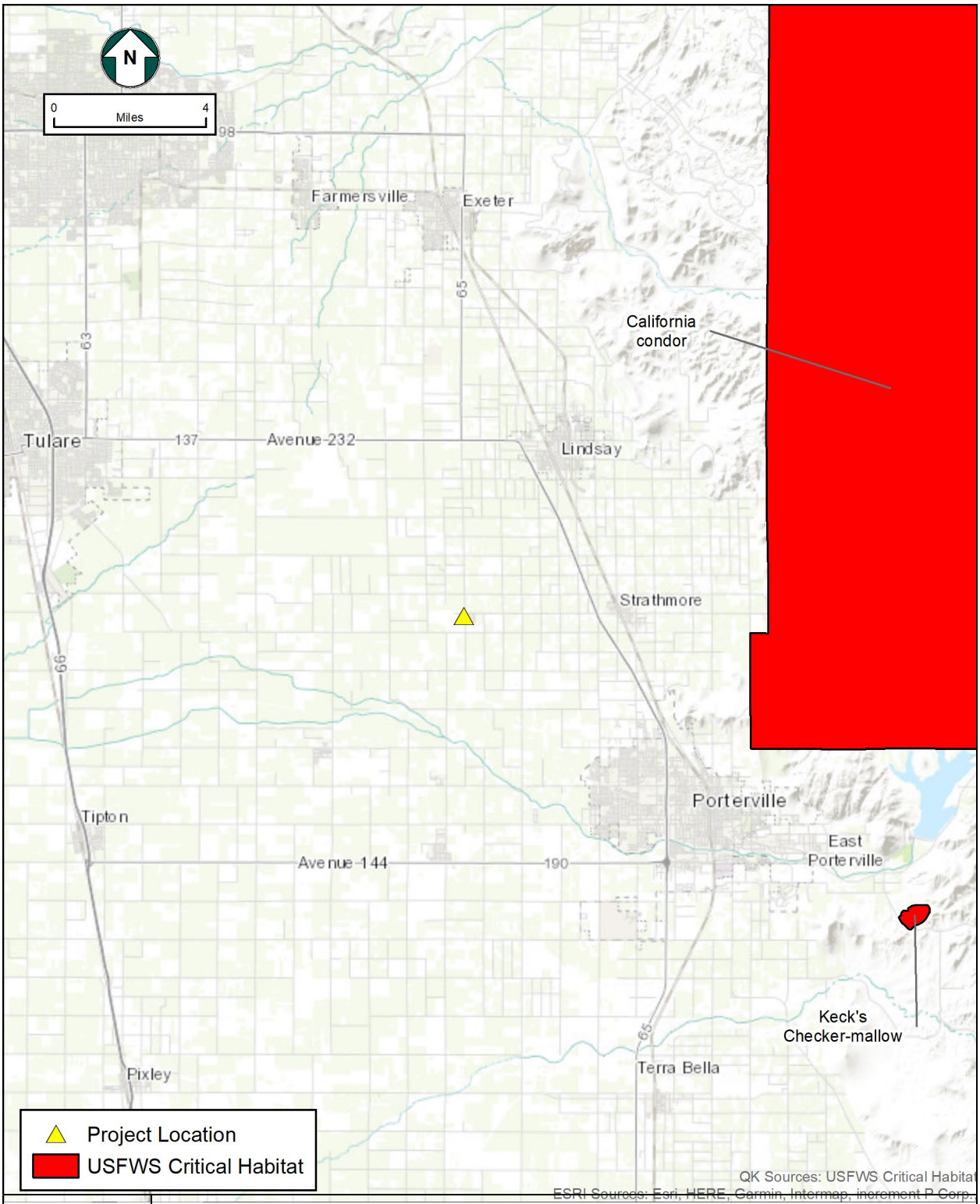

Figure 3.4.4-1
Critical Habitat

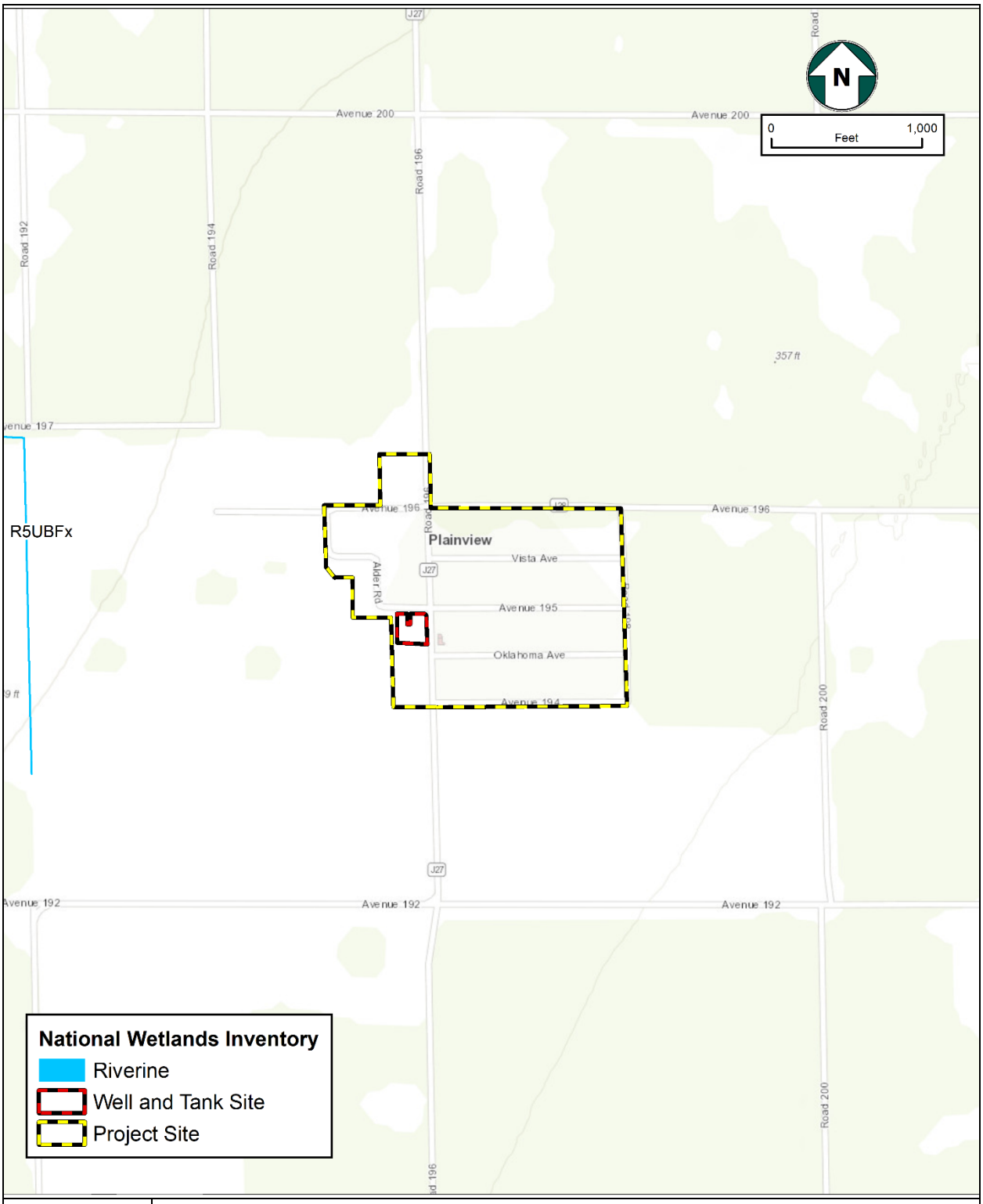

Figure 3.4.4-2
National Hydrology Database & National Water Inventory

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.5 - CULTURAL RESOURCES				
Would the Project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

The following analysis is based on the cultural resources survey report prepared for the Project (ASM Affiliates, Inc., 2019), which is included as Appendix C of this document. The study includes a records search of files at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC), a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search at the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), Native American outreach, and field inspection. An archaeological literature and records search was conducted at the SSJVIC, of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) housed at California State University Bakersfield, on September 9, 2019, with a half-mile buffer around the Project site. The results of this search indicated that one cultural resource study had been completed within a small portion of the Project site and no other studies had been completed within a half-mile radius of the Project. No cultural resources are recorded within the APE or within a half-mile of the Project site. The CHRIS search also included searching the lists of resources on or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), California State Historical Landmarks, California Sate Points of Historical Interest.

The cultural resources study did not identify historical, unique archaeological, or tribal cultural resources (see Section 3.4.18 for a discussion of tribal cultural resources) in the Project area.

Impact #3.4.5a – Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?

As defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, "historical resources" are:

- A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Section 4850 et seq.).
- A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.

Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a Lead Agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the Lead Agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the Lead Agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852) including the following:

- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
- Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

An intensive cultural resources survey was conducted for the Project. The Project footprint consists of an approximate 0.7-miles (mi) main pipeline route plus a new well and tank, and staging, lay- down and work areas. With buffers, the Project footprint is approximately nine acres (ac) in size. The cultural resource survey fieldwork was conducted on October 24, 2019. No historical, archaeological, or tribal cultural resources were discovered within the Project site. Based on these results, the Project does not have the potential to result in significant impacts to historical, unique archaeological, or tribal cultural resources.

An existing single-family residence and attached storage sheds will be demolished for the project. The structures are not associated with a significant event, figure, or period of history; nor do they embody distinctive characteristics, nor represent the work of a master; nor have they yielded, nor are likely to yield, information; and are therefore not historical resources under CEQA.

Although no historical resources were found on the Project site or during historical research, there is a low potential for construction to unearth cultural resources. Grading

and trenching, as well as other ground-disturbing actions, have the potential to damage or destroy previously unidentified historical resources. Although unlikely, the disturbance of any deposits that have the potential to provide significant cultural data would be considered a significant impact under CEQA. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels in the unlikely event historical resources are accidentally discovered during construction.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

MM CUL-1: In the event that new historical or archaeological resources are discovered during the project, all ground-disturbing activities in the vicinity of the find shall cease, an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (National Park Service 1983) shall be retained to evaluate the find, and the lead agency will be notified. Work may continue on other parts of the project while evaluation and, if necessary, mitigation takes place (CEQA Guidelines Section15064.5 [f]).

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Impact #3.4.5b – Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?

