

Chapter ES Executive Summary

This chapter is an executive summary of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for OC River Walk Project (project) prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This chapter highlights the major areas of importance in the environmental analysis for the proposed project as required by CEQA Guidelines, Section 15123, and also provides a brief description of the project, project objectives, project impacts and mitigation measures, alternatives to the project, and areas of controversy/issues raised by the public known to the City of Anaheim (lead agency).

ES.1 Overview

As required by CEQA, this EIR (1) assesses the potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the proposed project; (2) identifies potential feasible means of avoiding or substantially lessening significant, adverse impacts; and (3) evaluates a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, including the required No Project Alternative. The City of Anaheim is the lead agency for the project evaluated in this EIR and, as such, has the principal responsibility for approving the project.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, this EIR is a project EIR that evaluates the effects of the entire project at a project level. This EIR will be used by the City of Anaheim to evaluate the environmental implications of adopting the project. Once certified, this EIR will also be used to tier subsequent environmental analyses for future development projects. Once approved, the project will guide the redevelopment of the project site.

ES.2 Project Description

The project site is located along the Santa Ana River corridor, generally extending from Orangewood Avenue north to Ball Road and the existing Anaheim Coves at Burris Basin. It generally encompasses approximately a 2-mile stretch of the Santa Ana River, covering approximately 111 acres. It is approximately 15 miles upstream from the Pacific Ocean and adjacent to Angel Stadium, Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC), the Honda Center, and the Arena Corporate Center (ACC) buildings on the west side in the City of Anaheim. The ARTIC, the Honda Center, and the ACC buildings are all part of the OCVIBE Master Site Plan Project (OCVIBE Project). On the east side of the Santa Ana River, in the City of Orange, the project is near the Sandra Hutchens Regional Law Enforcement Training Center (a facility that includes a combat shooting range), the Orange County Public Works offices, the Stadium Promenade shopping mall, the Extended Stay America – Orange, and the Kinder Morgan Orange Terminal.

In 2021, the OC River Walk Engineering Feasibility Study identified 17 design opportunities along the Santa Ana River within the project site. The opportunities outlined in the Feasibility Study align with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Operating Principles, as well as the California State

Coastal Conservancy's Santa Ana River Conservancy Program goals of (1) protection and preservation of water resources through multi-benefit projects, (2) habitat and wildlife preservation and enhancement, and (3) equitable education and recreation access. The Feasibility Study served as the launching point for the OC River Walk Conceptual Master Plan and design documents for multiple projects within OC River Walk.

The OC River Walk Conceptual Master Plan consists of various multi-purpose improvements to transform the Santa Ana River corridor and portions of the existing Santa Ana River Trail (SART), along with related off-site improvements necessary for its implementation. The main components of the Conceptual Master Plan involve creating two water impoundments by installing three inflatable rubber dams, modifying the riverbanks, constructing two pedestrian/bike bridges, providing new trails, improving existing trails, creating new and protection of existing access ramps, constructing two new undercrossings on the west bank at the Union Pacific Railroad and the Metrolink railroad, providing enhanced community recreation amenities (e.g., terraced seating, nature play areas, parklets, plazas, gathering areas for large-scale events, festivals, and other activities, water access, kayak launch, etc.), and other improvements. These improvements would require the implementation of 19 project elements, which have been categorized into four groups: Group A – Impoundments, Storm Drain Diversions, and Embankments; Group B – New Pedestrian/Bike Bridges; Group C – New Trails and Trail Improvements; and Group D – Enhanced Community Recreation Amenities, as shown Table ES-1, OC River Walk Conceptual Master Plan Elements, and on Figures 2-7, Proposed Impoundments and Trail Improvements; 2-8, Overall Project Elements; and 2-8a through 2-8d, Proposed Improvements Group A through D. The OC River Walk project conforms with the design goals and function of the SAR described in the USACE 1988 General Design Memorandum. The project design (e.g., levee design, vegetation, and freeboard, etc.) would be reviewed and permitted by the USACE and the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) through the 408 permitting process. For CEQA analysis, it is assumed that these various components could be implemented simultaneously or at different stages within an approximately 10-year period tentatively scheduled between 2026 and 2036. The initial construction is expected to take approximately 24 to 36 months.

Table ES-1. OC River Walk Conceptual Master Plan Elements

No.	Conceptual Master Plan Elements	Quantity (Approximate) ¹
Group A: Impoundments, Storm Drain Diversions, and Embankments		
1.	River Impoundments	
1a	North Impoundment and Inflatable Rubber Dam	3,000' length, 22 ac area, 110 AF volume Rubber Dam: 8' x 300'
1b	North Impoundment – Rubber Dam Concrete Foundation	310' x 24' x 2' = 700 CY reinforced concrete 10,000 CY of earthwork subgrade preparation
1c	North Impoundment – Rubber Dam Air Compressor, Controls, and Flow Bypass	10' x 10' x 7' precast concrete vault or building (preferred)