The CHRIS records search, Sacred Lands File Request completed by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), tribal outreach letters to tribes on the NACH list, and a pedestrian survey found that no archaeological sites are known to exist within the Project site. However, for reasons stated above, ground disturbing construction activities have the potential to uncover previously unknown archaeological sites. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels in the unlikely event archaeological resources are accidentally discovered during construction.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Impact #3.4.5c – Would the Project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

No human remains were identified onsite and there was no evidence found in the course of preparing the cultural resources assessment that the area has been used as a cemetery or

burial ground in the past. Regardless, it is possible that human remains may be found during construction. State law prescribes protective measure that must be taken in the event that human remains are discovered. Specifically, Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code requires that the County Coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery and no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area may continue until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, he or she is required to notify the NAHC in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant shall complete their inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains. Compliance with state law as outlined in MM CUL-2 would ensure that potentially significant impacts would be reduced to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

MM CUL-2:

Upon discovery of human remains or potential human remains, implement Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and notify the lead agency. Health and Safety Code requires that the County Coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery and no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area may continue until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, he or she is required to notify the NAHC in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant shall complete their inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact

3.4.6 - ENERGY

Would the Project:

a.	Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

The *2019 Plainview Community Plan* from the Tulare County Resources Management Agency (Tulare County Resources Management Agency, 2019a), the *Air Quality Memorandum* from Trinity Consultants (Insight Environmental, 2019) and the *Small Project Analysis Level Assessment from Trinity Consultants* (Trinity Consultants, 2020) were relied upon for discussion of the energy impacts.

Impact #3.4.6a – Would the Project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operation?

Southern California Edison (SCE) is the main provider of electrical power and the Southern California Gas Company (SCG) provides gas in Plainview. SCE and SCG are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Title 24, Part 11 of the California Code of Regulations, known as the CalGreen Code, was established to reduce environmental impacts during and after construction, and reduce construction waste. Additionally, SJVAPCD Regulation VIII Control Measures include requirements for the use of fuel-efficient construction vehicles and equipment.

The proposed Project consists of new meters and metering boxes, as well as installation of PV solar arrays that will help offset the Project's electrical consumption. Energy demand during the construction phase would result from the transportation of materials, construction equipment, and construction worker vehicle trips. Construction equipment includes scrapers, motor graders (blades), vibrators and static compactors, 3,500 gallon water trucks, track excavators, graders, off-highway trucks, rubber-tired loaders and backhoes, concrete trucks tractors, concrete extrusion machine, cranes, forklifts, generator sets, pavers, air compressors and rollers. The fuel usage to complete the Project construction was calculated to be approximately 24,592 gallons.

There are no unusual Project characteristics that would cause construction equipment to be less energy efficient compared with other similar construction activities in other areas within the County. Construction related fuel consumption is not expected to result in inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary energy use. The Project will comply with the CalGreen Code, SJVAPCD Regulation VIII Control Measures, Tulare County Code of Ordinances, and all applicable PG&E Design Criteria and Standards.

The short-term increase in energy use associated with the Project construction will be in compliance with all applicable plans and standards, and the Project operations will return to its existing conditions upon Project completion. Furthermore, a 100 kW photovoltaic (PV) solar array system will be installed. The PV system is estimated to generate 161,263 kWh/year that will offset the Project's annual energy usage to run the water pump. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant.*

Impact #3.4.6b – Would the Project conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

As stated in Impact #3.4.6a above, the Project will comply with the CalGreen Code, SJVAPCD Regulation VIII Control Measures, Tulare County Code of Ordinances, and all applicable PG&E Design Criteria and Standards. Furthermore, the Project will include a 100 kW photovoltaic (PV) solar array system which is estimated to generate 161,263 kWh/year which will supplement the Project's annual energy usage and fulfill the following Plainview Community Plan policies.

- LU-7.15 Energy Conservation. The County shall encourage the use of solar power and energy conservation building techniques in all new development.
- AQ-3.5 Alternative Energy Design. The County shall encourage all new development, including rehabilitation, renovation, and redevelopment, to incorporate energy conservation and green building practices to the maximum extent feasible. Such practices include, but are not limited to building orientation and shading, landscaping, and the use of active and passive solar heating and water systems.
- ERM-4.1 Energy Conservation and Efficiency Measures. The County shall encourage the use of solar energy, solar hot water panels, and other energy conservation and efficiency features in new construction and renovation of existing structures in accordance with State law.

Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant.***

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.7 - 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.	☐	☐	☒	☐
(ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☒	☐

f.	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

Technical reports relied upon in the impact analysis of Geology and Soils include *the Geotechnical Investigation Report* (BSK, 2020), and is attached as Appendix D, *Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR* (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b). *The Plainview Community Plan 2019* was also relied upon (Tulare County Resources Management Agency, 2019a).

Impact #3.4.7a(i) – Would the Project Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving – 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?

There are no known active earthquake faults within the Project area. There are, however, three faults within the region that have been, and will be, principal sources of potential seismic activity within Tulare County. These faults are described below:

- San Andreas Fault is located approximately 40 miles west of the Tulare County boundary and 60 miles west of the Project area. This fault has a long history of activity and is thus the primary focus in determining seismic activity within the County. Seismic activity along the fault varies along its span from the Gulf of California to Cape Mendocino. Just west of Tulare County lays the "Central California Active Area" section of the San Andreas Fault where many earthquakes have originated.
- Owens Valley Fault Group is a complex system containing both active and potentially active faults, located on the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains approximately 60 miles east of the Project area. The Group is located within Tulare and Inyo Counties and has historically been the source of seismic activity within Tulare County.
- Clovis Fault is considered to be active within the Quaternary Period, although there is no historic evidence of its activity, and is therefore classified as "potentially active". This fault lies approximately six miles south of the Madera County boundary in Fresno County and 70 mile north of the project area. Activity along this fault could potentially generate more seismic activity in Tulare County than the San Andreas or Owens Valley fault systems. In particular, a strong earthquake on the Fault could affect northern Tulare County. However, because of the lack of historic activity along the Clovis Fault, inadequate evidence exists for assessing maximum earthquake impacts (California Dept. of Conservation, Mines & Geology, 1997).

There are other unnamed faults north of Bakersfield and near Tulare Buttes about 30 miles north of Porterville. These faults are small and have exhibited activity in the last 1.6 million years, but not in the last 200 years. It is also possible, but unlikely, that previously

unknown faults could become active in the area. No Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones or known active faults are in or near the Project area. Therefore, Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impact would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.7a(ii) – Would the Project Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving – strong seismic ground shaking?

Ground shaking is the primary seismic hazard in Tulare County because of the County's seismic setting and its record of historical activity. In the event of an earthquake on one of the nearby faults, it is likely that the Project sites would experience ground shaking and expose people and structures associated with the Project. The Project is located in an area that may experience 10–20 percent of ground motion during an earthquake (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b).

According to the Five County Seismic Safety Element-16 and Figure 10-5 (Seismic/Geologic Hazards and Microzone) of the General Plan Health and Safety (GPHSE) Plainview area is located in the "V1 zone: an area of "low" seismic risk. The San Andreas Fault is the nearest active seismic area, located approximately 60 miles to the west. The Element states that active faults do not exist in Tulare County (Tulare County Resources Management Agency, 2019a).

The Project area is located in an area that is sufficiently far from known faults and consists primarily of a stable geological formation. Project-specific hazards due to ground shaking would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.7a(iii) – Would the Project Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving – seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Liquefaction describes a condition in which a saturated, cohesionless soil loses shear strength during earthquake shocks. Ground motion from an earthquake may induce cyclic reversals of shearing strains of large amplitude. Lateral and vertical movements of the soil mass, combined with loss of bearing strength, usually result from this phenomenon. Historically, liquefaction of soils has caused severe damage to structures, berms, levees and roads. (BSK, 2020)

The Plainview community is located in the V-1 seismic study area and zone, which includes most of the eastern San Joaquin Valley and is characterized by a relatively thin section of sedimentary rock overlying a granitic basement. Amplification of shaking that would affect low to medium-rise structure is relatively high, but the distance to either the San Andreas or Owens Valley faults (the expected sources of shaking) is sufficiently great that the effects should be minimal (Tulare County, 2019a).

In addition, according to the California Department of Conservation's CGS Information Warehouse indicates that the Plainview community is not located in a "liquefaction zone" (California Department of Conservation, 2019).

The Project area is sufficiently far from known faults and consists primarily of a stable geological formation, it is unlikely to be subject to seismically-induced liquefaction. As such, Project-specific effects would be less than specific (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b).

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant***.

Impact #3.4.7a(iv) – Would the Project Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving – landslides?

As previously discussed, the Project is located in the V-1 zone. According to the Five County Seismic Safety Element the V-1 zone has "minimal" risk of landslide activity. The California Department of Conservation's CGS Information Warehouse indicates that the planning area is not located in an area prone to landslides (California Department of Conservation, 2019).

The Project sites and the surrounding area are predominately flat and the potential hazard due to landslides from adjacent properties does not exist. The Community of Plainview is not identified as a moderate-to-high landslide hazard area (Tulare County Resources Management Agency, 2019a). The proposed Project would not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects from landslides. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact on exposing people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.7b – Would the Project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

The Project pipeline distribution system will be installed along the existing rights of way. The well site and the storage tank will be constructed on predominately Flamen loam. The pipeline will be placed in Quonal-Lewis association soil. The additional array sites will have both Flamen loam and Quonal-Lewis association soil. Flamen loam has a moderately well drained; low or moderate runoff; moderate permeability and slow permeability quality (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, n.d.). The Quonal-Lewis association soil also has moderately low runoff potential translating to moderately high infiltration with a relatively flat slope and is mid-range on the erosion scale. The majority of the well site and storage tank will be developed on Flamen loam while the pipeline will be installed in Quonal-Lewis Association soil. Both soils have a moderately low or moderate runoff potential.

To reduce the potential for soil erosion and loss of topsoil during construction, the Project would comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit from the State of California Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) during construction. Under the NPDES, the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is required for construction activities that would disturb an area of one acre or more. Additionally, the preparation and implementation of a Type 1 Linear Underground/ Overhead Projects (LUPs) SWPPP is required for construction activities where greater than 30% of construction activities occur within the nonpaved shoulders or land immediately adjacent to paved surfaces, or where construction occurs on unpaved improved roads, including their shoulders or land immediately adjacent to them (California Water Board, 2018). A SWPPP must identify potential sources of erosion or sedimentation as well as identify and implement best management practices (BMPs) that ensure reduce erosion. If a SWPPP was not required, the Project would implement the standard BMPs. Typical BMPs intended to control erosion include sandbags, silt fencing, street sweeping, etc. Mitigation Measure GEO-1 requires the approval of a SWPPP to comply with the NPDES General Construction Permit, if appropriate. Compliance with local grading and erosion control ordinances would also help minimize adverse effects associated with erosion and sedimentation. Any stockpiled soils would be watered and/or covered to prevent loss due to wind erosion as part of the SWPPP during construction.

The Project will comply with all the grading requirements as outlined in Title 24 and Appendix J of the California Building Code (UpCodes, 2016). The Project is not expected to

result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil with the incorporation of mitigation measure MM GEO-1.

Once constructed the Project will have both impermeable surfaces as well as permeable surfaces. Impermeable surfaces would include existing roadways, driveways and structures. Permeable surfaces would include open areas of the site, any landscaped areas. Overall, development of the Project would not result in conditions where substantial surface soils would be exposed to wind and water erosion.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

MM GEO-1: Prior to issuing of grading or building permits, if required, (a) the Project applicant shall submit to the Lead Agency (1) the approved Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and (2) the Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. The requirements of the SWPPP and NPDES shall be incorporated into design specifications and construction contracts. Recommended best management practices for the construction phase may include the following:

- Stockpiling and disposing of demolition debris, concrete, and soil properly;
- Protecting existing storm drain inlets and stabilizing disturbed areas;
- Implementing erosion controls;
- Properly managing construction materials; and
- Managing waste, aggressively controlling litter, and implementing sediment controls.
- Evidence of the approved SWPPP shall be submitted to the Lead Agency.

Or (b) prepare and implement a Type 1 Linear Underground/Overhead Projects SWPPP.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation incorporated*.

Impact #3.4.7c – Would the Project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

The proposed Project is located on both Flamen loam and Quonal-Lewis association soil. Flamen loam is moderately well drained soil with a typical slope of 0 to 2 percent and the frequency of flooding on Flamen loam is very rare (NRCS, 2015). Likewise, Quonal-Lewis association is characterized by being Fine soil with a medium-high runoff rating while also being moderately well drained soil with a typical slope of 0 to 2 percent. The max flooding frequency for Quonal-Lewis association soils is very rare (CA Soil Resource, n.d.).

The Project is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or would become unstable due to the result of the Project, and potentially result in on or offsite landslide,

lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. The foothill and mountain areas of the County are far more likely to experience landslides than the Valley floor. Susceptible areas include areas where fractured and steep slopes are present or where inadequate ground cover accelerates erosion. Erosion and ground slumping of soils can also occur along bluff and banks of the Kaweah, Kings and Tule Rivers. The probability of soil liquefaction taking place in the County is considered to be a low-to-moderate hazard. Soil types in the area are not conducive to liquefaction because they are either too coarse or too high in clay content. However, due to the high clay content, the potential exists for some subsidence to occur. Impacts related to these types of geological hazards are site specific and need to be evaluated on a site by site basis.

With adherence to all applicable State and local building codes and regulations and implementation of the policies contained in the draft Health and Safety Element, impacts associated with on or offsite landslide, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse will be minimized. Subsequently, with implementation of the required policies noted below, Project-specific impacts would be less than significant. The Tulare County General Plan Policies are designed to minimize geologic hazard impacts to people and structures in the County (Tulare County, 2012) include the following:

- HS-1.2 Development Constraints
- HS-1.3 Hazardous Lands
- HS-1.5 Hazard Awareness and Public Education
- HS-1.11 Site Investigations

Therefore, the Project will have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.7d – Would the Project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

As discussed in Impact #3.4.7c above, the Project is not located on expansive soils that are comprised of clay that would possess a shrink-swell characteristic, the cyclic change in volume (expansion and contraction) that occurs in fine-grained clay sediments from the process of wetting and drying. Based on the type of soils encountered in the top five feet of soil in the Project area. It is determined that no significant areas of highly expansive soils exist within the Project area. However, structural damage may result over time, due to inadequate soil foundation engineering or the placement of structures directly on expansive soils. According to a recent geology and soil evaluation report for the Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR, the Project areas is predominately covered with soils

with a moderate shrink-swell potential (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b).

With adherence to these codes and regulations and implementation of the policies contained in the Health and Safety Element, geologic hazard impacts associated with expansive soils would be minimized. With implementation of the required policies noted below, Project specific impacts would be less than significant.

As noted earlier, Tulare County General Plan Policies (Tulare County, 2012) designed to minimize geologic hazard impacts to people and structures in the County include the following:

- HS-1.2 Development Constraints
- HS-1.3 Hazardous Lands
- HS-1.4 Building and Codes
- HS-1.5 Hazard Awareness and Public Education
- HS-1.11 Site Investigations

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.7e – Would the Project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

As discussed in Impact #3.4.7c, the proposed Project will be developed on both Flamen Loam and Quinal-Lewis association soil that are both well drained soils. The Project will not include septic tank installation or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.7f – Would the Project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

The activity within the Project area would be within the existing rights of way and a currently developed parcel. No paleontological resources or unique geologic features have been previously encountered in the Project area (Tulare County Resources Management Agency, 2019a). As noted in Section #3.4.5, *Cultural Resources*, the pipeline would be installed within existing road rights of way, and the well would be focused drilled without exposing open ground. However, there is a possibility that subsurface resources could be uncovered during construction-related activities. In such an event, potentially significant impacts to previously unknown subsurface resources may occur. Therefore, with MM GEO-2, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

MM GEO-2: The property owner shall avoid and minimize impacts to paleontological resources. If a potentially significant paleontological resource is encountered during ground disturbance activities, all construction within a 100-foot radius of the find shall immediately cease until a qualified paleontologist determines whether the resources require further study. The owner shall include a standard inadvertent discovery clause in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. The paleontologist shall notify the Lead Agency and the Project proponent of the procedures that must be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location of the find.

If the find is determined to be significant and the Lead Agency determines avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist shall design and implement a data recovery plan consistent with the applicable standards. The plan shall be submitted to the Lead Agency for review and approval. Upon approval, the plan shall be incorporated into the Project.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

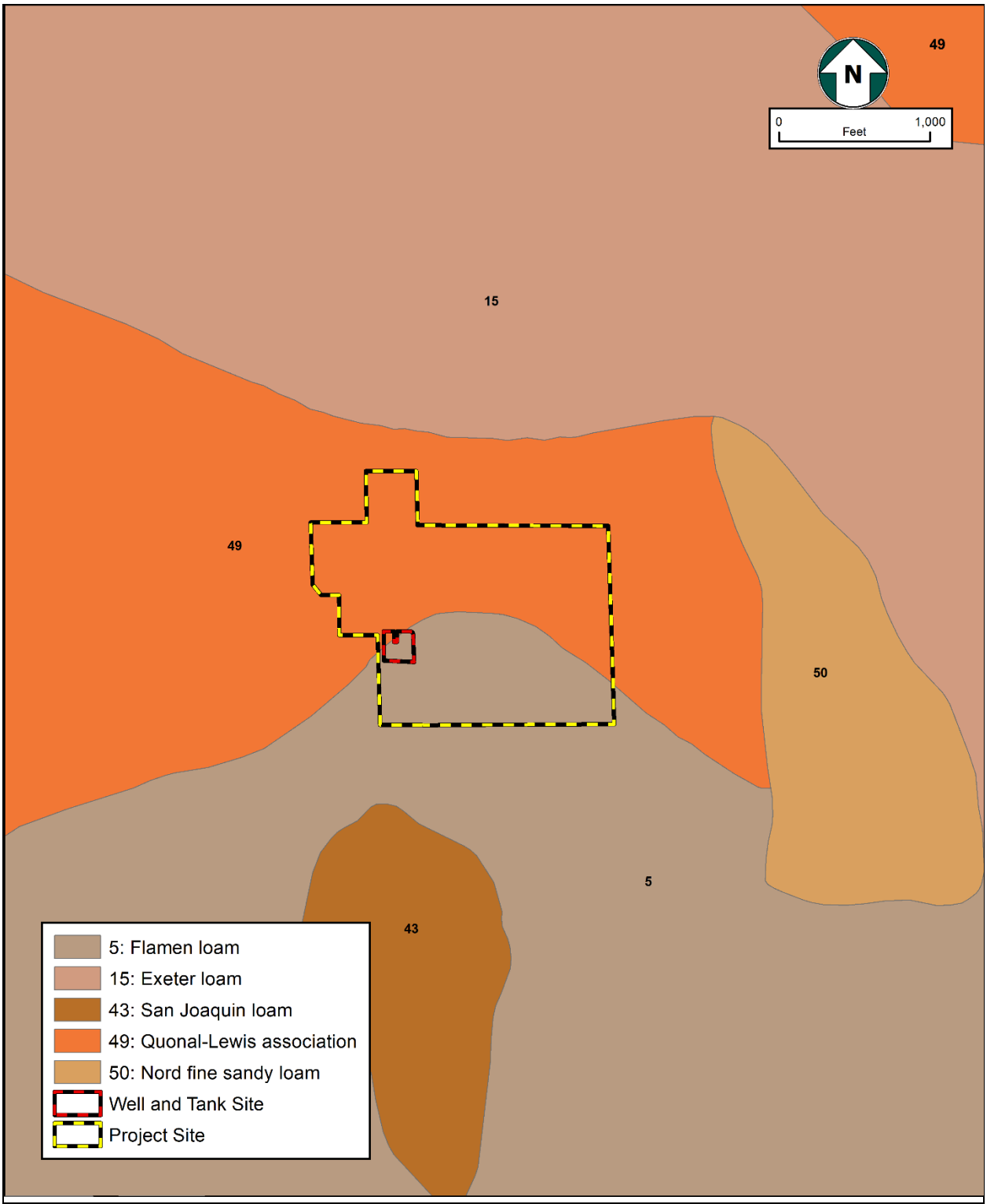

Figure 3.4.7-1
Soil Types

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.8 - GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS				
Would the Project:				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

Analysis of Greenhouse Gasses is based on the Tulare County Climate Action Plan (Tulare County Climate Action Plan, n.d.), the Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b), and the Small Project Analysis Level Assessment (Trinity Consultants, 2020) .

Impact #3.4.8a – Would the Project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

See Impact #3.4.6a, above.

Construction and operation of this Project will result in temporary Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions. The Project as a whole is not expected to generate GHGs either directly or indirectly that may have a significant impact on the environment. The Project GHG emissions will primarily be from the use of heavy machinery used to demolish and construct the site. Once operational, a small backup electric generator will also be used.

Construction related activities related to prepping and grading will be temporary and will require the use of on-road heavy equipment to deliver all off-road equipment. Depending on the construction phase, approximately 16–20 workers would commute to the Project site in motor vehicles during the six month construction schedule that is anticipated to start in 2023 (depending on funding).

Construction

Prior to construction, a residence will be demolished and removed from the Well and Tank site. The residence includes a 736-square-foot home and a 676-square-foot garage/ carport. The Project site will then be graded and prepped for construction.

The SJVAPCD does not have thresholds or guidance regarding the significance of construction related emissions. Overall, the impacts to occur during the construction phase would be short-term and temporary in nature. As there are no current significance thresholds to quantify construction emissions and because construction-related impacts are considered temporary they are therefore, generally considered less than significant. In addition, construction of the proposed Project would still have to comply with the SJVAPCD's regulation and requirements as discussed in the air quality section.

Operation

The Project will not generate long-term emissions over the life of the Project. The main water pump will be powered through the Plainview electrical grid. Likewise, the backup electrical generator will be charged and powered by hookups to the electrical grid.

Other than the emissions generated by construction related activities, the Project will generate a minimal amount of temporary emissions. The Project's energy use greenhouse emissions will be offset by the installation of the 100-kW photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays system proposed at the Well and Tank site, located at 19475 Road 196, with two additional solar arrays located at 19505 Road 198 and 19794 Avenue 194, Strathmore, within the community of Plainview, CA. This PV system is estimated to generate 161,263 kWh/year. Therefore, the Project is considered less than significant for GHG emission impacts.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.8b – Would the Project conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Construction related activities are temporary and emissions will be minimal. The operation emissions will be offset with the installation of the solar array system (Trinity Consultants, 2020). The Project would comply with all applicable County, State and federal guidelines rules and regulations, such as SB 32 to reduce GHG emissions to 40% below the 1990 level by 2030. In addition, the Project would comply with the Tulare County Climate Action Plan, and State (Assembly Bill 23). The proposed Project would be consistent with the SJVAPCD's recommendations in its guidance for addressing GHGs in CEQA.

The Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.9 - HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS				
Would the Project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR was relied upon for the following Hazards and Hazardous Materials impact discussions (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b), and an Asbestos Inspection (Rooster Enviromental Servcies, Inc., 2020), Appendix A.

Impact #3.4.9a – Would the Project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Construction of the Project would involve the temporary transport and use of minor quantities of hazardous materials such as fuels, oils, lubricants, hydraulic fluids, paints and solvents. The types and quantities of hazardous materials to be used and stored onsite would be minimal. It is typical for this type of project to use only small amounts of such material during construction and operations; the amounts used on site would not exceed the State threshold, which is 55 gallons of a liquid, 500 pounds of a solid, 200 cubic feet of a compressed gas, and/or the applicable State/federal threshold quantity for an extremely hazardous material (California Environmental Reporting System (CERS), 2022). In the unlikely event these thresholds are exceeded, the Project operator would be required to complete a Hazardous Materials Business Plan that would be submitted to the State's CERS reporting portal for review and approval. The handling and transport of all hazardous materials onsite would be performed in accordance with all applicable federal, State, and local laws and regulations. These include but are not limited to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

Hazardous and nonhazardous wastes would likely be transported to and from the Project site during the construction phase of the proposed Project. Construction would involve the use of some hazardous materials, such as diesel fuel, hydraulic oil, grease, solvents, adhesives, paints, and other petroleum-based products, although these materials are commonly used during construction activities and would not be disposed of on the Project site. Workers would be trained to properly identify and handle all hazardous materials, if applicable during construction activities. If hazardous materials are used during construction, crews would be required to have HAZWOPER training per OSHA regulations (OSHA, 2022). Hazardous waste would be either recycled or disposed of at a permitted and licensed treatment and/or disposal facility. Any hazardous waste or debris that is generated during construction of the proposed Project would be collected and transported away from the site and disposed of at an approved offsite landfill or other such facility. In addition, sanitary waste generated during construction would be managed through the use of portable toilets, which would be located at reasonably accessible onsite locations. Hazardous materials such as paint, bleach, water treatment chemicals, gasoline, oil, etc., may be used during construction. These materials are stored in appropriate storage locations and containers in the manner specified by the manufacturer and disposed of in accordance with local, federal, and State regulations. no significant hazard to the public or to the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous waste during construction or operation of the new residential development would occur.

The Project operation may require the storage of minimal amounts of hazardous materials, such as fuel and lubricants related to distribution system maintenance. The storage, transport, and use of these materials would comply with local, State, and federal regulatory requirements. Implementation of applicable Plainview Community Plan policies would ensure that impacts from the handling, storage, transport, or accidental release of hazardous materials are less than significant. The Project would not result in a significant hazard to the public or the environment; therefore, Project-specific impacts would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.9b – Would the Project 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?

See discussion on Impact #3.4.8a, above.

As noted in Impact #3.4.3c, an Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) inspection was conducted on the existing structures on the Project site (Rooster Enviromental Servcies, Inc., 2020). The inspection encompassed the interior and exterior areas of the single family residence, garage, and pool. Bulk samples are collected of each suspect material at the discretion of the inspector. Samples are assigned a unique identification number, then shipped to a certified laboratory for analysis. It appears that no building material with an asbestos content greater than one tenth of one percent (>0.1%) was identified.

Therefore, the Project would 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. Therefore, the Project impacts would be a less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant.*

Impact #3.4.9c – Would the Project emit hazardous emissions or involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

The Project is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The nearest school to the Project site is, Sunnyside Elementary, 2.5 miles to the east of Plainview. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.9d – Would the Project be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

Literature review of available federal, State, and local database information systems was performed for the purpose of identifying known recognized environmental conditions present on the site and the nearby properties that have the potential to adversely impact the site (CalEPA, 2019). The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) website, indicated that there are no known hazardous or toxic sites in the vicinity (within one mile) of the Project site (Department of Toxic Substances Control, 2019).

The Project is not located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. The Project sites are not within the immediate vicinity of a hazardous materials site and would not impact a listed site. There is no data identifying any facilities in the vicinity that might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances, or wastes that might affect the proposed residential development. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant.***

Impact #3.4.9e – For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area?

The Project is not located within a Tulare County Airport Land Use Plan boundary, Federal Aviation Administration designated civilian airport Runway Clear Zone, military airfield

Clear Zone, or an Accidental Potential Zone. The nearest airport is Eckert Field, located approximately five miles to the northeast of the Project site. Therefore, the Project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing in the Project area and there would be no impacts.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.9f – Would the Project Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The Tulare County currently has adopted the 2018 Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP), an Area Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and a 2011 Disaster Preparedness Guide (DPG). In the event of a large-scale emergency or disaster, response activities within Tulare County are guided by the Tulare County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The EOP, implements the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), and provides organizational structure and functional guidance through the Initial Response, Extended Response, and Recovery phases of operations (California Emergency Services Act, 2008).

Additionally, the proposed Project is required to adhere to County standards, which identifies the design standards for emergency access during both the Project's construction and operational phases. The Project would also comply with the appropriate local and State requirements regarding emergency response plans and access.

The construction and operation of an underground pipeline would not require long-term roadway closures, nor would it impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The proposed Project would not inhibit the ability of local roadways to continue to accommodate emergency response and evacuation activities.

The proposed Project will comply with all applicable emergency plan guidelines during construction and operations of the Project and in the event of an emergency, disaster, or evacuation event. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant.***

Impact #3.4.9g – Would the Project Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

The Project sites consists mainly of existing rural residential properties and semi-rural paved roads and existing road rights of way. The pipelines would be trenched in the existing rights of way that generally include gravel road shoulders, which is typical of roadways in the area. The Project is within a CalFire Local Responsibility Area (LRA). The closest FHSZ are located in the foothills at the end of Avenue 196, approximately 16.5 miles to the east (CalFire, 2020). The City of Plainview is within "Non-Fuel" to "Moderate" fire threat zones (Tulare County, 2012).

Therefore, the Project would not 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. Therefore, there would be no Project-specific Impacts.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact

3.4.10 - HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the Project:

a.	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface water quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b.	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c.	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
	(i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or offsite?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	(ii) Substantially increase the rate of amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result flooding on- or offsite?	☐	☒	☐	☐
	(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	☐	☐	☒	☐
	(iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d.	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e.	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

Technical reports relied upon in this analysis include the *Plainview Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report Final EIR* (County of Tulare Resource Management Agency, 2016), the *Plainview Community Plan* (Tulare County Resources Management Agency, 2019a), and the *Plainview Wastewater System Project Feasibility Report* (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b), as well as the Revised Preliminary Engineering Report (QK, 2019b) and Test Well data memo (Schmidt, Ken, 2020), which are included in Appendix D.

Impact #3.4.10a – Would the Project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface water quality?

Construction of the Project would involve excavation, soil stockpiling, mass and fine grading, the installation of supporting drainage facilities, and associated infrastructure. During site grading and construction activities, large areas of bare soil could be exposed to erosive forces for a period of time. Construction activities involving soil disturbance, excavation, cutting/filling, stockpiling and grading activities could result in increased erosion and sedimentation to surface waters.

As noted in Impact #3.4.7b, accidental spills or disposal of potentially harmful materials used during construction could possibly wash into and pollute surface water runoff. Materials that could potentially contaminate the construction area, or spill or leak, include diesel fuel, gasoline, lubrication oil, hydraulic fluid, antifreeze, transmission fluid, lubricating grease, and other fluids. In order to reduce potential impacts to water quality during construction activities, if required, the Project SWPPP, or implement standard BMPs targeted at minimizing and controlling construction runoff and erosion to the maximum extent practicable.

The Project would also install underground pipelines, however once installed, the pipeline would not result in increased runoff. The pipelines would be constructed within the existing road rights of way that typically collect stormwater runoff from the roadways.

In order to reduce potential impacts to water quality during construction and operation activities, Mitigation Measure GEO-1 would be required, if applicable. With mitigation, the Project is not anticipated to violate any water quality standards or result in significant impacts to the waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface water quality and impacts would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM GEO-1.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Impact #3.4.10b – Would the Project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

See also Impact #3.4.19b.

The Project area is within the Tule subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin within the Tulare Lake Hydraulic Region. The Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region has both watershed areas (surface water) and groundwater sub-basin areas (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b).

The PMWC is located within the East Kaweah GSA (EKGSA) boundary and included in the East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) each GSA to adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The EKGSA adopted a GSP in January 2020 (Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency, 2020). The groundwater basin is in overdraft and has been for years. However, the GSP outlines several Projects and Management Actions to sustainably manage the groundwater basin and reduce overdraft that include recharge through the management of floodwater, the addition of new recharge basins, the reduction in water usage for agricultural cultivation, and water conservation programs to encourage reduction in public water uses.

The Project would not interfere with groundwater recharge or impede sustainable groundwater management. The current water services to Plainview are provided by two systems, PMWC and PMWC – Central, but after Project construction PMWC will include all the residential and commercial connections east and west of Road 196 . The proposed Project will replace the PCWC – Central water connections and install remote reading water meters to the approximately 43 houses. The new supply well will pump water out of a deeper aquifer that is not contaminated by nitrates. The old well will be disconnected and properly abandoned; therefore the Project will not increase groundwater usage.

The Project includes the existing 43 household connections but does not include providing additional connections. Increases in population between now and 2030 are expected to be approximately 1.3 percent, but represent changes in demographics of younger families replacing older community residents (Tulare County, 2019a). Therefore, the Project would not increase demand beyond current baseline levels and therefore would not decrease groundwater levels or exceed available water supplies. The Project will be in compliance with all applicable plans and will not decrease groundwater supplies. Therefore, impacts from the Project would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant***.

Impact #3.4.10c(i) –Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or offsite?

See Impacts #3.4.7b and #3.4.10a. The proposed Project underground distribution pipeline system would not result in a change in drainage patterns or increased runoff. The pipeline would be constructed within existing road rights of way that typically collect stormwater runoff from the roadways. Following construction, the trenches would be backfilled and restored to roadways and gravel roadway shoulders (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b). During construction of the well and water infrastructure, the Project may be required to prepare a SWPPP or linear SWPPP to minimize erosion or soil loss onsite. Mitigation Measure GEO-1 requires the preparation of a linear SWPPP, if applicable.

The Project water storage tank and supply well will alter the existing drainage pattern of a 0.25 acre portion of the parcel by constructing a concrete pad and other structures. Although the Project storage tank and supply well will change the drainage pattern on the parcel, stormwater would be managed in compliance with County standards. The Project site is not anticipated to substantially alter the drainage pattern of the area in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or offsite. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact with the implemented mitigation measures.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM GEO-1.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation incorporated*.