Table ES-1. OC River Walk Conceptual Master Plan Elements

No.	Conceptual Master Plan Elements	Quantity (Approximate) ¹
1d	South Impoundment and Inflatable Rubber Dam	1,700' length, 11.5 ac area, 90 AF volume Rubber Dam: 10' x 300'
1e	South Impoundment – Rubber Dam Concrete Foundation	310' x 24' x 2' = 700 CY reinforced concrete 10,000 CY of earthwork subgrade preparation
1f	South Impoundment – Rubber Dam Air Compressor, Controls, and Flow Bypass	10' x 10' x 7' precast concrete vault or building (preferred)
1g	Collins Channel – Inflatable Rubber Dam	Rubber Dam: 6' x 45'
1h	Collins Channel – Rubber Dam Concrete Foundation	60' x 24' x 2' = 130 CY 1,500 CY of earthwork subgrade preparation
1i	Collins Channel – Rubber Dam Air Compressor and Controls	10' x 10' x 7' precast concrete vault or building (preferred)
2.	Impoundment Evacuation Pumps	4 pumps at 5 MGD ea. (20 MGD total), 85 HP ea. (340 HP total)
3.	Pipeline from Pump Station to GWRS Turnout (N. of Orangewood Avenue to Burris Basin)	8,000 LF, 30-40" HDPE
4.	GWRS Turnout – Concrete Flow Control Structure with Dechlorination Facilities (Located at South End of Burris Basin) – Off-Site Improvement	50 MGD
5.	Storm Drain Diversions (Dry-Weather Flow)	
5a	Anaheim – Storm Drain Outlets w/ Flap Gates	8 gates, 18"-54"
5b	Anaheim – Diversion Manholes	8 manholes
5c	Anaheim – Diversion Pump Stations	2 pump stations w/ 2 pumps ea., 125 GPM and 5 HP per pump
5d	Anaheim – Storm Drain Diversion Pipe to Sewer	4-6" PVC pipe, 2,200 LF
5e	Orange – Storm Drain Outlets w/ Flap Gates	7 gates, 18"-54"
5f	Orange – In-Channel Diversion Structure at Collins Channel	TBD
5g	Orange – Diversion Manholes	7 manholes
5h	Orange – Diversion Pump Stations	1 pump station w/ 2 pumps, 200 GPM and 7.5 HP per pump; 2 pump stations w/ 2 pumps ea., 125 GPM and 5 HP per pump
5i	Orange – Storm Drain Diversion Pipe to Sewer	4-6" PVC pipe, 7,250 LF
5j	Wet Weather Storm Drain Diversion to Impoundments ¹	±200 AF
6.	River Embankments	9,600 LF total
6a	North Impoundment Embankment	6,200 LF, 23' avg. height to 26' max, up to 33' at drop structure
6b	South Impoundment Embankment	3,400 LF, 23' avg. height to 26' max, up to 33' at drop structure

Table ES-1. OC River Walk Conceptual Master Plan Elements

No.	Conceptual Master Plan Elements	Quantity (Approximate) ¹
Group B: New Pedestrian/Bike Bridges		
1.	Pedestrian/Bike Bridge North of Katella Avenue	400 LF, 36'-58' width, 3 River Piers
2.	Pedestrian/Bike Bridge North of Orangewood Avenue	350 LF, 12'-18' width, 5 River Piers
3.	Bridge Retaining Walls	
3a	New Pedestrian/Bike Bridge N. of Katella West Bank Retaining Wall #1	500 LF, <8' height
3b	New Pedestrian/Bike Bridge N. of Katella West Bank Retaining Wall #2	500 LF, <8' height
3c	New Pedestrian/Bike Bridge N. of Katella East Bank Retaining Wall #3	500 LF, <8' height
Group C: New Trails and Trail Improvements		
1.	Trail West Bank – Katella Avenue to Anaheim Coves	6,400 LF total, 18' typ. width
1a	UPRR – Undercrossing (New Undercrossing)	500 LF, 20' typ. width
1b	UPRR Undercrossing Retaining Wall	500 LF, <10' height
1c	UPRR – At-Grade Crossing (Existing Maintenance Access)	100 LF, 18' typ. width
1d	OC River Walk and River Road Retaining Wall	750 LF, <8' height
1e	Ball Road Culvert Undercrossing (Existing 14x14 RCB)	800 LF, 18' typ. width
1f	Ball Road Bridge Undercrossing w/ City and County and OCWD (Existing Maintenance Access)	TBD
1g	River Access/Kayak Ramp South of Cerritos (Existing Ramp)	TBD
1h	Interim UPRR Crossing at Phoenix Club Drive (Existing RR Crossing and New Interim Connection Trail)	TBD
1i	Replace Access Road Only (For New Pedestrian/Bike Bridge North of Katella Ave.)	N/A
2.	Trail West Bank – Katella Avenue to Orangewood Avenue	4,000 LF, 18' typ. width
2a	Embankment Seating and Steps	350 LF
2b	Metrolink RR Undercrossing (Existing Undercrossing)	800 LF, 20' typ. width
2c	Metrolink Underpass Retaining Wall	900 LF, <12' height
2d	River Walk South Embankment Seating and Steps	450 LF
2e	SR-57 Underpass Trail Widening	400 LF
2f	SR-57 Retaining Wall	400 LF, <14' height
3.	Trail East Bank Katella Avenue to Ball Road	4,300 LF, 18' typ. width
3a	Replace Access Road Only (For New Pedestrian/Bike Bridge North of Katella Avenue)	N/A
3b	Improve Trail w/ Terrace and Community Access	4,300 LF, 12'-40' width
3c	East Bank Park/River Terrace Retaining Wall #1	500 LF, <8' height
3d	City of Orange Water Recreation Opportunity ¹	N/A