Impact #3.4.10c(ii) – Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would substantially increase the rate of amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result flooding on- or offsite?

See Impacts #3.4.7b, #3.4.10a and #3.4.10c(i).

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM GEO-1.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation incorporated*.

Impact #3.4.10c(iii) – Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would 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?

See Impacts #3.4.7b, #3.4.10a and #3.4.10c(i). The extent of erosion on a site would typically vary depending upon slope steepness and stability, vegetation, percentage of cover, concentration of runoff, and weather conditions. The proposed underground pipeline would not result in increased runoff. The pipeline would be constructed within existing road rights of way and the trenches would be backfilled and restored to roadways and gravel roadway shoulders. The Project site where the new well and water storage tank will be located is flat with little or no topography. Therefore, the Project would not 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. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.10c(iv) – Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would impede or redirect flood flows?

See Impacts #3.4.7b and #3.4.10a-c(iii). The Project sites are flat and are in a minimal flood hazard area (Figure 3.4.10-1). The Project will not impede or redirect floodwaters through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would impedes or redirects flood flows. Therefore, the Project will have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.10d – Would the Project, in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?

The Project is not within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map of a 100-year flood zone, as shown in Figure 3.4.10-1. Project Well and Tank site is located within the FEMA Flood Hazard Zone X: Area of Minimal Flood Hazard, and therefore the potential for flooding at the site appears to be very low. However, the additional solar arrays are within the area east of Road 196 is within the 500 year floodplain. Work in that area will be conducted within areas with existing wells and other water-related infrastructure, such as pumps, tanks etc. The addition of a small solar array will be constructed to meet Tulare County and State building codes, and will be designed with additional engineering to withstand potential flooding during major rain events. Therefore, the Project as a whole will not significantly risk release of pollutants during inundation.

The Project sites are not located near the ocean or a steep topographic feature (i.e., mountain, hill, bluff, etc.). Tsunamis are waves generated in oceans from seismic activity. Due to the inland location of the sites, tsunamis are not considered a hazard for the sites. Therefore, there is no potential for the sites to be inundated by tsunami or mudflow. There is no body of water within the vicinity of the Project sites. A seiche is a wave generated by the periodic oscillation of a body of water whose period is a function of the resonant characteristics of the containing basin as controlled by its physical dimensions. There is no potential for inundation of the Project sites by seiche. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant***.

Impact #3.4.10e – Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

See Impact #3.4.10b.

The Project area is within the Tule subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin within the Tulare Lake Hydraulic Region, and within the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) adopted by the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency. provides location-specific sustainable management criteria (SMC) for four of the six sustainability indicators, including establishing minimum thresholds and measurable objectives with integrated interim milestones (Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency, 2020). The proposed Project would not increase water demand or induce population growth that would negatively impact groundwater levels conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the Tulare County Water Quality Control Plan or the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The District complies with all water quality and sustainable groundwater management requirements; therefore, impacts are less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

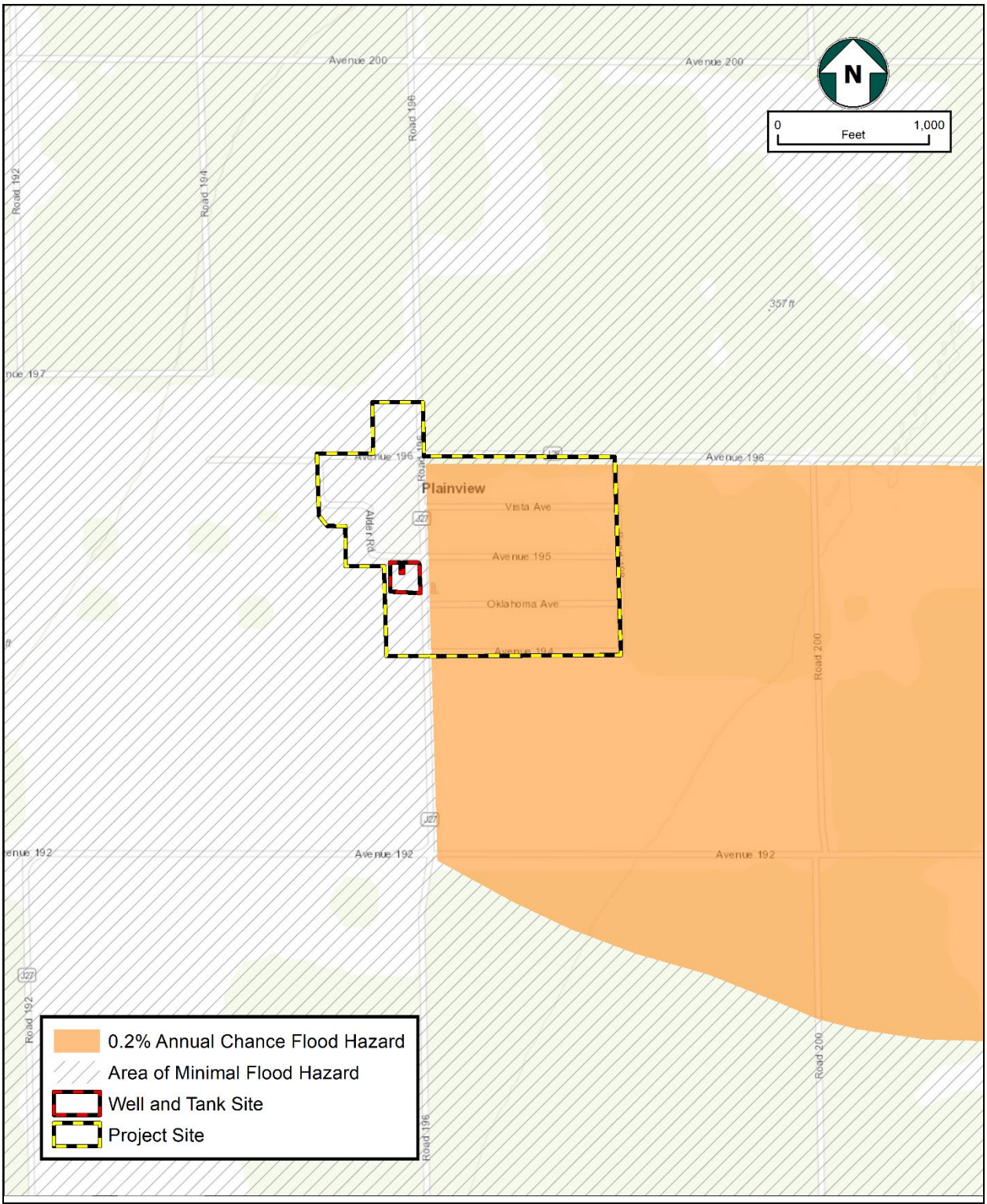

Figure 3.4.10-1
FEMA Flood Hazards

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact

3.4.11 - LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the Project:

a.	Physically divide an 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The analysis is based on the Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b), as well as the Plainview Community Plan (Tulare County, 2019a).

Impact #3.4.11a – Would the Project physically divide an established community?

The proposed Project area is fully developed with rural residential and commercial uses. There are agricultural lands to the west and south. The Project area is within the unincorporated community of Plainview. The proposed Project would replace a contaminated well and the existing old water system and would not physically divide an established community. Therefore, the Project will have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.11b – Would the Project 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?

As stated in the Plainview Community Plan, all of Plainview is within the Mixed-Use land use designation and the Urban Development Boundary.

The proposed water system would replace or upgrade existing water infrastructure used to supply the community with drinking water. The well and tank are permitted uses pursuant to the Tulare County municipal code and is consistent with the General Plan. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.12 - MINERAL RESOURCES					
Would the Project:					
a.	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

Analysis is based on the Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR, the Tulare General Plan, and the California Department of Conservation, Mineral Land Classification (California Dept. of Conservation, Mines & Geology, 1997)

Impact #3.4.12a – Would the Project 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?

The California Department of Conservation, Geological Survey classifies lands into Aggregate and Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) based on guidelines adopted by the California State Mining and Geology Board, as mandated by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1974. These MRZs identify whether known or inferred significant mineral resources are present in areas. Lead agencies are required to incorporate identified MRZs resource areas delineated by the State into their General Plans. Mineral Resources located in central Tulare County are predominantly sand and gravel resources near waterways. The Project area is not located in a known mineral resource zone (MRZ) (Tulare County, 2012). The proposed Project would not 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 Therefore, the Project would have no impacts.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be *no impact*.

Impact #3.4.12b – Would the Project 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?

See Impact #3.4.12a. The Project sites are not located in or near a known mineral resource zone as identified by the Tulare General Plan (Tulare County, 2012). There would be no significant loss of a local important mineral resource recovery site. According to U.S. Geological Survey, the nearest active mine and mineral production plant to the Project is Porterville Ready-mix Sand Pit a hard rock, gravel and sand pit operating within the Tule River Floodplain west of Porterville, approximately 5.3 miles southeast of Plainview. The proposed Project would not 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. Therefore, no impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.13 - 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 in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b.	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR was relied upon for the following Noise Impact discussions (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b).

Impact #3.4.13a – Would the Project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?

Project construction would involve temporary, short-term noise sources and is expected to last for approximately nine months. Construction-related short-term, temporary noise levels would be higher than existing ambient noise levels in the Project area but would not occur after construction is completed. The Tulare County Health and Safety Element does not identify short-term, construction noise-level thresholds. It limits noise generating activities (such as construction) to hours of normal business operation unless specific County approval is given. Construction-related activities would be restricted to daytime hours and would be short-term and temporary in nature. Construction activities are expected to last for approximately nine months. Construction, operation and maintenance noise would be similar in character to existing noise in the area resulting from existing neighboring agricultural-related operations. Table 3.4.13-1 illustrates various types of construction equipment measured under a wide variety of construction activities with an

average of source levels. Although the table gives one level for each piece of equipment, it should be noted that there is a considerable variation in reported ground vibration levels from construction activities. The data provide a reasonable estimate for a wide range of soil conditions (Federal Transit Administration , 2006).

Table 3.4.13-1
Typical Construction Noise Emission Levels
Typical Vibration Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) 50 ft from Source
Truck	88
Compactor	82
Roller	72
Loader	85
Backhoe	80

Notes:
1 – Federal Transit Administration, Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Guidelines, May 2006. Table 12-1.
D = the distance from the equipment to the receiver

Complying with Tulare County General Plan Policies applicable to noise (particularly HS-8.11 Peak Noise Generators, HS-8.18 Construction Noise, and HS-8.19 Construction Noise Control), the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant***.

Impact #3.4.13b – Would the Project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

There are no federal or State standards that address construction noise or vibration. Additionally, Tulare County does not have regulations that define acceptable levels of vibration. One reference suggesting vibration standards is the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) publication concerning noise and vibration impact assessment from transit activities. Although the FTA guidelines are to be applied to transit activities and construction, they may be reasonably applied to the assessment of the potential for annoyance or structural damage resulting from other activities. To prevent vibration annoyance in residences, a level of 80 VdB (vibration velocity level in dB) or less is suggested when there are fewer than 70 vibration events per day. A level of 100 VdB or less is suggested by the FTA guidelines to prevent damage to fragile buildings. Table 3.4.13-2 describes the typical construction equipment vibration levels. While these construction-

related activities would result in minor amounts of groundborne vibration, such groundborne noise or vibration would attenuate rapidly from the source and would not be generally perceptible outside of the construction areas. In addition, there would not be any vibrational impacts from operation and maintenance activities.