Table ES-1. OC River Walk Conceptual Master Plan Elements

No.	Conceptual Master Plan Elements	Quantity (Approximate) ¹
3e	East Bank Park/River Terrace Retaining Wall #2	1,000 LF, <8' height
4.	Trail East Bank Katella to Orangewood: SART – Main Line Reroute to East Bank of River	4,000 LF, 18' typ. width
Group D: Enhanced Community Recreation Amenities		
1.	River Recreation – North Impoundment	
1a	Kayaking and Water Recreation Activities (kayak launch ramp is identified in Group C 1g.)	22 ac
1b	Swimming / Wading Recreational Opportunity	1-3 ac
1c	Recirculation and Water Feature Pumps ¹	1,000-5,000 GPM (1.5-7.5 MGD)
1d	Water Feature Elements (Water show, water screen, etc.) ¹	TBD
1e	Swimming Water Quality Pumps and Treatment ¹	5,000-10,000 GPM
2.	River Recreation – South Impoundment	
2a	Kayaking and Water Recreation Activities	11.5 ac
2b	Under SR-57 – Lighting and Other Amenities	TBD
2c	Recirculation and Water Feature Pumps ¹	1,000-5,000 GPM (1.5-7.5 MGD)
2d	Water Feature Elements ¹	TBD
3.	OCVIBE Lot B Parking Lot, Potential Future OC River Walk Park	2.2 ac
4.	Park / River Terrace: East Bank North of Katella Avenue	
4a	East Bank (City of Orange) Katella Avenue to UPRR	8.3 ac
4b	UPRR to Ball Road	2.2 ac
5.	Riverbed Between Impoundments (future recreation TBD)	3.8 ac, 650 LF
6.	Art / Education / Signage (Conceptual locations)	
6a	Iconic Signage ¹	TBD
6b	Bridge Mural and Lighting at freeway underpass	TBD
6c	Mosaic / Art Installations	TBD
6d	Reflective Shade Canopies	TBD
6e	Zen Zone / Wildflower Spaces ¹	TBD
6f	River Poetry Walk	TBD
6g	Interactive Educational Components	TBD
6h	Wayfinding Signage ¹	TBD
6i	Conceptual Locations for Art/Signage Opportunities ¹	TBD

Notes: ac = acres; AF = acre-feet; CY = cubic yards; GPM = gallons per minute; HDPE = high-density polyethylene; HP = horsepower; LF = linear feet; MGD = million gallons per day; N/A = Not Applicable; TBD = to be determined; typ. = typical; UPRR = Union Pacific Railroad; All project dimensions and locations are approximate as of the time of EIR preparation and have been assumed for analysis purposes.

¹ Project element is not specifically located at this time or encompasses the entire project site.

Additionally, all necessary new and/or upgrades to existing on- and off-site utilities and systems, such as electrical facilities, lighting, landscaping, irrigation, seating, and signage to implement various

components of the project, would be provided in compliance with applicable City of Anaheim and City of Orange rates, rules, and regulations; municipal codes; the California Green Building Standards Code; and any applicable engineering standards and specifications, as deemed necessary by the approving agency. The dimensions (e.g., lengths, heights, volumes) and locations specified in each element are approximate as of the time of EIR preparation and have been assumed for analysis purposes.

Public Law 84-99, Emergency Response to Natural Disasters, is the USACE's basic authority to provide for emergency activities in support of State and Local governments prior to, during, and after a flood event. Under PL 84-99, the USACE can provide both emergency technical and direct assistance in response to flood and coastal storms, and can assist if there is a flood threat from damage caused by earthquakes to flood risk management projects. The SAR is currently eligible for Public Law 84-99 program coverage, and it should be noted that the project would not change this eligibility status.

ES.3 Project Objectives

In accordance with Section 15124(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, the City of Anaheim has identified the following objectives for the project:

1. Adopt the OC River Walk Conceptual Master Plan for OC River Walk Project to further enhance and accentuate existing recreational areas, facilitate pedestrian and bicycle access, and promote the use of the river corridor open space area for the community benefit.
2. Implement projects identified in the OC River Walk Conceptual Master Plan that will create visually appealing outdoor public amenities that will benefit and promote environmental and community health, recreation, safety, entertainment, wayfinding, art, education, cultural awareness, beauty, connectivity, water supply, economic, and natural resource needs.
3. Provide seamless and cohesive improvements across jurisdictions on the project site to benefit the public and the area's aesthetics.
4. Implement projects to transform and improve the river and riverbed's groundwater recharge potential and improve the river corridor's ecology (flora and fauna).
5. Maintain and enhance flood protection capacity and resiliency.
6. Enhance connectivity and community access by leveraging the project site's location near ARTIC, major entertainment venues, and adjacent mixed-use developments.

ES.4 Project Impacts

This EIR examines the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, including information related to existing site conditions, analyses of the types and magnitude of individual and cumulative environmental impacts, and feasible mitigation measures that could reduce or avoid environmental impacts. In accordance with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the potential environmental effects of the proposed project were analyzed for the following environmental issue areas:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources

Table ES-2, Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures, provides a summary of the project-level and cumulative environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project and feasible mitigation measures that could reduce or avoid environmental impacts. For each impact, Table ES-2 identifies the significance of the impact before mitigation (including which phase the mitigation is required), applicable mitigation measures, and the level of significance of the impact after implementation of the mitigation measures.

Other environmental issues identified in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines have been scoped out from further analysis, as they were determined to have no impact or less than significant impact in the Initial Study prepared during the Notice of Preparation process. The Notice of Preparation and the accompanying Initial Study were circulated for public review from March 23, 2023, through April 24, 2023, and are included as Appendix A to this Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Environmental issues found to have no or less than significant impacts are also included in Section 6.4, Effects Found Not to be Significant.

ES.5 Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table ES-2 summarizes the impacts and mitigation measures addressed in Sections 4.1 through 4.10 of this Draft EIR. The project description and full discussion of impacts and mitigation measures can be found in Chapter 2, Project Description, and Chapter 4, Environmental Analysis, of this Draft EIR (Sections 4.1 through 4.10). As explained above, the impacts not included in Table ES-2 were determined to have “no impact” or a “less than significant impact” without the need for mitigation measures. Therefore, they were scoped out during the Notice of Preparation process and are listed in Section 6.4, Effects Found Not to Be Significant.

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
Section 4.1, Air Quality			
Threshold AQ-2: Cumulative Increase in Criteria Pollutant Emissions (Construction)	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold AQ-3: Sensitive Receptors (Construction)	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold AQ-4: Odors (Construction)	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Section 4.2, Biological Resources			
Threshold BIO-1: Candidate, Sensitive, or Special-Status Species	Potentially significant.	<p>BIO-1: Qualified Monitoring Biologist. Before the start of construction activities, the City of Anaheim project manager (or designee) shall retain a qualified monitoring biologist to implement required monitoring and document the names and resumes of the people involved in the biological monitoring of the project and a schedule for the proposed work.</p> <p>The qualified monitoring biologist shall be responsible for the following monitoring and reporting tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Construction Mitigation/Monitoring Exhibit. Before the start of construction within the future site-specific proposed survey area, the qualified monitoring biologist shall submit a Biological Construction Mitigation/Monitoring Exhibit, which includes limits of work, proposed monitoring schedule, bird, focused sensitive species, or other wildlife surveys/survey schedules (including general avian nesting and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protocol), timing of surveys, bird construction avoidance areas/noise buffers/barriers, other impact avoidance areas, and any subsequent requirements determined by the qualified monitoring biologist. The Biological Construction Mitigation/Monitoring Exhibit shall include the construction site plan, written and graphic depiction of the project’s biological mitigation/monitoring program, and a schedule for construction activities. Where the potential for impacts to biological resources is limited (e.g., construction within a footprint that consists entirely of previously developed or disturbed lands), the Biological Construction Mitigation/Monitoring Exhibit may be limited to a pre- and 	Less than significant.

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		<p>post-maintenance verification inspection. For highly sensitive resource areas, full-time biological monitors may be required. The Biological Construction Mitigation/Monitoring Exhibit shall be approved by the City of Anaheim project manager (or designee) before the start of construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Avian Protection. To avoid any direct impacts to raptors and/or any migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, removal of habitat that supports active nests on the proposed area of disturbance should occur outside the breeding season for these species (January 15 to August 31). If removal of habitat on the proposed area of disturbance must occur during the breeding season, the monitoring biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey to determine the presence or absence of nesting birds on the proposed area of disturbance. The pre-construction survey must be conducted within 10 calendar days before the start of construction, the results of which must be submitted to the City of Anaheim project manager (or designee) for review and approval before initiating any construction activities. If nesting birds are detected, a letter report or mitigation plan as deemed appropriate by the City of Anaheim shall be prepared and include proposed measures to be implemented to ensure that disturbance of raptor and bird breeding activities are avoided. The report or mitigation plan shall be submitted to the City of Anaheim for review and approval and implemented to the satisfaction of the City of Anaheim. The monitoring biologist shall verify and approve that all measures identified in the report or mitigation plan are in place prior to and/or during construction.</p> <p>Resource Marking/Protection. Prior to the start of construction activities within the future site-specific proposed survey area, the qualified monitoring biologist shall supervise the placement of orange construction fencing or similar visible marker, staking, or flagging along the limits of the construction area, particularly where adjacent to sensitive biological avoidance areas, as shown on the Biological Construction Mitigation/Monitoring Exhibit to ensure crews remain within the approved construction limits. These demarcations shall not be required for areas with existing barriers, such as chain-link fencing, along the limits or facilities that are within and/or adjacent to developed and non-sensitive habitat areas. This task shall include flagging plant specimens and delineating buffers to</p> 	

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		<p>protect sensitive biological resources (e.g., habitats, sensitive plant and wildlife species, including nesting birds) prior to construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Cover Trenches. The qualified monitoring biologist shall oversee the construction site so that cover and/or escape routes for wildlife from excavated areas shall be provided daily. Steep trenches, holes, and excavations during construction shall be covered at night with backfill, plywood, metal plates, or other means, and if plastic sheeting is used, the edges must be covered with soils such that small wildlife cannot access the excavated hole. Soil piles shall be covered at night to prevent wildlife from burrowing in. Sandbags shall weigh down the edges of the sheeting. These areas may also be fenced to prevent wildlife from gaining access. Exposed trenches, holes, and excavations shall be inspected twice daily (i.e., each morning and before sealing the exposed area) by the qualified monitoring biologist to monitor for wildlife entrapment. Excavations shall provide an earthen ramp to allow for a wildlife escape route. The qualified monitoring biologist shall verify that the contractor has covered all steep-walled trenches or excavations prior to the end of construction daily. If wildlife species are encountered within any trenches or excavated areas, the qualified monitoring biologist shall remove them, if possible, or provide them with a means of escape (e.g., a ramp or sloped surface at no greater than a 30-degree angle) and allow the species to disperse. In addition, the qualified monitoring biologist shall train construction personnel to increase awareness of the possible presence of wildlife beneath vehicles and equipment and to use best judgment to avoid killing or injuring wildlife (refer to Pre-Construction Meeting/Education).</p> <p>Structure Clearance. Before the issuance of any permit to allow for the removal or demolition of trees on the project site (particularly any ornamental trees in the developed land areas), the qualified monitoring biologist shall conduct clearance surveys to flush out any wildlife species nesting, roosting, or otherwise occupying the trees. If wildlife species are encountered within any of the trees (outside the general bird nesting season), the qualified monitoring biologist shall remove them, if possible, or provide them with a means of escape and allow the species to disperse. If</p> 	