Table 3.4.13-2
Typical Construction Vibration Levels
Typical Vibration Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment	Reference peak particle velocity at 25 feet (inches/second)[1]	Approximate peak particle velocity at 100 feet (inches/second)[2]
Loaded trucks	0.076	0.010
Vibratory compactor/roller	0.210	0.026

Notes:
1 – Federal Transit Administration, Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Guidelines, May 2006. Table 12-2.
2 – Calculated using the following formula: PPV equip = PPVref x (25/D)1.5
where:PPV (equip) = the peak particle velocity in in/sec of the equipment adjusted for the distance PPV (ref) = the reference vibration level in in/sec from Table 12-2 of the FTA Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Guidelines
D = the distance from the equipment to the receiver

Construction related activities in general can have the potential to create groundborne vibrations. However, based on the soil types found in the general Project vicinity, blasting or pile-driving would not be required in connection with construction of the Project. Therefore, the potential for groundborne vibrations to occur as part of the construction of the Project is considered minimal. Furthermore, operation of the Project would not contain any activities which would create groundborne vibrations. The proposed Project would not result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

Impact #3.4.13c – 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?

The Project is not within two miles of an airport or Airport Land Use Plan. The nearest airport is Exeter Field, located approximately five miles to the northeast of the Project site. Also, as the Project would not impact a public or public use airport. See Impact #3.4.13a,

for Project comments on excessive noise levels to people residing or working in the Project area. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant***.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact

3.4.14 - 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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

This analysis is based on the Plainview Community Plan (Tulare County, 2019a), and Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b).

Impact #3.4.14a – Would the Project 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)?

The intent of this Project is to remedy a groundwater contamination caused by seepage of nitrates into the underground water supply. Digging a new well to connect to a deeper aquifer for cleaner water would accomplish this goal. In addition to digging a new well, the Project will replace the existing water distribution system pipeline, construct a water storage tank and upgrade the water metering system used in the community. The Project will not cause Plainview's population growth or economic development beyond what has been anticipated and analyzed in the Tulare General Plan or Plainview Community Plan. No roadways or infrastructure in the Project area will be extended. The proposed water system would be sized to serve the community's existing needs (including replacing the 31-connection to existing single-family homes within the community's Urban Development Boundary) and would not provide additional capacity that could accommodate a substantial amount of future development.

Therefore, the proposed Project would not induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure). Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.14b – Would the Project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The project will replace the 43-connection to existing single-family homes but will not add connections to new single-family homes. The Project includes the replacement of an existing water system and will not displace housing or require replacement housing. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact

3.4.15 - 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 to other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
	(i) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	(ii) Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	(iii) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	(iv) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	(v) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

Impact #3.4.15a(i) – Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or to other performance objectives for any of the public services - Fire Protection?

The Project is within the service area of the Tulare County Fire Department. The proposed underground water distribution pipeline system will not require electricity or flammable materials that could ignite a fire. The potential for a fire to ignite at the water storage tank and supply well is unlikely and would not pose a significant threat to nearby properties.

The Tulare County Fire Department provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the Community of Plainview. Tulare County Fire Department Station #16 located at 22908 Avenue 196 in Strathmore, California (approximately, four miles east of Plainview). Station #16 has Patrol 16 and Engine 16 assigned to Plainview. Additionally, there are seventeen fire hydrants within the Plainview that are located within road rights

of way. The additional water storage capacity will provide fire hydrants with a sufficient water supply and water pressure to meet County fire standards, and will comply with all local, State and federal building codes, development standards and regulations where applicable. The Project is not anticipated to result in substantial or adverse impacts to fire protection services. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.15a(ii) – Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or to other performance objectives for any of the public services – Police Protection?

The County of Tulare's Sheriff's Office that operates out of Porterville, located at 379 N. 3rd Street, approximately 8.5 miles southeast of Plainview and provides police protection services to the Project area. The Project will not increase the local population and it is not expected that the Project will result in significant environmental impacts related to acceptable service ratios, response times, or to other performance objectives police protection services. Police service response is, and would remain, adequate to the Project and surrounding areas. The proposed Project is not anticipated to require active police protection. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.15a(iii) – Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or to other performance objectives for any of the public services – Schools?

See Impacts #3.4.15a(i) and (ii). The Plainview Community is within the Sunnyside Union Elementary School District located at 21644 Avenue 196, Strathmore, California, approximately 2.5 miles east of Plainview. The proposed Project would not result in the

creation of new residences or other facilities that could result in an increase in population or need for new schools. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.15a(iv) – Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or to other performance objectives for any of the public services – Parks?

See Impacts #3.4.15a(i) through (iii). The nearby Plainview Neighborhood Park, donated by the PMWC, is located at Road 198 and Avenue 194 within the Project area.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.15a(v) – Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or to other performance objectives for any of the public services – Other Public Facilities?

See Impacts #3.4.15a(i) through (iii). The Project does not involve the creation of new residences or expansion of existing facilities that could result in an increase in population such that additional facilities would be needed. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact

3.4.16 - RECREATION

Would the Project:

a. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b) and the Plainview Community Plan were relied upon (Tulare County Resources Management Agency, 2019a) for the following discussions.

Impact #3.4.16a – 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?

The Project will remedy an existing public health issue within the unincorporated community of Plainview. The Project is intended to serve the same amounts of residents in Plainview as the current system. These improvements are not intended to provide additional capacity for substantial amounts of future development. Typically, the increased use of parks and recreational facilities result from the addition of new housing and the corresponding population increase. No new housing is proposed as part of the proposed Project. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be *no impact*.

Impact #3.4.16b – Would the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

See Impact #3.4.16a, above. The Project would have no impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.17 - TRANSPORTATION				
Would the Project:				
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 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)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

Impact #3.4.17a – Would the Project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

The Project will not construct any new circulation (transit) systems, roadways, bicycle or pedestrian facilities. The Project would result in short-term, temporary traffic impacts during the installation phase of the new pipeline, but because the route is along the existing shoulder of the road, these impacts would be minimal. Following completion, Project would not generate vehicle trips, with the exception of routine maintenance-related trips. There is no increase in staff or increase the traffic in the area.

New intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit are not required by the Plainview Community Plan as it does not contain plans for development, construction or new transportation infrastructure (Tulare County, 2019a).

Therefore, the Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and nonmotorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit. Therefore, the Project would have less-than-significant impacts.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant.*

Impact #3.4.17b – Would the Project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

See Impact #3.4.17a, above.

Trips made to the Project site during construction-related activities will be temporary in nature and will include workers and equipment from the local areas. The construction will require approximately 16-20 crew members for a period of approximately nine months. Following completion, the Project would not generate additional vehicle trips, with the exception of routine maintenance-related trips. Therefore, the Project will have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant.*

Impact #3.4.17c – Would the Project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

The Project does not consist of any elements that would substantially increase hazards as a result of a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or have incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment). The majority of the Project (distribution pipelines) will be installed underground; the aboveground components include the water well and pump station, the storage tank, solar arrays and supporting infrastructure. However, all construction will occur on the Project sites and will not create dangerous intersections or curves. Once complete, the excavated roadway shoulders will be backfilled and returned to their existing conditions. Therefore, Project impacts would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant.*

Impact #3.4.17d – Would the Project result in inadequate emergency access?

Construction-related activities associated with the Project could temporarily interrupt access along the affected local roadways. However, the interruptions would not occur simultaneously and would be no longer than a few hours while trenching and installation-related activities occurs. The construction-related activities associated with the Project may also temporarily impact vehicle travel lanes while the pipelines are being installed underneath the existing rights of way. However, emergency access to the Project site and community in general would not be impacted.

The proposed Project would be required to comply with all emergency access requirements adopted and set forth in the Tulare County Municipal Code. These requirements and all others required to be included in the Project design. Therefore, emergency access impacts will be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant*.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.18 - TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES				
Would the Project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to 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 Section 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 Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the Lead Agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

On May 10, 2022, a Project notification letter with invitation to consult on the Project was emailed to the designated contact of the tribe on the State Water Board's Assembly Bill (AB) 52 list for Tulare County, the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe. The Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe did not request consultation.

Additional steps were made to identify tribal cultural resources in the Project area including, a Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) sacred lands files (SLF) search request and outreach letters to tribes on the NAHC contact list for the Project area. The NAHC provided the results of its SLF search dated September 19, 2019, indicating "negative results" (that is, no sacred lands are known to be located in the Plainview Planning area). ASM Affiliates, Inc., also contacted the Native American tribes on the NAHC contact list

March 19, 2019, regarding the presence of known tribal cultural resources: Kern Valley Indian Council; Santa Rosa Racheria; Tubatulabals of Kern County; Tule River Indian Tribe; and Wuksache Indian Tribe. None of the tribes responded to the outreach letters or identified tribal cultural resources in the Project area. No tribal cultural resources were identified in the Project area resulting from the cultural resources study (see Section 3.4.5) or from any of the tribal outreach.

Impact #3.4.18a(i) – Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is – listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?

Neither the cultural resources study performed by ASM (see Appendix C) or the State Water Board's tribal outreach identified tribal cultural resource in the Project area. If cultural resources are discovered during construction that could be tribal cultural resources, the implementation of CUL-1 and CUL-2 would reduce impacts to tribal cultural resources to less-than-significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

Impact #3.4.18a(ii) – Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is – a resource determined by the Lead Agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the Lead Agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

See discussion for Impacts #3.4.5a through#3.4.5c and Impact #3.4.18a(i), above.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated***.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.19 - UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS				
Would the Project:				
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

The *Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility EIR* (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b) and the *Plainview Community Plan* were relied upon (Tulare County Resources Management Agency, 2019a) for the following Utilities and Service Systems Impact discussions.

Impact #3.4.19a – Would the Project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The well currently being used by the PMWC contains produces water with high levels of the primary nitrate contaminate that are above the maximum contaminate level of 10 micrograms per liter (μg/L) as established by the State. The proposed Project consists of the construction of a new supply well, well pump to provide clean drinking water, replacement of the current distribution system pipeline and 43 service-connections, and construction of a 250,000-gallon storage tank. Approximately 187 existing meters will require upgrades that allow remote meter readings. The new supply well will pump water out of a deeper aquifer that is not contaminated by nitrates. The Proposed project will replace the existing system but will not result in an expanded water system.

The proposed Project will also install 100 kW photovoltaic (PV) solar array system. The PV system is estimated to generate 161,263 kWh/year that will supplement the project's annual energy usage.

Once operational, the water system and accompanying solar arrays will be serviced and maintained by the PMWC. The Project will not be relocating or expanding water lines, wastewater treatment systems, electrical power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. Therefore, the Project will have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant.***

Impact #3.4.19b – Would the Project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

See Impacts #3.4.10b and #3.4.10e.