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		<p>tree-roosting bats are suspected, slow removal by gently pushing the tree over with heavy equipment is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Pre-Construction Meeting/Education. Before the start of any construction activity where the site plan for the construction area indicates that significant impacts to biological resources may occur, a pre-construction meeting shall be held on site with the following in attendance: City of Anaheim project manager (or designee), the construction contractor (if applicable), and the qualified monitoring biologist. At this meeting, the qualified monitoring biologist shall identify and discuss the construction protocols that apply to the proposed activities and the sensitive nature of the adjacent habitat with appropriate project personnel.</p> <p>At the pre-construction meeting, the qualified monitoring biologist shall submit to the construction contractor a copy of the Biological Construction Mitigation/Monitoring Exhibit that identifies areas to be protected, fenced, and monitored. This data shall include all buffer limits, if applicable.</p> <p>Before the start of construction activities, the qualified monitoring biologist shall meet with the construction contractor and crew and conduct an on-site educational session regarding the need to avoid impacts outside the approved construction footprint and to protect sensitive plants and wildlife that may occur at the specific facility. This may include but not be limited to explanations of the avian and aquatic resource buffers, the flag system for retention of sensitive plants, and clarification of acceptable access routes/methods and staging areas.</p> <p>Biological Monitoring and Reporting. The qualified monitoring biologist shall inspect/monitor the project construction area in accordance with the approved Biological Construction Mitigation/Monitoring Exhibit. This may be limited to pre- and post-maintenance inspections, weekly visits, or full-time monitoring, as determined by the qualified monitoring biologist.</p> <p>The qualified monitoring biologist shall document monitoring events via a Consultant Site Visit Record. This record shall be sent to the project manager each month. However, if weekly reports are submitted as part of a separate agency permit requirement, these reports may be forwarded to the project manager in place of Consultant Site Visit Record submittals.</p> 	

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation																					
		<p>If no deviations from the construction site plan occur during maintenance, no additional documentation is required. However, if deviations from the site plan do occur, such as unanticipated impacts to sensitive vegetation communities or unanticipated discharge of pollutants, a Final Monitoring Report shall be prepared within 3 months following the completion of mitigation monitoring detailing maintenance and monitoring that occurred and any remedial or compensatory measures taken.</p> <p>BIO-2: Sensitive Vegetation Communities and Jurisdictional Aquatic Resources Impacts Mitigation. Any direct impacts to sensitive vegetation communities or jurisdictional aquatic resources would require mitigation to comply with state and/or federal authorizations in accordance with the minimum ratios described in the following table and the ratios defined in any state and/or federal permit(s) issued for the project.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mitigation Ratios for Potential Impacts to Sensitive Vegetation Communities and Jurisdictional Aquatic Resources</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="802 854 1642 1182"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="802 854 1087 919">Vegetation Community</th> <th data-bbox="1087 854 1377 919">Jurisdiction</th> <th data-bbox="1377 854 1642 919">Minimum Mitigation Ratio</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="802 919 1087 959">Fresh Water</td> <td data-bbox="1087 919 1377 959">USACE/RWQCB/CDFW</td> <td data-bbox="1377 919 1642 959">2:1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="802 959 1087 1024">Freshwater Emergent Wetland</td> <td data-bbox="1087 959 1377 1024">USACE/RWQCB/CDFW</td> <td data-bbox="1377 959 1642 1024">2:1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="802 1024 1087 1065">Non-Vegetated Channel</td> <td data-bbox="1087 1024 1377 1065">USACE/RWQCB/CDFW</td> <td data-bbox="1377 1024 1642 1065">2:1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="802 1065 1087 1105">Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub</td> <td data-bbox="1087 1065 1377 1105">CDFW</td> <td data-bbox="1377 1065 1642 1105">2:1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="802 1105 1087 1146">Mule Fat Scrub (Disturbed)</td> <td data-bbox="1087 1105 1377 1146">CDFW</td> <td data-bbox="1377 1105 1642 1146">2:1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="802 1146 1087 1182">Southern Willow Scrub</td> <td data-bbox="1087 1146 1377 1182">USACE/RWQCB/CDFW</td> <td data-bbox="1377 1146 1642 1182">2:1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Notes: CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife; RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board; USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential direct impacts to sensitive vegetation communities, including jurisdictional aquatic resources, resulting from project implementation shall be mitigated through one of the following two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Project compensatory mitigation for proposed impacts to sensitive vegetation communities, including jurisdictional aquatic resources, shall 	Vegetation Community	Jurisdiction	Minimum Mitigation Ratio	Fresh Water	USACE/RWQCB/CDFW	2:1	Freshwater Emergent Wetland	USACE/RWQCB/CDFW	2:1	Non-Vegetated Channel	USACE/RWQCB/CDFW	2:1	Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub	CDFW	2:1	Mule Fat Scrub (Disturbed)	CDFW	2:1	Southern Willow Scrub	USACE/RWQCB/CDFW	2:1	
Vegetation Community	Jurisdiction	Minimum Mitigation Ratio																						
Fresh Water	USACE/RWQCB/CDFW	2:1																						
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	USACE/RWQCB/CDFW	2:1																						
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Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		<p>be provided through in-kind and on-site creation, enhancement, and/or restoration. A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be provided and prepared in accordance with the City of Anaheim and regulatory agency requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Compensatory mitigation requirements that are not able to be satisfied through on-site creation, enhancement, and/or restoration shall be satisfied through the acquisition of mitigation bank credits via a resource agency-approved mitigation site within the Santa Ana River Watershed or by acquisition of other approved off-site mitigation credits. Prior to implementation of project construction impacts that would require compensatory mitigation, documentation demonstrating the availability of mitigation credits (i.e., credit ledger) at the approved mitigation site must be submitted to the City of Anaheim project manager (or designee) for confirmation. <p>When proposed mitigation involves habitat enhancement, restoration, or creation, the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptual planting plan including planting zones, grading, and irrigation. • Seed mix/planting palette. • Planting specifications. • Monitoring program including success criteria. • Long-term maintenance and preservation plan. <p>For mitigation that involves habitat acquisition, the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of proposed acquisition. • Description of the biological resources to be acquired, including support for the conclusion that the acquired habitat mitigates for the specific maintenance impact and satisfies the requirement of no net loss. • Documentation that the mitigation area would be adequately preserved and maintained in perpetuity. <p>The identification of mitigation site credits shall be provided to the City of Anaheim project manager (or designee) and shall include the following:</p>	