The Project will not increase water demand or induce population growth that would negatively impact available water supplies to serve the Project during normal, dry and multiple dry years. Therefore, the Project will have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant.***

Impact #3.4.19c – Would the Project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?

The Project water distribution pipelines will be separate from the wastewater system and will not be adding or connecting to the wastewater pipelines. The Project will not be expanding the service requirements to the local wastewater system and would not require a determination by the wastewater provider for capacity requirements to the area. As indicated in the *Plainview Wastewater System Feasibility Report,* "[T]he City of Lindsay's wastewater treatment facility has adequate capacity to serve Plainview", this Project will not impact the current wastewater system (Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 2016b).

The County of Tulare makes note that the remainder of residences in Plainview rely on individual septic systems (Tulare County, 2012). The Project will only be involved with replacing the current water distribution pipeline system, constructing a new supply well and 250,000gallon storage tank. The Project would not result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves the Project area that is has adequate capacity to serve the Projects projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant.***

Impact #3.4.19d – Would the Project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

This Project would generate solid waste from construction activities related to site preparation for the supply well and storage tank. Solid wastes would include demolition materials from existing trees and structures. There are two landfills within proximity of Plainview where solid waste can be disposed of. All solid waste will be collected and removed from the site and be disposed at either the Teapot Dome Landfill, located at 12063 Avenue 128, approximately ten miles southeast of Plainview or at the Visalia Landfill, located at 8614 Avenue 328, approximately 22 miles north west of Plainview. The Teapot Dome landfill is at 80% capacity while the Visalia landfill is much larger and has 24 years left before it is expected to be at capacity (CalRecycle, 2019).

The Project will comply with State and local standards by properly disposing of any Project related solid waste. The Project is not expected to result in excessive amounts of solid waste that would be in excess of State or local standards or be in excess of the capacity of

local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. Therefore, the Project will have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant.***

Impact #3.4.19e – Would the Project comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

See discussion for Impact #3.4.19d, above.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant.***

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.20 - WILDFIRE				
If located in or near State responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:				
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose Project occupants to, pollutant concentration 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

Impact #3.4.20a – If located in or near State responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The Project sites consists mainly of existing rural and semi-rural paved roads and existing road rights of way. The pipelines would be trenched in the existing rights of way that generally consist of gravel road shoulders, which is typical of roadways in the area. According to CalFire, all of the Plainview community is in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA). There are no Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) within the Project area or in the Plainview Community. The closest FHSZ are located in the foothills at the end of Avenue 196, approximately 16.5 miles to the east. Therefore, the Project is not located in or near a FHSZ and would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant.*

Impact #3.4.20b – If located in or near State responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose Project occupants to, pollutant concentration from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

All of the Plainview community is in an LRA; the Project is not located in or near a SRA or a High HFSZ (CALFIRE, 2019); see also Impact #3.20a above. The Project site consists mainly of existing rural and semi-rural paved roads and existing road rights of way. The pipelines would be trenched in the existing rights of way that generally consist of gravel road shoulders. The Project area is flat with no slopes, there are no prevailing winds or other factors that would exacerbate wildfire risks, or that would expose occupants to, pollutant concentration from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. Therefore, the Project would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be *less than significant.*

Impact #3.4.20c – If located in or near State responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project 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?

See Impacts #3.4.20a-b, above. The Project sites consists mainly of existing rural and semi-rural paved roads and existing road rights of way. The pipelines would be trenched in the existing rights of way that generally consist of gravel road shoulders. The Project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (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. Therefore, the Project will have no impact.

The Project is not located within 350 feet of high voltage transmission lines. Based on available data, the nearest high voltage electric transmission lines are outside the eastern city limits of Avenal (California Energy Commission, 2020). The Project would require the

installation or maintenance of additional distribution lines to connect the residences to the existing utility grid. However, the Project would be constructed in accordance with all local and State regulations regarding power lines and other related infrastructure, as well as fire suppression requirements. Therefore, the Project would not exacerbate fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment and impacts would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

There would be ***no impact***.

Impact #3.4.20d – If located in or near State responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project 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?

See Impacts #3.4.20a-c above. The Project will be replacing the existing underground water distribution pipeline and constructing a new supply well and a storage tank. It is not expected that such activities would result in a fire hazard or 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 change. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

No mitigation is required.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Impacts would be ***less than significant.***

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3.4.21 - MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
a. Does the Project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Does the Project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a Project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past Projects, the effects of other current Projects, and the effects of probable future Projects.)	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Does the Project have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

Impact #3.4.21a – Does the Project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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?

As evaluated in this IS/MND, the proposed Project is not expected to result in or substantially degrade the quality of the environment; substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species; cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species; or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. With recommended mitigation, MM

BIO-1 through MM BIO-7, the proposed Project would reduce or eliminated potential impacts to sensitive species such as but not limited San Joaquin kit fox, burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, by implementing avoidance and minimization measures.

As noted in the IS/MND, it is unlikely implementation of the Project will impact cultural resources. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1 and CUL-2 would reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels in the unlikely event unknown cultural resources be inadvertently discovered during construction.

Therefore, the Project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

Implementation of Mitigation Measures MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-7; CUL-1 and CUL-2.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Project would have a ***less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated***.

Impact #3.4.21b - Does the Project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a Project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past Projects, the effects of other current Projects, and the effects of probable future Projects.)?

As described in the impact analyses in Sections 3.4.1 through 3.4.20 of this IS/MND, any potentially significant impacts of the proposed Project would be reduced to a less-than-significant level following incorporation of the mitigation measures listed in *Section 4*, *Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan*. Projects completed in the past have also implemented mitigation as necessary. Accordingly, the proposed Project would not otherwise combine with impacts of related development to add considerably to any cumulative impacts in the region. With mitigation, the proposed Project would not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Therefore, the Project would have a less-than-cumulatively-considerable impact with mitigation incorporated.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

Implementation of Mitigation Measures MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-7, MM CUL-1 through MM CUL-2, MM GEO-1 and MM GEO-2.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Project would have a ***less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated***.

Impact #3.4.21c - Does the Project have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

All of the Project's impacts, both direct and indirect, that are attributable to the Project were identified and mitigated. As shown in *Section 4*, *Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan*, the Lead Agency has agreed to implement mitigation, substantially reducing or eliminating impacts from the Project. Therefore, the proposed Project would not either directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects on human beings because all potentially adverse direct impacts of the proposed Project are identified as having no impact, less-than-significant impact, or less-than-significant impact with mitigation.

MITIGATION MEASURE(S)

Implementation of Mitigation Measures MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-7, MM CUL-1 through MM CUL-2, MM GEO-1 and MM GEO-2.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Project would have a ***less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated***.

SECTION 4 - MITIGATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Monitoring Program					
Impact	**Mitigation Measure**	**Time Frame for Implementation**	**Responsible Monitoring Agency**	**Date**	**Initials**
3.4.1	**Aesthetics**				
	No Mitigation required.				
3.4.2	**Agriculture and Forest Resources**				
	No Mitigation required.				
3.4.3	**Air Quality**				
	No Mitigation required.				
3.4.4	**Biological Resources**				
#1	**MM BIO-1:** No less than 14 days prior to the start of Project ground disturbance activities in any specific area, a pre-activity clearance survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist knowledgeable in the identification of listed species. The surveys shall cover the Project site plus a 500-foot buffer. Pedestrian surveys achieving 100 percent visual coverage shall be conducted. Multiple surveys are anticipated to be needed as each Project phase is initiated. If no evidence of special-status species is detected, no further action is required.	At least 14 days prior to the start of Project ground-disturbing activities	PMWC /Contractor		
		Steps to Compliance: A. At least 14 days prior to the start of any ground-disturbing activities, a pre-activity clearance survey shall be performed by a qualified biologist. B. If necessary, the qualified biologist shall contact CDFW and USFWS to determine next steps. C. If necessary, the qualified biologist shall implement next steps in consultation with the wildlife agencies. D. The qualified biologist shall prepare a brief report to be submitted to the wildlife agencies within 5 working days of completion of the preconstruction survey. E. The project proponent shall submit evidence of compliance to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance to verify compliance.			
#2	**MM BIO-2:** If dens/burrows that could support the San Joaquin kit fox are discovered during the pre-construction surveys conducted under	During pre-activity surveys	PMWC /Contractor		

Mitigation Monitoring Program					
Impact	**Mitigation Measure**	**Time Frame for Implementation**	**Responsible Monitoring Agency**	**Date**	**Initials**
	BIO-1, the avoidance buffers outlined below shall be established. No work would occur within these buffers unless the biologist approves and monitors the activity. • Potential Den – 50 feet • Atypical Den – 50 feet (includes pipes and other man-made structures) • Known Den – 100 feet • Natal/Pupping Den – 500 feet	**Steps to Compliance:** A. At least 14 days prior to the start of any ground-disturbing activities, a pre-activity clearance survey shall be performed by a qualified biologist. If a den is found, no work would be permitted unless a qualified biologist approves and monitors the activity. B. The project proponent shall submit evidence of compliance to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance to verify compliance.			
#3	**MM BIO-3:** The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented during all phases of the Project to reduce the potential for impact from the Project. They are modified from the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (USFWS 2011). • Project-related vehicles shall observe a daytime speed limit of 20 mph throughout the site in all Project areas, except on County roads and State and federal highways. • All Project activities shall occur during daylight hours, but if work must be conducted at night then a night-time construction speed limit of 10 mph shall be established. • Off-road traffic outside of designated Project areas shall be prohibited. • To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes or other animals during construction of the Project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than two feet deep shall	Throughout all phases of the Project	PMWC /Contractor		
		Steps to Compliance: A. The project proponent shall submit evidence of compliance to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance to verify compliance with the measures listed in the mitigation measure throughout construction activities.			