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of approved mitigation site. • Description of the mitigation credits to be acquired, including support for the conclusion that the acquired habitat mitigates for the specific maintenance impact and satisfies the requirement of no net loss. • Documentation of the credits that are associated with a mitigation bank, which has been approved by the appropriate resource agencies. • Documentation in the form of a current mitigation credit ledger. <p>BIO-3: Habitat Restoration in Temporary Impact Areas. Temporary direct impact areas shall be restored to pre-construction topographic contours and conditions, including the revegetation of native plant communities, where appropriate. Habitat restoration and erosion control treatments shall be installed within these short-term impact areas. Habitat revegetation shall feature native species that are typical of the area, and associated erosion control best management practices shall include silt fence and microplastic- and weed-free straw fiber rolls, where appropriate. The revegetation areas shall be monitored and maintained for 25 months to ensure adequate establishment and sustainability of the plantings/seedings.</p> <p>Where a project activity involves potential disturbance of non-native invasive plant species (as identified by the California Invasive Plant Council), these plants shall be entirely removed where feasible, and the removal shall be monitored by the qualified monitoring biologist to ensure that dispersal of propagules (e.g., seeds, stems, etc.) are avoided or minimized. Where removal of plant roots is not feasible (e.g., where erosive flows are predicted), aboveground plant material shall be fully removed and monitored by the qualified monitoring biologist. Where aboveground plant material cannot be removed (e.g., due to limited access), herbicides shall be applied by a licensed pest control advisor, using chemicals permitted as safe within aquatic environments.</p> <p>BIO-4: Least Bell’s Vireo and Yellow Warbler Pre-Construction Surveys. For any work proposed in or near suitable habitat between February 15 and August 15 (March 15 and September 15 for least Bell’s vireo), a pre-construction survey for least Bell’s vireo and yellow warbler shall be performed to reaffirm the presence and extent of occupied habitat. The pre-construction survey area for the species shall encompass all potentially suitable habitat within the project work zone and</p>	

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		<p>a 300-foot survey buffer. The pre construction survey shall be performed to the satisfaction of the City of Anaheim project manager (or their designee) by a qualified biologist familiar with the species. The results of the pre-construction survey shall be submitted in a report to the City of Anaheim project manager (or their designee) for review and approval before initiating any construction activities. If least Bell's vireo or yellow warbler are detected, a minimum 300-foot buffer delineated by orange biological fencing shall be established around the detected species. In addition, on-site noise reduction/attenuation techniques shall be incorporated, as appropriate, to avoid impacts to breeding least Bell's vireo and yellow warbler from elevated construction noise levels during the breeding season. The City of Anaheim project manager (or their designee) shall have the discretion to modify the buffer width depending on site-specific conditions. In addition, noise monitoring may be required to ensure that the elevated construction noise levels are appropriately attenuated at the edge of occupied habitat to a level that is not expected to adversely affect nesting bird behavior (i.e., not to exceed an hourly average of 60 A-weighted decibels or ambient whichever is greater, at the edge of occupied habitat).</p>	
Threshold BIO-2: Riparian Habitat and Other Sensitive Natural Communities	Potentially significant.	BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-3,	Less than significant.
Threshold BIO-3: Wetlands	Potentially significant.	BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-3,	Less than significant.
Threshold BIO-4: Native Resident or Migratory Fish or Wildlife Species	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Section 4.3, Cultural Resources			
Threshold CUL-1: Historical Resources	No impact.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold CUL-2: Archaeological Resources	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
Section 4.4, Geology and Soils			
Threshold GEO-1.i: Exposure to Seismic-Related Hazards - Rupture of a Known Earthquake Fault	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold GEO-1.ii: Exposure to Seismic-Related Hazards – Ground Shaking	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold GEO-1.iii: Exposure to Seismic-Related Hazards - Liquefaction	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold GEO-1.iv: Exposure to Seismic-Related Hazards - Landslide	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold GEO-2: Soil Erosion or Topsoil Loss	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold GEO-3: Geologic Stability	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold GEO-4: Expansive Soils	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Section 4.5, Greenhouse Gas Emissions			
Threshold GHG-1: Generation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Construction)	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
Section 4.6, Hazards and Hazardous Materials			
Threshold HAZ-2: Accidental Releases	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold HAZ-4: Hazardous Materials Sites	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Section 4.7, Hydrology and Water Quality			
Thresholds HYD-1 and HYD-3 (polluted runoff): Water Quality Standards and Polluted Runoff	Potentially significant.	<p>HYD-1: Prior to the issuance of a discretionary and/or regulatory permit by the City of Orange, County of Orange, or Orange County Water District (“Participating Stakeholders”), the City of Anaheim shall enter into a Maintenance and Operations Agreement (MOA) with the Participating Stakeholder issuing said permit, as applicable. The MOA shall specify roles, responsibilities, performance standards, and communication protocols for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the project elements.</p> <p>The MOA shall include, at a minimum, the following responsibilities and tasks, or similar, as appropriate for each agreement with the applicable agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance responsibilities related to trails, river impoundments and water features, and stormwater and sewer facilities; • Operations responsibilities related to access control, hours of operation, public use rules (including, but not limited to, posting signage for hours, allowed uses, and prohibited activities), security and public safety (including, but not limited to, law enforcement coordination, patrolling duties, transient management, and emergency response protocols), debris removal, preparation and implementation of a flood contingency plan, and post storm event procedures; • Inspection, monitoring, and reporting responsibilities, including the frequency of routine inspections and water quality monitoring as required by applicable regulatory permits and to address any public health concerns regarding recreational use of the water in the Santa Ana River channel; and • Communication and notification protocols, including construction timing and phasing information for each project element. 	Less than significant.

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		The MOA shall also address any other items deemed necessary by the Participating Stakeholders to ensure the proper long-term maintenance and operation of the project.	
Threshold HYD-3a: Site Drainage and Hydrology (Erosion and Siltation)	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Thresholds HYD-3b and 3d: Site Drainage and Hydrology (Flooding and Flood Flows)	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold HYD-3c: Site Drainage and Hydrology (Drainage Capacity)	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold HYD-4: Flood Hazard or Seiche	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Threshold HYD-5: Water Quality Control Plan	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Section 4.8, Noise			
Threshold N-1: Exceedance of Noise Standards	Potentially significant	<p>NOI-1: The City of Anaheim shall include the following construction specifications on all project construction plans for sites located within 100 feet of sensitive receptors (i.e., Extended Stay America – Orange County hotel building and occupied residential buildings) or 60 feet of occupied office buildings.</p> <p>During construction, the construction contractor shall employ the following noise-reducing measures where use of construction equipment occurs within 100 feet of sensitive receptors or 60 feet of occupied office buildings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use acoustical shelters around any air compressors, generators, and any other stationary construction equipment not fitted with baffled enclosures • Use baffling around stationary construction equipment to reduce noise and vibration levels • Properly muffle and maintain all construction equipment powered by internal combustion engines 	Less than significant

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines • Whenever feasible, use electrical power to run air compressors and similar power tools 	
Threshold N-2: Excessive Groundborne Vibration or Noise	Potentially significant	NOI-2: The City of Anaheim shall ensure that all project construction specifications include the following noticing requirement. The construction contractor shall provide written notification at least 1 week prior to the start of any construction activities within 110 feet of sensitive receptors (i.e., Extended Stay America – Orange County hotel and occupied residential buildings) or 235 feet of the Kinder Morgan Orange Terminal. The notice shall inform hotel, occupied residential buildings, and industrial operators of the estimated start date and duration of daytime vibration-generating construction activities and provide a point of contact for vibration exposure complaints.	Less than significant
Section 4.9, Transportation			
Threshold T-2: Induction of Substantial Vehicle Miles Traveled	Less than significant.	No mitigation measures are required.	Not applicable.
Section 4.10, Tribal Cultural Resources			
Threshold TCR-1: Tribal Cultural Resources	Potentially significant	TCR-1: Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities in any area where soil disturbance is greater than the depth of current foundations present on a project site, or in areas where the disturbance activities extend into native soils exceeding a depth of 5 feet, and/or where there is documented resource presence, the City of Anaheim (lead agency) shall retain a single Native American Monitor at a time to monitor grading activities as described below. If multiple Tribes have requested monitoring, a lead Native American Monitor shall be designated to serve as the primary monitor. Only one monitor shall be present on-site at any given time during grading activities, unless otherwise agreed upon by the lead agency and the designated lead Native American Monitor. <p>A. The Native American Monitor shall be from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation (Kizh) or Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation – Belardes (Acjachemen). The lead Native American Monitor shall serve as the point of contact and coordinator for the project during monitoring activities.</p>	Less than significant

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		<p>B. For the purposes of this requirement, “ground-disturbing activity” includes project locations inside the project boundary, excluding off-site work within existing public right-of-way. “Ground-disturbing activity” includes, but is not limited to, demolition, pavement removal, potholing, auguring, grubbing, tree removal, boring, grading, excavation, drilling, and trenching resulting in soil disturbance exceeding a depth of current foundations present on a project site, or in areas where the disturbance activities extend into native soils exceeding a depth of 5 feet.</p> <p>C. The City of Anaheim shall execute a monitoring agreement with the lead Native American Monitor Tribe prior to the earlier of the commencement of any ground-disturbing activity, or the issuance of any permit necessary to commence a ground-disturbing activity.</p> <p>D. The Native American Monitor shall complete daily monitoring logs that will provide descriptions of the relevant ground-disturbing activities, the type of construction activities performed, locations of ground-disturbing activities, soil types, cultural-related materials, and any other facts, conditions, materials, or discoveries of significance to the Tribe and the lead agency. Monitor logs shall identify and describe any discovered Tribal Cultural Resources, including but not limited to Native American cultural and historical artifacts, remains, places of significance, etc., as well as any discovered Native American (ancestral) human remains and burial goods. Copies of monitor logs will be provided to the City and the Kizh and Acjachemen Tribes.</p> <p>E. On-site Native American Monitor shall conclude upon the former of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Written confirmation from a designated point of contact for the lead agency to the lead Native American Monitor that all ground-disturbing activities resulting in soil disturbance exceeding a depth of current foundations present on a project site, or in areas where the disturbance activities extend into native soils exceeding a depth of 5 feet on the project site or in connection with the project are complete; or 2) A determination and written notification from the lead Native American Monitor to the lead agency stating that no future planned construction 	

Table ES-2. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact	Level of Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance After Mitigation
		<p>or development activity at the project site has the potential to impact Kizh and Acjachemen Tribal Cultural Resources.</p> <p>F. Upon discovery of any Tribal Cultural Resources, all construction activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall cease (i.e., not less than the surrounding 50 feet) and shall not resume until the discovered Tribal Cultural Resource has been fully assessed by Kizh and Acjachemen monitors and an archaeologist retained by the lead agency. The Kizh or Acjachemen Tribe shall recover and retain all discovered Tribal Cultural Resources in the form and manner the affected Tribe deems appropriate, in the affected Tribe's sole discretion, and for any purpose the affected Tribe deems appropriate, including for educational, cultural and historical purposes.</p>	

ES.6 Alternatives to the Proposed Project

Section 15126.6(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires an EIR to provide sufficient information about each alternative to allow for meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the project. The City of Anaheim selected the alternatives to adequately represent the range of feasible alternatives required under CEQA for the project. The No Project/No Improvements Alternative is included, as required by CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.6(e), even though it would not meet the basic project objectives. Alternative 2 is a reduced scope option that could potentially meet some of the lead agency's objectives. Below is a description of the two alternatives and a summary of the impact analyses:

- **Alternative 1: No Project/No Improvements Alternative.** Under the No Project Alternative, none of the Group A, B, C, or D improvements would occur.

The No Project/No Improvement Alternative would avoid some of the short-term construction related impacts. Because no changes would occur under the No Project/No Improvement Alternative, less than significant impacts potentially resulting from the project for the following environmental topics would be avoided: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, and tribal cultural resources. However, as discussed above, the long-term VMT, air quality, and GHG impacts would be greater under the No Project/No Improvement Alternative. Additionally, this alternative would not attain any of the objectives established for the project, including environmental benefits related to trail improvements, groundwater recharge, and open space restoration. Additional benefits of the project, such as enhanced community access, recreational opportunities, wildlife and habitat benefits, and infrastructure improvements would not occur.

- **Alternative 2: Group A and C Impoundments and Trails Alternative.** Under the Group A and C Impoundments and Trails Alternative, the Group B – New Pedestrian/Bike Bridges and Group D – Enhanced Community Recreation Amenities would not occur.

The Group A and C Impoundments and Trails Alternative would reduce some of the short-term construction related impacts. Because no bridges would occur under the Alternative 2, less than significant impacts resulting from the project for construction noise would be reduced. Under this alternative, some of the park and open space improvements with potential habitat restoration would not occur, which would have a beneficial impact on the biological habitat after construction. However, as discussed above, the long-term VMT, air quality, and GHG impacts would be slightly greater under Alternative 2.

The Group A and C Impoundments and Trails Alternative achieve some of the objectives identified above in Section ES.3, Project Objectives, including environmental benefits related to trail improvements in groundwater recharge. However, without the bridges,

some of the VMT reduction benefits would not occur to the same extent as the full project. This alternative would only partially meet the project objectives and only partially achieve the associated benefits.

Detailed descriptions and an analysis of potential impacts of each alternative are presented in Chapter 5, Alternatives. The environmentally superior alternative would be the Alternative 2: Group A and C Impoundments and Trails Alternative, because it would result in the greatest reduction in environmental impacts compared to the project. CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(2) requires identification of an environmentally superior alternative; however, this designation does not imply that implementing the alternative is superior to implementing the full project. The lead agency must also consider other factors—such as the ability to meet project objectives—before making a final decision.

ES.7 Potential Areas of Controversy and Issues to Be Resolved

There are no areas of controversy known to the lead agency related to physical environmental impacts of the project, including issues raised by agencies and the public. All environmental topic areas have been reduced to a less than significant with or without mitigation, and no significant and unavoidable impacts remain. However, it should be noted that operations and maintenance agreements must be in place with agencies that define responsibilities for operation and maintenance.

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