Mitigation Monitoring Program					
Impact	**Mitigation Measure**	**Time Frame for Implementation**	**Responsible Monitoring Agency**	**Date**	**Initials**
	be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks shall be installed. • Before holes or trenches are filled, they shall be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the USFWS and the CDFW shall be contacted before proceeding with the work. • In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures shall be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the USFWS and CDFW shall be contacted for guidance. • All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of four inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods shall be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes and burrowing owls before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe shall not be moved until the USFWS has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped. • All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps shall be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or Project site. • No firearms shall be allowed on the Project site. • No pets, such as dogs or cats, shall be permitted on the				

Mitigation Monitoring Program					
Impact	**Mitigation Measure**	**Time Frame for Implementation**	**Responsible Monitoring Agency**	**Date**	**Initials**
	Project site. • Project-related use of rodenticides and herbicides shall be restricted. • A representative shall be appointed by the Project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The representative shall be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number shall be provided to the USFWS and CDFW. • Upon completion of the Project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances (including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc.) shall be recontoured if necessary, and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions. An area subject to "temporary" disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the Project, but after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated. • Any Project personnel who are responsible for inadvertently killing or injuring one of these species shall immediately report the incident to their representative. This representative shall contact the CDFW and USFWS immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped listed animal. • The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife office and CDFW Region 4 office shall be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during project related activities. Notification must include the date,				

Mitigation Monitoring Program					
Impact	**Mitigation Measure**	**Time Frame for Implementation**	**Responsible Monitoring Agency**	**Date**	**Initials**
	time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information. • New sightings of San Joaquin kit fox shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database. A copy of the reporting form and a topographic map clearly marked with the location of where the kit fox was observed shall also be provided to the USFWS.				
#4	**MM BIO-4:** If Project construction activities must occur during the nesting season (February 15 to August 31), pre-activity nesting bird surveys shall be conducted within seven days prior to the start of construction at the construction site plus a 250-foot buffer for songbirds and a 500-foot buffer for raptors (other than Swainson's hawk). The surveys shall be phased with construction of the Project. If no active nests are found, no further action is required. However, nests may become active at any time throughout the summer, including when construction activities are in progress. If active nests are found during the survey or at any time during construction of the Project, an avoidance buffer ranging from 50 feet to 500 feet may be required, with the avoidance buffer from any specific nest being determined by a qualified biologist. The avoidance buffer will remain in place until the biologist has determined that the young are no longer reliant on the nest. Work may occur within the avoidance buffer under the approval and guidance of the biologist, but full-time monitoring may be required. The biologist shall have the ability to stop construction if nesting adults show sign of distress.	Nesting season (February 1 to September 15) A. The project proponent shall be responsible for a pre-activity nesting bird survey within seven days prior to the start of construction at the construction site plus a 250-foot buffer for songbirds and a 500-foot buffer for raptors (other than Swainson's hawk), which shall be performed by a qualified biologist. The project proponent shall submit evidence of compliance to PMWC to verify compliance. B. If active nests are found during the breeding season, then a sufficient buffer shall be established until the nests are vacated, juveniles have fledged, and there is no evidence of a subsequent attempt at nesting. C. If necessary, the qualified biologist shall act as a construction monitor. D. If necessary, the qualified biologist shall prepare a brief report to be submitted to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance and CDFW within 30 days of completion of the preconstruction survey. E. The project proponent shall submit evidence of compliance to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance to verify compliance.	PMWC /Contractor		

Mitigation Monitoring Program					
Impact	**Mitigation Measure**	**Time Frame for Implementation**	**Responsible Monitoring Agency**	**Date**	**Initials**
#5	**MM BIO-5:** If Project construction activities must occur during the nesting season (February 15 to August 31), pre-activity surveys shall be conducted for Swainson's hawk nests in accordance with the *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley*, Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (CDFW 2000). The surveys would be conducted on the Project site plus a 0.5-mile buffer. To meet the minimum level of protection for the species, surveys shall be conducted during at least two survey periods. The survey will be conducted in accordance with the methodology outlined in existing protocols and shall phased with construction of the Project. If no Swainson's hawk nests are found, no further action is required.	Nesting season (February 1 to September 15)	PMWC /Contractor		
		A. The project proponent shall ensure a pre-activity survey is completed for Swainson's hawk if during nesting season. The project proponent shall submit evidence of compliance to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance to verify compliance.			
#6	**MM BIO-6:** If an active Swainson's hawk nest is discovered at any time within 0.5 miles of active construction, a qualified biologist will complete an assessment of the potential for current construction activities to impact the nest. The assessment will consider the type of construction activities, the location of construction relative to the nest, the visibility of construction activities from the nest location, and other existing disturbances in the area that are not related to construction activities of this Project. Based on this assessment, the biologist will determine if construction activities can proceed and the level of nest monitoring required. Construction activities shall not occur within 500 feet of an active nest but depending upon conditions at the site this distance may be reduced. Full-time monitoring to evaluate the effects of construction activities on nesting Swainson's hawks may be required. The qualified biologist shall have the authority to stop work if it is determined that Project construction is disturbing the nest. These buffers may need to increase depending on the sensitivity of the nest location, the sensitivity of the nesting Swainson's hawk to disturbances, and at the discretion of the	During construction	PMWC/Contractor		
		A. The project proponent shall be responsible for compliance and shall provide verify of compliance to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance.			

Mitigation Monitoring Program					
Impact	**Mitigation Measure**	**Time Frame for Implementation**	**Responsible Monitoring Agency**	**Date**	**Initials**
	qualified biologist.				
#7	**MM BIO-7:** Prior to the initiation of construction activities, all personnel shall attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Training program developed by a qualified biologist. The program shall include information on the life histories of special-status species with potential to occur on the Project, their legal status, course of action shall these species be encountered onsite, and avoidance and minimization measures to protect these species.	Prior to initiation of construction activities	PMWC /Contractor		
		A. The project proponent shall ensure all construction workers complete the Worker Environmental Awareness Training program, which shall be performed by a qualified biologist prior to construction. A sign-in sheet verifying compliance shall be submitted to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance to verify compliance. B. An acknowledgement form signed by each worker indicating that environmental training has been completed shall be kept on record. C. A copy of the training materials, as well as a list of the names of all personnel who attended the training and copies of the signed acknowledgement forms shall be submitted to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance. D. A copy of the training transcript, training video or informational binder for specific procedures shall be kept available for all personnel to review and be familiar with, as necessary.			
3.4.5	**Cultural Resources**				
#8	**MM CUL-1:** In the event that new historical or archaeological resources are discovered during the project, all ground-disturbing	During construction	PMWC /Contractor		

Mitigation Monitoring Program					
Impact	**Mitigation Measure**	**Time Frame for Implementation**	**Responsible Monitoring Agency**	**Date**	**Initials**
	activities in the vicinity of the find shall cease, an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (National Park Service 1983) shall be retained to evaluate the find, and the lead agency will be notified. Work may continue on other parts of the project while evaluation and, if necessary, mitigation takes place (CEQA Guidelines Section15064.5 [f]).	**Steps to Compliance:** A. If necessary, work shall cease and the project proponent shall retain a qualified archaeologist and/or paleontologist to assess finds and recommended procedures. B. The qualified cultural resources specialist shall assess the significance of the find and determine next steps. C. The project proponent shall submit evidence of compliance to PMWC to verify compliance.			
#9	**MM CUL-2:** Upon discovery of human remains or potential human remains, implement Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and notify the lead agency. Health and Safety Code requires that the County Coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery and no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area may continue until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, he or she is required to notify the NAHC in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant shall complete their inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains.	During construction and operation	PMWC /Contractor		
		Steps to Compliance: **A.** In the event that human remains are unearthed during excavation and grading activities of any future development project, all activity shall cease immediately. **B.** If required, the project proponent shall contact the County Coroner to assess the find. **C.** If required, the County Coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission to assess the find. **D.** The project proponent shall submit evidence of compliance to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance to verify compliance.			
3.4.6	**Energy**				
	No Mitigation required.				
3.4.7	**Geology and Soils**				

<table>
<tr><th colspan="6">Mitigation Monitoring Program</th></tr>
<tr><th>Impact</th><th>Mitigation Measure</th><th>Time Frame for Implementation</th><th>Responsible Monitoring Agency</th><th>Date</th><th>Initials</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">#10</td><td rowspan="2">MM GEO-1: Prior to issuing of grading or building permits, if required, (a) the Project applicant shall submit to the Lead Agency (1) the approved Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and (2) the Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. The requirements of the SWPPP and NPDES shall be incorporated into design specifications and construction contracts. Recommended best management practices for the construction phase may include the following:

• Stockpiling and disposing of demolition debris, concrete, and soil properly;
• Protecting existing storm drain inlets and stabilizing disturbed areas;
• Implementing erosion controls;
• Properly managing construction materials; and
• Managing waste, aggressively controlling litter, and implementing sediment controls.
• Evidence of the approved SWPPP shall be submitted to the Lead Agency.
Or (b) prepare and implement a Type 1 Linear Underground/Overhead Projects SWPPP.</td><td>Prior to construction</td><td>PMWC/ Contractor</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Steps to Compliance:
A. Contractor shall submit a copy of the approved SWPPP and NOI to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance.</td></tr>
</table>

Mitigation Monitoring Program					
Impact	**Mitigation Measure**	**Time Frame for Implementation**	**Responsible Monitoring Agency**	**Date**	**Initials**
#11	**MM GEO-2:** The property owner shall avoid and minimize impacts to paleontological resources. If a potentially significant paleontological resource is encountered during ground disturbance activities, all construction within a 100-foot radius of the find shall immediately cease until a qualified paleontologist determines whether the resources require further study. The owner shall include a standard inadvertent discovery clause in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. The paleontologist shall notify the Lead Agency and the Project proponent of the procedures that must be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location of the find. If the find is determined to be significant and the Lead Agency determines avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist shall design and implement a data recovery plan consistent with the applicable standards. The plan shall be submitted to the Lead Agency for review and approval. Upon approval, the plan shall be incorporated into the Project.	During ground disturbance activities	PMWC /Contractor		
		A. In the event that paleontological resources are encountered during ground disturbance activities, all work within 100 feet shall halt. B. If required, the paleontologist shall conduct additional investigation and complete additional studies or plans. C. The project proponent shall submit evidence of compliance to SWRCB- Division of Financial Assistance to verify compliance.			
3.4.8	**Greenhouse Gas Emissions**				
	No mitigation required.				
3.4.9	**Hazardous Materials**				
	No mitigation required.				
3.4.10	**Hydrology and Water Quality**				
	No mitigation required.				
3.4.11	**Land Use and Planning**				
	No Mitigation required.				
3.4.12	**Mineral Resources**				
	No Mitigation required.				
3.4.13	**Noise**				
	No Mitigation required.				
3.4.14	**Population and Housing**				

Mitigation Monitoring Program					
Impact	**Mitigation Measure**	**Time Frame for Implementation**	**Responsible Monitoring Agency**	**Date**	**Initials**
	No Mitigation required.				
3.4.15	**Public Services**				
	No Mitigation required.				
3.4.16	**Recreation**				
	No Mitigation required.				
3.4.17	**Traffic and Transportation**				
	No Mitigation required.				
3.4.18	**Tribal Cultural Resources**				
	No mitigation required.				
3.4.19	**Utilities and Service Systems**				
	No Mitigation is Required.				
3.4.20	**Wildfire**				
	No Mitigation is Required.				

SECTION 5 - LIST OF PREPARERS

This document was prepared by QK's Environmental Planning group with assistance from its Engineering group and the Plainview Municipal Water Company.

QK

Jaymie L. Brauer, Principal Planner

Brian Shoener, Senior Engineer

Karla Topete, Associate Planner

California State Water Resources Control Board

Abbygayle Britton, Environmental Scientist

Braden Elliott, Environmental Scientist

Brenda Pauli, Sanitary Engineer

SECTION 6 - REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

AIR QUALITY

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

APPENDIX B

BIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS REPORT

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

APPENDIX C

CLASS III INVENTORY/PHASE I SURVEY REPORT

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

APPENDIX D

GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

APPENDIX E

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST