

**Riverside County Flood Control
and Water Conservation District**

Riverside, California



DRAFT

CEQA INITIAL STUDY

for

**WOODCREST-RINEHART ACRES
DRAINAGE PLAN**

September 2023

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General Manager-Chief Engineer

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INTRODUCTION

Regulatory Framework

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 21000-21189.70.10), this Initial Study has been prepared to evaluate potential significant environmental impacts related to the proposed Woodcrest-Rinehart Acres Drainage Plan Project (Project) for the construction and maintenance of a series of 100-year storm drain facilities. The proposed Project also includes an outlet structure and street improvements. In accordance with Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines (Guidelines), this Initial Study is a preliminary analysis by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) as Lead Agency to inform the Lead Agency decision makers, other affected agencies, and the public of potential environmental impacts associated with the approval and implementation of the proposed Project.

Organization of the Initial Study

The Initial Study is organized as follows:

Introduction: Provides the regulatory context along with a brief summary of the CEQA process.

Project Information: Provides fundamental project information, such as the project description, project location, and figures.

Lead Agency Determination: Identifies environmental factors potentially affected by the Project and identifies the Lead Agency's determination based on the initial evaluation.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures: This section provides the District's standard operating procedures, Project-specific features and mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce any potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels. This table serves as the Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the Project.

Evaluating Environmental Impacts: Provides the parameters the District uses when determining level of impact.

CEQA Checklist: Provides an environmental checklist and accompanying analysis for responding to checklist questions.

Resources: Includes a list of references and various resources utilized in preparing the analysis.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title

Woodcrest-Rinehart Acres Drainage Plan Project

Lead Agency and Project Proponent

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District)
1995 Market Street
Riverside, California 92501

Lead Agency Contact

Jason Swenson
Senior Flood Control Planner
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951.955.8082

Project Background

The District is required to provide adequate flood control facilities for residents within the various zones under the jurisdiction of the District. The District has received seven (7) complaints from 1997-2019, reporting flooding issues within the proposed Project site. In an effort to mitigate those complaints and allow for proper drainage, the District determined it was necessary to install flood control facilities. The District also partnered with the Riverside County Transportation Department (RCTD) to provide street improvements in coordination with the installation of the underground facilities.

Project Location

The proposed Project is located within an existing neighborhood in the Rinehart-Acres subdivision in Woodcrest. The Project site is generally located south of Mariposa Avenue, west of Parsons Road, north of Dallas Avenue, and east of Taft Street. Project components will be located along portions of Mariposa Avenue, Granite Avenue, Boulder Avenue, Dallas Avenue, Obsidian Drive, and Wood Road. The proposed outlet location is within a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 266-211-004. The Project site is located within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Steele Peak*, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle and Sections 31 and 32 of Township 3 South and Range 4 West. The elevation range at the Project site ranges from 1,645 to 1,767 feet above mean sea level (amsl). See Figure 1 and Figure 2 for additional information.

Project Description

The Project consists of construction, operation, and maintenance of a series of 100-year storm drain facilities ranging in diameter from 18 to 66 inches of reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) totaling approximately 8,000 linear feet (lf), as well as the construction of approximately 23 catch basins and 12 drop inlets to capture flows and address local drainage along Mariposa Avenue, Granite Avenue, Boulder Avenue, Dallas Avenue, Obsidian Drive, and Wood Road. The Project also includes installation of an outlet structure with an energy dissipator, and grouted riprap lined turnaround, as well as 10,600 lf of street improvements consisting of paving, berms, and gutters for currently unpaved street sections within the Project site. Additionally, the Project would include the removal and disposal of approximately 3,860 lf of existing asphalt concrete (AC) berm. The primary purpose of the street improvements is to facilitate drainage to the identified storm drain inlets. This Project is proposed and led by the District in partnership with RCTD.

Underground storm drain facilities will be located along portions of Mariposa Avenue, Granite Avenue, Boulder Avenue, Dallas Avenue, Obsidian Drive, and Wood Road. The upstream portion of the proposed mainline will begin on Mariposa Avenue about 150 ft to the west of its cross section with Obsidian Drive, running east until it turns south at Wood Road, and continues south until it turns east at Dallas Avenue to the outlet structure. The proposed Granite Avenue lateral upstream portion will begin on Obsidian Drive approximately 150 ft south of its intersection with Granite Avenue, turning east on Granite Avenue until meeting the mainline on Wood Road. The headworks for the proposed Boulder Avenue Lateral is on Boulder Avenue approximately 700 ft west of

the intersection with Wood Road where it meets with the mainline. The proposed Dallas Avenue lateral begins on Obsidian Drive approximately 250 ft north of its intersection with Wood Road where it meets with the mainline. Drain conveyance from the mainline and three (3) laterals will outlet at a proposed structure that eventually drains into an existing natural blueline stream approximately 700 ft east of the Dallas Avenue and Wood Drive intersection, located within APN 266-211-004.

The street improvements consist of 26-foot-wide street paving and 4-to-6-inch AC berm along Granite Avenue and Boulder Avenue for approximately 4,510-foot reach bounded by Taft Street to the west and Wood Road to the east. Improvements also include 26-foot-wide street paving and 4-to-6-inch AC berm on Dallas Avenue for the approximately 1,940-foot reach bounded by Obsidian Drive to the west and Wood Road to the east. Street improvements on Granite, Boulder, and Dallas Avenue end at their intersections with Wood Road to the east and do not continue to the proposed outlet site.

Construction

Construction is anticipated for the duration of six (6) months to occur in one (1) phase.

Operations and Maintenance Activities

Operation and maintenance activities would include regular visual inspections of Project infrastructure and the implementation of repairs on an as-needed basis. These activities are consistent with ongoing operation and maintenance activities for the District's existing storm drain systems. Anticipated District maintenance will likely occur yearly and consist of the following:

- Before any debris is removed from a District storm drain facility, a video camera is placed inside the storm drain to locate debris/sediment build-up.
- Manhole covers downstream and upstream of inspection area shall be removed prior to field crew entering manhole. The purpose of removing manhole covers is to allow for adequate ventilation and for emergency purposes.
- The air quality is measured inside of the storm drain facility prior to the field crew entering the manhole and during the entire duration of the storm drain maintenance. The air quality is measured at all removed manhole cover locations.
- Sandbags are stacked on top of each other at the upstream section of the manhole where the field crew enters. Sandbags are stacked to springline. The purpose of stacking sandbags is to make a barrier so that debris/sediment within the storm drain gets contained.
- Water is used upstream of inspection area to push any debris/sediment downstream towards the sandbag barrier.
- Debris/sediment build-up is removed with a shovel and hand bucket at the sandbag location by the maintenance crew. When a hand bucket is inadequate to remove debris/sediment, a Vactor Truck is used. The Vactor Truck has a 12-inch vacuum hose that can pick up debris up to 8 inches in diameter.

The District will maintain all mainline storm drains larger than 36' in diameter, inlet structure along Mariposa Avenue, and the outlet structure with energy dissipator. Within unincorporated territory, RCTD will maintain all storm drains 36' in diameter and smaller, catch basins, and roadways. Within the city of Riverside, just north of the Mariposa Avenue's centerline, the City of Riverside will maintain storm drains 36' in diameter and smaller, catch basins, and roadways.

Existing Conditions/CEQA Baseline

The underground facilities will be constructed within existing dirt and paved roads and will include an outlet structure to convey flows into an existing natural blueline stream. Additionally, the Project may include minor right of way acquisitions for proposed features such as catch basins and the outlet structure. The Project may also include the relocation of utilities.

Lead Agency Discretionary Actions

Discretionary actions that may be taken by the District include accepting and implementing the conditions of the Project. The Project may also include right of way actions (such as property purchases) and Agreements for the construction, operation, and maintenance.

Responsible Agency Actions

The following approvals may be necessary for this Project:

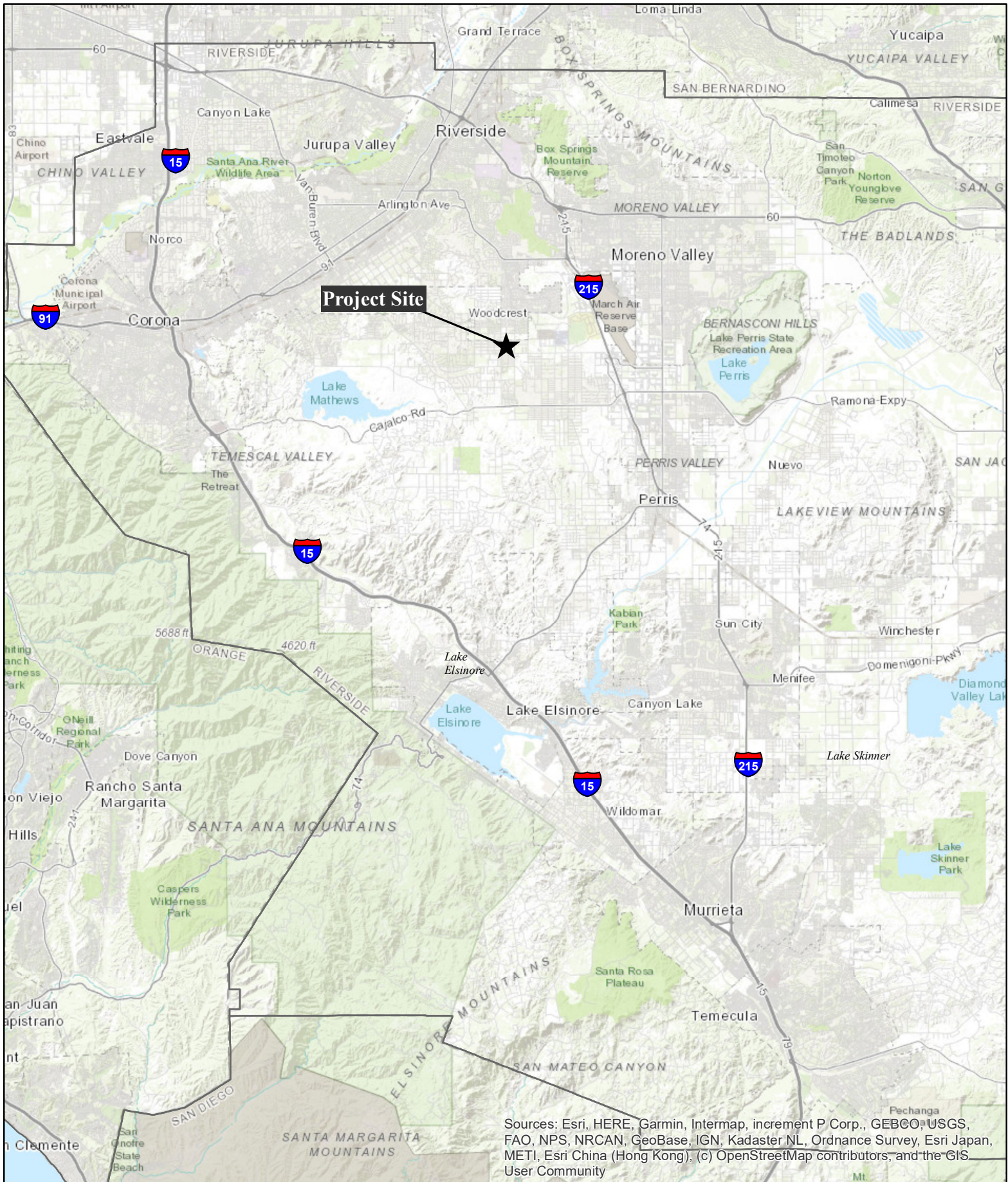
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife – 1602 Permit
- Army Corps of Engineers – 404 Permit
- Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board – 401 Permit
- County Transportation – Street Improvements
- City of Riverside – Street Improvements
- Western Municipal Water District – Utility Relocation.

General Plan Designation

The Project site is within the community of Woodcrest, an unincorporated area of Riverside County, and has a general plan designation Rural Community - Very Low Density Residential.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The Project site is within an existing residential community with a mixture of residential developed lots and undeveloped residential lots.



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

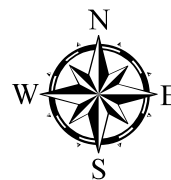
RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Woodcrest-Rinehart Acre Drainage Plan Improvements
Project No. 2-8-00406

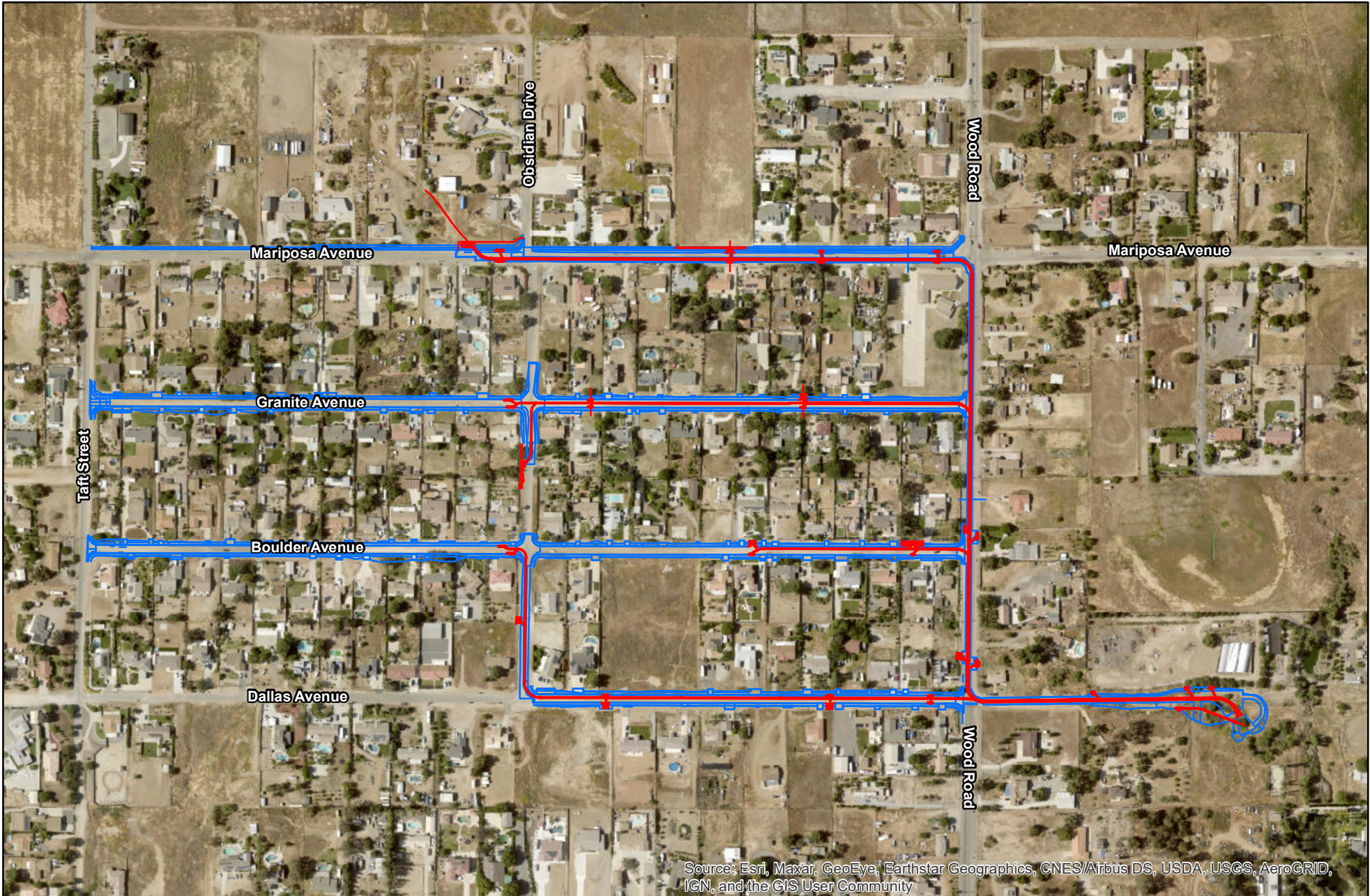
Figure 1 - Regional Location

Map Features

★ Project Site



NTS



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

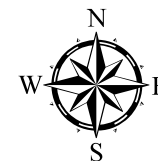
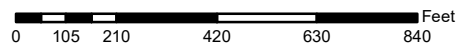
RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Woodcrest-Rinehart Acre Drainage Plan Improvements
Project No. 2-8-00406**

Figure 2 - Project Components

Map Features

- Proposed Street Improvements
- Proposed Storm Drain Improvements



MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM
Woodcrest-Reinhart Acres Drainage Plan

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
Biological Resources	The proposed Project contains suitable habitat for burrowing owl and implementation of the Project has the potential to impact burrowing owl.	Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Burrowing Owl. A pre-construction survey for burrowing owls shall be conducted within 30 days prior to ground disturbance to avoid direct impacts to the species. The survey shall encompass suitable habitat in the construction footprint plus a 500-foot buffer and follow the 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area. This requirement shall be included on project construction plans and specifications. If the species is detected, a Burrowing Owl Protection and Relocation Plan shall be drafted to ensure protection of the species. The plan shall include appropriate avoidance buffers, passive and/or active relocation, construction monitoring, and reporting requirements. The plan shall be reviewed and approved within 30 days of receipt by the Regional Conservation Authority and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. If the species is not detected, then no further action is required.	Pre-construction survey	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (DISTRICT)	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) & Regional Conservation Authority (RCA)	No more than 30-days prior to grading or ground disturbance
Biological Resources	The proposed Project has the potential to impact nesting birds if construction occurs during the nesting season.	Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Vegetation clearing shall be conducted outside of the nesting season, which is generally identified as February through August each year. If avoidance of the nesting season is not feasible, then a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey within three days prior to any site disturbance, including disking, demolition activities, and grading. The survey shall encompass suitable habitat in the construction footprint plus a 500-foot buffer. If additional areas are proposed for disturbance, a new nesting bird survey that covers those areas shall be conducted. This requirement shall be included on project construction plans and specifications. If nests with eggs or young are detected, the	Pre-construction survey	DISTRICT	CDFW; USFWS	Prior to grading or ground disturbance if construction is scheduled to occur between December 15 th – September 15 th .

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
		biologist shall establish suitable buffers around the nests, and the buffer areas shall be avoided until the nests are no longer occupied and the juvenile birds can survive independently from the nests. If no active nests are detected, then no further action is required.				
Cultural Resources (CR)	Ground disturbing activities have the potential to impact cultural resources within the Project site.	Mitigation Measure CR-1: Accidental Discovery. If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find. The archaeologist shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required. If the professional archaeologist determines that the find represents a cultural resource, the handling of the cultural resource(s) shall follow the applicable recommendations as described in the Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) prepared for the Project, as required by TCR-1.	Preparation of a Cultural Resources Management Plan	DISTRICT	State Historic Preservation Office	Prior to earthwork activities within the Project site.
Tribal Cultural Resources (TCR)		Mitigation Measure TCR-1: Tribal/Cultural Resources Management Plan. The District shall prepare or cause for the preparation of a Tribal/Cultural Resources Management Plan (TCRMP) prior to ground disturbing activities. The TCRMP shall be based on the final construction grading plans prepared by the District and may include requirements for pre-construction cultural sensitivity training, notification, and monitoring protocol. The TCRMP will consider	Tribal/Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan Implementation	DISTRICT		Prior to earthwork activities within the Project site.

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
		<p>concerns of the consulting Tribes and the consulting Tribes will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft TCRMP.</p> <p><i>In the event that the consulting Tribes are not able to reasonably accommodate the District's requests and/or needs regarding monitoring, the District may proceed with Mitigation Measure TCR-2 as needed.</i></p>				
Tribal Cultural Resources		<p>Mitigation Measure TCR-2: Archeological Monitoring/Reconnaissance as-needed. The District may, at its discretion, conduct archaeological monitoring and/or reconnaissance of the Project site using a qualified archaeologist that is not a Tribal monitor or representative of a Native American Tribe. This would occur only as needed during ground-disturbing construction activities.</p>	Cultural Monitoring	DISTRICT		

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
Woodcrest-Reinhart Acres Drainage Plan

Issue	Potential Impact	Standard Operating Procedure	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
Cultural Resources	Ground disturbing activities have the potential for the discovery of human remains.	<u>Human Remains</u> If human remains or remains that are potentially human are found, the District shall retain a qualified professional archaeologist to ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance. The archaeologist shall notify the Riverside County Coroner per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code. Handling of the discovery shall follow the provisions set forth by § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and § 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code.	Contact County Coroner if human remains are discovered.	DISTRICT	Riverside County Coroner	During earthwork activities within the Project site.
Hazardous Materials	Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.	In the event that any hazardous materials, historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources are accidentally discovered within project limits, the contractor shall immediately cease all construction or ground disturbance activity in the vicinity of the find and notify the engineer. District will provide the appropriate professional to assess the significance of the discovery and, if necessary, develop appropriate management and treatment measures. The contractor shall not resume construction in the affected area without engineer's approval.	Construction Monitoring	DISTRICT	DISTRICT	During earthwork activities within the Project site.
Hydrology and Water Quality	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality.	All BMP materials are to be onsite prior to maintenance activity and ready for use. BMPs shall be in compliance with all specifications governing the proper design, installation, operation, and maintenance of such management practices.	Implementation of Water Quality Best Management Practices (BMP).	DISTRICT	DISTRICT	During Project maintenance.
Hydrology and Water Quality	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge	All fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage, and staging of vehicles and equipment shall be outside of Waters of the	Equipment Staging and Maintenance.	DISTRICT	DISTRICT	During construction activities.

Issue	Potential Impact	Standard Operating Procedure	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
	requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality	State and shall not result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to Waters of the State.				
Traffic and Transportation	Emergency Access	A traffic control plan would be implemented during the construction phase to maintain traffic flow and provide emergency response access in the Project site.	Traffic Control Plan	DISTRICT	DISTRICT	During construction activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED AND DETERMINATION:

The environmental factors, as checked below, would potentially be affected by this Project.

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

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

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 the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the Project. 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 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a 'potentially significant impact' or 'potentially significant unless mitigated.' An ENVIRONMENTAL 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, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project.

Signature

Date

JASON SWENSON, Senior Flood Control Planner
Printed Name and Title

09/28/2023

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 into account the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. 'Potentially Significant Impact' is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more 'Potentially Significant Impact' entries when the determination is made, an environmental impact report (EIR) is required.
4. 'Negative Declaration: No Impact or Less Than Significant' applies when the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment, does not require the incorporation of mitigation measures, and does not require the preparation of an EIR. The lead agency must briefly describe the reasons that a proposed project will not have significant effect on the environment and does not require the preparation of an EIR.
5. 'Mitigated Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated' applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced any 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).
6. 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. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c)(3)(D)). The use of an earlier analysis as a reference should include a brief discussion that identifies 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.
7. 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.

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

Environmental Analysis

I. AESTHETICS				
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>A scenic vista can generally be defined as a viewpoint from a public vantage that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public. Common examples include undeveloped hillsides, ridgelines, and open space areas that provide a unifying visual backdrop to a developed area. Scenic resources are those landscape patterns and features that are visually or aesthetically pleasing and that contribute affirmatively to the definition of a distinct community or region such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. The Project site is in a rural residential community. There are no scenic vistas located within or in the immediate vicinity of the Project boundary. Therefore, no impact to scenic vistas would occur.</p>				
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>There are no designated state scenic highways in the vicinity of the proposed Project (Caltrans, 2022). There are no County eligible scenic highways in the Project site (County of Riverside, 2016). The Project consists of the installation, operation, and maintenance of underground storm drain facilities, outlet structure, and street improvements. The Project will not impact any scenic resources within a state scenic highway. No impact would occur.</p>				
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The proposed Project is located in a rural residential community with single-family homes. The visual character of the Project site and surroundings could be affected in the short-term by construction activities. Construction related activities such as excavating, stockpiling, and materials and equipment storage could result in temporary impacts to the visual character of the Project site. However, these disturbances would be short-term and cease once construction is completed. Once operational, the majority of the proposed facilities would be located underground. Improvements located on the surface, such as paving of existing dirt roads, would be visible but would not alter the existing rural residential quality of the Project site. While it is anticipated that the proposed Project would require maintenance to be conducted by District staff, such maintenance would be minimal and intermittent. As such, no permanent impacts to the visual character of the Project site are anticipated. Temporary impacts resulting from construction would be less than significant.</p>				
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>No new permanent lighting is being proposed by the Project. Work will mainly occur during normal business hours for the District and will not require artificial night lighting. Therefore, no new impacts to daytime or nighttime views will occur.</p>				

II. AGRICULTURAL & FOREST RESOURCES.				
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Project site contains two soil series identified as Farmland of Statewide Importance according to the USGS Web Soil Survey: Fallbrook and Madera (USDA 2023). The California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program classifies the Project site as Urban/Developed and Other (California Department of Conservation. 2023). The Project site is within a residentially developed area and does not propose the conversion of any currently used agricultural land. The Project site is located within existing streets and existing drainage. No impact would occur to Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Or Farmland of Statewide Importance.				
b) Conflict with existing agricultural zoning, agricultural use or land subject to a Williamson Act contract or land within a Riverside County Agricultural Preserve?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None of the parcels within the Project site are currently utilized for agricultural production, nor are any parcels under a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, no impact is anticipated to occur as a result of the Project.				
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forest land is defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) 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.' No timberland or lands zoned Timberland Production as defined above occur within the Project site. Therefore, no impact would occur as a result of the Project.				
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

There is no forest land in the Project site; as such, no forest lands would be converted to non-forest use as a result of the project construction and operations activities. No impact would occur as a result of the Project.				
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The proposed Project will occur within existing streets and drainage. No conversion of agricultural or forest land could potentially occur as a result of the Project. No impact would occur as a result of the Project.				
III. AIR QUALITY.				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>An Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Memorandum was prepared for the proposed Project to document the existing resources and to determine whether impacts would occur to air quality, as required under CEQA (Vista Environmental, 2020). A copy of this report is included as Appendix C. The proposed Project was analyzed for compliance with the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) 2012 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and originally anticipated a construction start date of 2024. There has been no update to the SCAQMD threshold of significance since the completion of the 2020 technical report. Additionally, the delay in construction and operation of the Project would yield reduced results when compared to the analysis completed for the 2021 operational year. The following section discusses the proposed Project's consistency with the SCAQMD AQMP.</p> <p>SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan</p> <p>The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a discussion of any inconsistencies between a proposed Project and applicable GPs and regional plans (CEQA Guidelines Section 15125). The regional plan that applies to the proposed Project location is the SCAQMD AQMP. Therefore, this section discusses any potential inconsistencies of the proposed Project with the AQMP.</p> <p>The purpose of this discussion is to set forth the issues regarding consistency with the assumptions and objectives of the AQMP and discuss whether the proposed Project would interfere with the region's ability to comply with federal and state air quality standards. If the decision-makers determine that the proposed Project is inconsistent with the plan, the lead agency may consider Project modifications or inclusion of mitigation to eliminate the inconsistency.</p> <p>The SCAQMD CEQA Handbook states that 'New or amended GP Elements (including land use zoning and density amendments), Specific Plans, and significant projects must be analyzed for consistency with the AQMP.' Strict consistency with all aspects of the plan is usually not required. A proposed project should be considered to be consistent with the AQMP if it furthers one or more policies and does not obstruct other policies. The SCAQMD CEQA Handbook identifies two key indicators of consistency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Whether the project will 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 AQMP. (2) Whether the project will exceed the assumptions in the AQMP or increments based on the year of project buildout and phase. 				

Both of these criteria are evaluated in the following sections.

Criterion 1 - Increase in the Frequency or Severity of Violations

Based on the air quality modeling analysis completed for the Project, short-term regional construction air emissions would not result in significant impacts based on SCAQMD regional thresholds of significance or local thresholds of significance. The ongoing operation of the proposed Project would generate air pollutant emissions that are inconsequential on a regional basis and would not result in significant impacts based on SCAQMD thresholds of significance. The analysis for long-term local air quality impacts showed that local pollutant concentrations would not be projected to exceed the air quality standards. Therefore, based on the information provided above, the proposed Project would be consistent with the first criterion.

Criterion 2 - Exceed Assumptions in the AQMP

Consistency with the AQMP assumptions is determined by performing an analysis of the proposed Project with the assumptions in the AQMP. The emphasis of this criterion is to ensure that the analyses conducted for the proposed Project are based on the same forecasts as the AQMP. The AQMP is developed through use of the planning forecasts provided in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy (RTP/SCS) and the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The RTP/SCS is a major planning document for the regional transportation and land use network within Southern California. The RTP/SCS is a long-range plan that is required by federal and state requirements placed on Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and is updated every four years. The FTIP provides long-range planning for future transportation improvement projects that are constructed with state and/or federal funds within Southern California. Local governments are required to use these plans as the basis of their plans for the purpose of consistency with applicable regional plans under CEQA. For this Project, the Lake Mathews/Woodcrest Area Plan prepared by the County of Riverside, defines the assumptions that are represented in AQMP.

The proposed Project would consist of a series of 100-year storm drain facilities and street improvements. The proposed Project is consistent with the current land use designation and would not require a General Plan Amendment or zone change. As such, the proposed Project is not anticipated to exceed the AQMP assumptions for the Project site and is found to be consistent with the AQMP for the second criterion.

Based on the above, the proposed Project will not result in an inconsistency with the SCAQMD AQMP. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur in relation to implementation of the AQMP.

<p>b) Result in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. The Air Basin has been designated by CARB as a nonattainment area for ozone, NO₂, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and lead. Currently, the Air Basin is in attainment with the state ambient air quality standards for CO, SO₂, and sulfates and is unclassified for visibility reducing particles and hydrogen sulfide. The following section summarizes the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Memorandum that was prepared for the proposed Project (Vista Environmental, 2020), which calculates the potential air emissions associated with the construction and operations of the proposed Project and compares the emissions to the SCAQMD standards.

Thresholds of Significance

Regional Air Quality

To estimate if the proposed Project may adversely affect the air quality in the region, the SCAQMD has prepared CEQA Air Quality Handbook (SCAQMD 1993) to provide guidance to those who analyze the air quality impacts of proposed Projects. The SCAQMD CEQA Handbook states that any project in the South Coast Air Basin with daily emissions that exceed any of the identified significance thresholds should be considered as having an individually and cumulatively significant air quality impact. For the purposes of this air quality impact analysis, a regional air quality impact would be considered significant if emissions exceed the SCAQMD significance thresholds identified in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1. SCAQMD Regional Criteria Pollutant Emission Thresholds of Significance

Project Phase	Pollutant Emissions (pounds/day)					
	VOC	NO _x	CO	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Construction	75	100	550	150	150	55
Operation	55	55	550	150	150	55

Source: <http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/signthres.pdf>

Notes: VOC = volatile organic compounds, NO_x = nitrogen oxides, CO = carbon monoxide, SO_x = sulfur oxides, PM₁₀ = particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less, PM_{2.5} = particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less

Local Air Quality

Project-related construction and operational air emissions may have the potential to exceed the state and federal air quality standards in the Project vicinity, even though these pollutant emissions may not be significant enough to create a regional impact to the Air Basin. In order to assess local air quality impacts the SCAQMD has developed Localized Significant Thresholds (LSTs) to assess the Project-related air emissions in the Project vicinity. SCAQMD has also provided Final Localized Significance Threshold Methodology (LST Methodology), July 2008, which details the methodology to analyze local air emission impacts. The LST Methodology found that the primary emissions of concern are nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), particular matter 10 (PM₁₀), and particulate matter 2.5 (PM_{2.5}). The Look-Up Tables include site acreage sizes of 1-acre, 2-acres and 5-acres. The proposed Project would disturb approximately 5.67 acres, which is closest to the 5-acre Project site shown in the Look-Up Tables that has been utilized in this analysis. As detailed above, the Project site is located in Air Monitoring Area 23, which covers the Metropolitan Riverside County. The nearest offsite sensitive receptors include single-family homes located adjacent to the roadways where the storm drains will be installed and to the roads that will be paved as part of the proposed Project. According to LST Methodology, any receptor located closer than 25 meters (82 feet) shall be based on the 25-meter thresholds. Table 3-2 below shows the NO_x, CO, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} for both construction and operational activities. The local criteria pollutant thresholds provided in Table 3-2 are the same thresholds that were utilized in the Original Air Quality Analysis.

Table 3-2. SCAQMD Local Air Quality Thresholds of Significance

Project Phase	Allowable Emissions (pounds/day) ¹			
	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Construction	270	1,577	13	8
Operation	270	1,577	4	2

Notes:

1. The nearest sensitive receptors are residential homes adjacent to storm drain and roadway improvements. According to SCAQMD methodology, all receptors closer than 25 meters are based on the 25-meter threshold.

Source: Calculated from SCAQMD's Mass Rate Look-up Tables for five acres in Air Monitoring Area 23, Metropolitan Riverside County.

Short-Term Construction-Related Air Quality Impacts

Construction of the proposed Project would create air emissions from the operation of construction equipment as well as from fugitive dust generated from the movement of dirt onsite. Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to start in 2024 and would take approximately six months to complete. Construction activities for the proposed Project would include: (1) Site preparation that includes removal of trees, boulders, and other debris from the proposed areas to be disturbed; (2) Grading that would include the export of up to 3,996 cubic yards of dirt for the construction of the outlet structure; (3) Trenching for the installation of the storm drain pipelines; and (4) Paving of the roadways.

Construction-Related Regional Impacts

The CalEEMod model was utilized to calculate the construction-related regional emissions from the proposed Project. The worst-case summer or winter daily construction-related criteria pollutant emissions from the proposed Project for each phase of construction activities are shown below in Table 3-3 and the CalEEMod model run printout is included as an attachment to this initial study (Attachment C).

Table 3-3. Construction-Related Regional Criteria Pollutant Emissions

Construction Phase	Pollutant Emissions (pounds/day)					
	VOC	NOx	CO	SO ₂	PM10	PM2.5
Site Preparation¹						
Onsite	3.89	40.50	21.15	0.04	10.17	6.35
Offsite	0.10	0.60	0.75	0.00	0.24	0.07
Total	3.99	41.10	21.90	0.04	10.41	6.42
Grading¹						
Onsite	2.29	24.74	15.86	0.03	4.13	2.59
Offsite	0.28	8.80	1.82	0.03	0.89	0.26
Total	2.57	33.54	17.68	0.06	5.02	2.85
Trenching (Installation of Storm Drains)						
Onsite	0.95	9.81	9.39	0.02	0.46	0.42
Offsite	0.07	0.77	0.50	0.00	0.17	0.05
Total	1.02	10.58	9.89	0.02	0.63	0.47
Paving						
Onsite	1.88	12.92	14.65	0.02	0.68	0.62
Offsite	0.09	0.78	0.69	0.00	0.06	0.06
Total	1.97	13.70	15.34	0.02	0.74	0.68
Maximum Daily Construction Emissions	3.99	41.10	21.90	0.06	10.41	6.42
SCQAMD Thresholds	75	100	550	150	150	55
Exceeds Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Notes:

1. Preparation and based on adherence to fugitive dust suppression requirements from SCAQMD Rule 403.
2. Onsite emissions from equipment not operated on public roads.
3. Offsite emissions from vehicles operating on public roads.

Table 3-3 shows that none of the analyzed criteria pollutants would exceed the regional emissions thresholds during site preparation, grading or the combined paving and architectural coatings phases. Therefore, a less than significant regional air quality impact would occur from construction of the proposed Project.

Construction-Related Local Impacts

Construction-related air emissions may have the potential to exceed the state and federal air quality standards in the Project vicinity, even though these pollutant emissions may not be significant enough to create a regional impact to the Air Basin.

The local air quality emissions from construction were analyzed through utilizing the methodology described in *Localized Significance Threshold Methodology (LST Methodology)*, prepared by SCAQMD, revised October 2009.

The LST Methodology found the primary criteria pollutant emissions of concern are NO_x, CO, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. To determine if any of these pollutants require a detailed analysis of the local air quality impacts, each phase of construction was screened using the SCAQMD's Mass Rate LST Look-up Tables. The Look-up Tables were developed by the SCAQMD to readily determine if the daily onsite emissions of CO, NO_x, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} from a proposed Project could result in a significant impact to the local air quality. Table 3-4 shows the onsite emissions from the CalEEMod model for the different construction phases and the calculated emissions thresholds that have been detailed above.

Table 3-4. Construction-Related Local Criteria Pollutant Emissions

Construction Phase	Pollutant Emissions (pounds/day) ¹			
	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Site Preparation ¹	40.50	21.15	10.17	6.35
Grading ¹	24.74	15.86	4.13	2.59
Trenching (Installation of Storm Drains)	9.81	9.39	0.46	0.42
Paving	12.92	14.65	0.68	0.62
Maximum Onsite Daily Construction Emissions	40.50	21.15	10.17	6.35
SCAQMD Thresholds ²	270	1,577	13	8
Exceeds Threshold?	No	No	No	No

Source: <http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/signthres.pdf>

Notes: VOC = volatile organic compounds, Nox = nitrogen oxides, CO = carbon monoxide, Sox = sulfur oxides, PM₁₀ = particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less, PM_{2.5} = particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less

The data provided in Table 3-4 shows that none of the analyzed criteria pollutants would exceed the local emissions thresholds for any phase of construction. In addition, construction emissions would be short-term, limited only to the period when construction activity is taking place. As such, construction related local air concentrations would be less than significant for the proposed Project. Additionally, construction activities would be required to follow SCAQMD regulations that limit fugitive dust emissions, including SCAQMD Rules 401 and 403. These rules require that contractors working on the proposed Project to implement measures to reduce fugitive dust emissions that include the following:

- Limit speed of vehicles on dirt areas of the Project site to 15 miles per hour or less.
- Apply water and/or other dust suppressants as necessary to prevent or alleviate erosion by the forces of wind.
- Limit all stockpiles that can be blown by wind to 8 feet in height or apply a soil stabilizer.
- Cover all trucks hauling soil or other loose material.
- Sweep daily all paved access roads and any track-out onto public road with water sweepers.
- When winds exceed 25 mph, cease all grading operations other than dust suppression activities.

Long-Term Operational Air Quality Impacts

The proposed Project would consist of a series of 100-year storm drain facilities and street improvements. Long-term air emission impacts are associated with any change in the permanent use of the Project site by on-site stationary and off-site mobile sources that substantially increase vehicle trip emissions. The proposed Project would not add either new roadway capacity or new operational activities. The underground infrastructure is not expected to generate a significant source of operational activities. Therefore, the on-going operations of the proposed Project would create a less than significant operations-related impact to local air quality due to onsite emissions and no mitigation would be required.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The local concentrations of criteria pollutant emissions produced in the nearby vicinity of the proposed Project, which may expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations have been calculated above in Air Quality Significance Criteria (b) for construction, which are discussed below. The discussion below also includes an analysis of the potential impacts from toxic air contaminant emissions. The nearest offsite sensitive receptors include single-family homes located adjacent to the roadways where the storm drains will be installed and to the roads that will be paved as part of the proposed Project.

Construction-Related Sensitive Receptor Impacts

Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to start in 2024 and would take approximately six months to complete. Construction activities for the proposed Project would include: (1) Site preparation that includes removal of trees, boulders, and other debris from the proposed areas to be disturbed; (2) Grading that would include the export of up to 3,996 cubic yards of dirt for the construction of the outlet structure (3) Trenching for the installation of the storm drain pipelines; and (4) Paving of the roadways. Construction activities may expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations of localized criteria pollutant concentrations and from toxic air contaminant emissions created from onsite construction equipment, which are described below.

Local Criteria Pollutant Impacts from Construction

The local air quality impacts from construction of the proposed Project have been analyzed above in Air Quality Significance Criteria (b) and found that the construction of the proposed Project would not exceed the local NO_x, CO, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} thresholds of significance discussed above in the response to Section III. Air Quality, threshold question b). Therefore, construction of the proposed Project would create a less than significant construction-related impact to local air quality and no mitigation would be required.

Toxic Air Contaminants Impacts from Construction

The greatest potential for toxic air contaminant emissions would be related to diesel particulate matter (DPM) emissions associated with heavy equipment operations during construction of the proposed Project. According to SCAQMD methodology, health effects from carcinogenic air toxins are usually described in terms of 'individual cancer risk'. 'Individual Cancer Risk' is the likelihood that a person exposed to concentrations of toxic air contaminants over a 70-year lifetime will contract cancer, based on the use of standard risk-assessment methodology. It should be noted that the most current cancer risk assessment methodology recommends analyzing a 30-year exposure period for the nearby sensitive receptors (OEHHA, 2015).

Given the relatively limited number of heavy-duty construction equipment, the varying distances that construction equipment would operate to the nearby sensitive receptors, and the short-term construction schedule, the proposed Project would not result in a long-term (i.e., 30 or 70 years) substantial source of toxic air contaminant emissions and corresponding individual cancer risk. In addition, California Code of Regulations Title 13, Article 4.8, Chapter 9, Section 2449 regulates emissions from off-road diesel equipment in California. This regulation limits idling of equipment to no more than five minutes, requires equipment operators to label each piece of equipment and provide annual reports to CARB of their fleet's usage and emissions. This regulation also requires systematic upgrading of the emission Tier level of each fleet, and currently no commercial operator is allowed to purchase Tier 0 or Tier 1 equipment and by January 2023 no commercial operator is allowed to purchase Tier 2 equipment. In addition to the purchase restrictions, equipment operators need to meet fleet average emissions targets that become more stringent each year between years 2014 and 2023. As of January 2019, 25 percent or more of all contractors' equipment fleets must be Tier 2 or higher. Therefore, no significant short-term toxic air contaminant impacts would occur during construction of the proposed Project. As such, construction of the proposed Project would result in a less than significant exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Operations-Related Sensitive Receptor Impacts

The on-going use of the storm drain facilities and road improvements would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Long-term air emissions impacts are associated with any change in the permanent use of the Project site by on-site stationary and off-site mobile sources that substantially increase vehicle trip emissions. The proposed Project would not add either new roadway capacity or new operational activities. The underground infrastructure is not expected to generate a significant source of operational activities. As such, operation of the proposed Project would result in a less than significant exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed Project would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. Individual responses to odors are highly variable and can result in a variety of effects. Generally, the impact of an odor results from a variety of factors such as frequency, duration, offensiveness, location, and sensory perception. The frequency is a measure of how often an individual is exposed to an odor in the ambient environment. The intensity refers to an individual's or group's perception of the odor strength or concentration. The duration of an odor refers to the elapsed time over which an odor is experienced. The offensiveness of the odor is the subjective rating of the pleasantness or unpleasantness of an odor. The location accounts for the type of area in which a potentially affected person lives, works, or visits; the type of activity in which he or she is engaged; and the sensitivity of the impacted receptor.

Sensory perception has four major components: detectability, intensity, character, and hedonic tone. The detection (or threshold) of an odor is based on a panel of responses to the odor. There are two types of thresholds: the odor detection threshold and the recognition threshold. The detection threshold is the lowest concentration of an odor that will elicit a response in a percentage of the people that live and work in the immediate vicinity of the Project site and is typically presented as the mean (or 50 percent of the population). The recognition threshold is the minimum concentration that is recognized as having a characteristic odor quality, this is typically represented by recognition by 50 percent of the population. The intensity refers to the perceived strength of the odor. The odor character is what the substance smells like. The hedonic tone is a judgment of the pleasantness or unpleasantness of the odor. The hedonic tone varies in subjective experience, frequency, odor character, odor intensity, and duration. Potential odor impacts have been analyzed separately for construction and operations below.

Construction-Related Odor Impacts

Potential sources that may emit odors during construction activities include the emissions from diesel equipment. The objectionable odors that may be produced during the construction process would be temporary and would not likely be noticeable for extended periods of time beyond the Project site's boundaries. Due to the transitory nature of construction odors, a less than significant odor impact would occur, and no mitigation would be required.

Operations-Related Odor Impacts

The proposed Project would consist of a series of 100-year storm drain facilities and street improvements. The proposed Project would have the potential to reduce odors that may currently be created by the inefficient drainage of the existing roadways that allow for ponding of water that allow for algae growth and other organic processes that may produce odors. However, current odor levels are nominal and do not rise to a significant enough level to be unpleasant to a majority of the population in the study area. Therefore, a less than significant odor impact would occur from operation of the completed Project.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A biological technical report was prepared for the proposed Project to document the existing biological resources, to assess habitat for its potential to support special status plant and wildlife species, and to determine whether impacts would occur to special status biological resources, as required under CEQA (Chambers, 2020a). A copy of this report is included as Appendix A. The methods for documenting and analyzing biological resources included a literature and database review followed by field surveys, which were conducted in March and April 2020. The following sections summarize the findings of the biological technical report prepared for the proposed Project.

Special Status Plants

Database searches resulted in a list of 54 federally and/or state listed threatened and endangered or otherwise special status plant species documented to occur within 5 miles of the Project site (CDFW 2020 and CNPS 2020). Based on a literature review and reconnaissance survey it was determined that 47 of the 54 special status plant species with a potential to occur are considered absent from the Project site, six special status plant species have a low potential to occur, and one special status plant species has a moderate potential to occur (Chambers, 2020a).

Six of the 54 species are considered to have a low potential to be present at the Project site due to low quality and disturbed suitable habitat. These six species with a low potential to occur include marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*), San Diego sagewort (*Artemisia palmeri*), Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), white rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*), and San Bernardino aster (*Symphotrichum defoliatum*). If special status plant species with a low potential to occur are present on the Project site during construction, direct impacts may occur from the loss of individual plants during ground disturbing construction activities. However, impacts to these species do not require additional surveys because the Project site is not located within a Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area (NEPSSA) or Criteria Area Species Survey Area, as defined by the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), nor additional compensatory mitigation since these species are considered adequately conserved (Chambers, 2020a). Impacts to special status plant species with a low potential to occur would be less than significant.

One species, Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* subsp. *coulteri*), has a moderate potential to occur. A historic population of this species has been recorded within four miles of the Project site. This species has a moderate potential to occur in the riparian and freshwater marsh habitats located within the northeastern portion of the proposed outlet structure parcel, however, suitable habitat where Coulter's goldfields could potentially occur would be outside of the Project's impact footprint (Chambers, 2020a). As such, no impact to this species is anticipated.

Special Status Wildlife

Of the 40 special status wildlife species identified in the literature review, it was determined that 35 special status wildlife species were considered absent from the Project site, two had a low potential to occur, two had a moderate potential to occur, and one had a high potential to occur within the Project site (Chambers, 2020a).

Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*) and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) have a low potential to occur within the Project site. Both of these species are MSHCP covered species. Least Bell's vireo has been recorded within three miles of the Project site; however, the site does not support the dense riparian vegetation required for nesting by least Bell's vireo and contains marginally suitable foraging habitat for this species. This species is not anticipated to nest within the Project site and has a low potential for foraging within the site. Therefore, impacts are not anticipated to occur to least Bell's vireo.

California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*) and coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*) are California Species of Special Concern and have moderate potential to occur within the Project site. Coast horned lizard is a MSHCP covered species. Impacts to species covered under the MSHCP as a result of covered activities have already been analyzed within the context of the MSHCP and no further survey activities are required for these species. As such, impacts to coast horned lizards would be less than significant. California glossy snake is not a MSHCP covered species. This species is considered a generalist and has been found in a range of scrub and grassland habitats, often with loose or sandy soils. Suitable habitat occurs within the undeveloped portion east of Wood Road. In addition, this species has been recorded

within 3 miles of the Project site in west Mead Valley. Proposed improvements to areas with suitable habitat include an underground storm drain and outlet structure. The modification of these habitat areas would not be expected to contribute substantially to the overall decline of these species. As such, Project related impacts to California glossy snake would be less than significant.

The burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) is a California Species of Special Concern and is considered to have a high potential to occur within the Project site (Chambers, 2020a). Focused burrowing owl surveys were conducted for this Project in July of 2022 and no burrowing owl or sign were observed (District, 2022). Although no burrowing owls were detected during the focused surveys and because the Project site contains burrows and suitable habitat, the Project shall be conditioned with a preconstruction presence/absence survey within 30 days of ground disturbance to avoid direct take of burrowing owl in accordance with the MSHCP Species Specific Objective 6. With the implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-1** impacts to burrowing owl would be less than significant.

Nesting Birds

Vegetation at the Project site and surrounding areas provide suitable nesting habitat for raptors and songbirds. If construction of the proposed Project occurs during the bird breeding season (typically February through August), ground-disturbing construction activities could directly and indirectly affect birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the California Fish and Game Code. Direct impacts to birds and their nests could occur through mortality and the removal of habitat on the Project site and indirectly through increased noise, vibrations, and increased human activity. Impacts to nesting birds would be less than significant with the implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-2**.

Mitigation Measures

BIO-1: Preconstruction Burrowing Owl Survey. A pre-construction survey for burrowing owls shall be conducted within 30 days prior to ground disturbance to avoid direct impacts to the species. The survey shall encompass suitable habitat in the construction footprint plus a 500-foot buffer and follow the 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area. This requirement shall be included on project construction plans and specifications. If the species is detected, a Burrowing Owl Protection and Relocation Plan shall be drafted to ensure protection of the species. The plan shall include appropriate avoidance buffers, passive and/or active relocation, construction monitoring, and reporting requirements. The plan shall be reviewed and approved within 30 days of receipt by the Regional Conservation Authority and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. If the species is not detected, then no further action is required.

BIO-2: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey. Vegetation clearing shall be conducted outside of the nesting season, which is generally identified as February through August each year. If avoidance of the nesting season is not feasible, then a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey within three days prior to any site disturbance, including disking, demolition activities, and grading. The survey shall encompass suitable habitat in the construction footprint plus a 500-foot buffer. If additional areas are proposed for disturbance, a new nesting bird survey that covers those areas shall be conducted. This requirement shall be included on Project construction plans and specifications. If nests with eggs or young are detected, the biologist shall establish suitable buffers around the nests, and the buffer areas shall be avoided until the nests are no longer occupied and the juvenile birds can survive independently from the nests. If no active nests are detected, then no further action is required.

<p>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 Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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A jurisdictional delineation report was prepared for the proposed Project (Chambers, 2020b). A copy of this report is included as Appendix B. The Project site contains an ephemeral drainage that traverses the Project site from the north to

the southeast. Approximately 0.34 acre of riparian habitat and 0.02 acre of streambed under the jurisdiction of the CDFW was mapped within the Project site. CDFW regulates impacts or alterations to streambeds and associated habitat.

The proposed Project has been designed to mostly avoid this area with potential for minor impacts from the construction of the outlet structure. The proposed Project would result in the permanent loss of disturbed riparian and streambed-dependent vegetation communities. Direct impacts in the form of vegetation removal would occur to 0.086 acre of mixed willow/riparian woodland and mule-fat-stinging nettle vegetation communities. Indirect impacts resulting in a permanent loss to additional vegetation communities are not anticipated. In total, the Project would result in the permanent loss of 0.086 acre of disturbed riparian and streambed-dependent vegetation communities.

Impacts to riparian habitat and/or streambed would require streambed alteration agreement from the CDFW. Permitting conditions to offset these impacts will be identified during coordination through the regulatory permitting process with CDFW and may include compensatory mitigation, avoidance, or nonnative plant removal within the communities. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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As stated in Appendix B, the Project's jurisdictional delineation determined that there are no wetlands on the Project site. No impact to wetlands would occur.

Approximately 0.02 acre of non-wetland Waters of the U.S. under the jurisdiction of the USACE and 0.02 acre of non-wetland Waters of the State under the jurisdiction of the RWQCB were mapped in the Project site. Impacts to these jurisdictional resources would require a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 and Section 401 permit from the USACE and RWQCB. Permitting conditions to offset these impacts will be identified during coordination through the regulatory permitting process with the regulatory agencies (USACE, SWRCB) and may include compensatory mitigation, avoidance, or nonnative plant removal within the communities.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Based on a review of the MSHCP and site assessment, the Project site and vicinity are not within a habitat linkage or wildlife movement corridor, and it does not contain an important wildlife crossing. Also, the site does not support an important nursery site. The Project site is located in a rural community with elevated noise levels, vehicle traffic, lighting, and human presence that decrease the suitability of the Project site to be used as a significant wildlife movement corridor or linkage.

Further, most Project components would be located underground and within existing roadways. As such, once constructed the proposed Project is not anticipated to interfere with movement of wildlife species. Therefore, the Project would not interfere with the movement of wildlife and Project impacts to wildlife movement would be less than significant.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Such local ordinances and policies that apply to the Project location include Riverside County Oak Tree Management Guidelines. While one oak tree was present on the site, according to the Biological Report, this specific tree was not of

sufficient size and maturity to be considered under the County's guidelines. As such, the Project is consistent with the guidelines and no impact will occur.

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The District is a Permittee under the Western Riverside County MSHCP which generally covers the District boundaries within Western Riverside County extending as far east as the Banning area. The MSHCP is permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CDFW. The biological technical report (Chambers Group, Inc., 2020a) prepared for the proposed Project analyzed the Project's consistency with the MSHCP, which is summarized below:

As a Permittee to the Western Riverside County MSHCP, the District is required to comply with Sections 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.3.2, and 7 of the MSHCP. The Project site is located within the Gavilan Unit, of the Lake Mathews/Woodcrest Area Plan, Subunit 3-Gavilan Hills West. The Project site is not found within a Criteria Area Cell; therefore, a Joint Project Review (JPR) is not required. The site is not in an amphibian survey area, a mammal survey area, or in a narrow endemic plant survey area. Therefore, no additional surveys for these species are required (Chambers, 2020a).

Section 6.1.2 Riparian/Riverine, Vernal Pool, and Fairy Shrimp

Riverine/riparian habitat, along with the open water areas, was mapped on the Project site. Mapped resources include 0.34 acre of riparian habitat and 0.02 acre of streambed. These features are located at the east end of the of the Project site. The riverine/riparian habitat is surrounded by development and is supported by runoff from the surrounding residential neighborhoods. The open tree canopy of the habitat consists of scattered mature willow trees with a shrub canopy dominated by mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia* subsp. *salicifolia*) and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*). The understory lacked vegetation in places, abutting the non-native annual grassland or was comprised of freshwater cattail marshes in the eastern part of the detention basin parcel.

Permanent impacts at the proposed outlet structure total 0.086 acre of disturbed mule fat-stinging nettle thickets and mixed willow thickets (MSHCP riparian habitat) and 0.031 acre of ephemeral drainage (MSHCP riverine habitat). The proposed Project impact area does not contain suitable habitat for any of the species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP. Additionally, the nearest MSHCP Conservation area is approximately 6 miles from the Project site within the Mockingbird Reservoir Public/Quasi Public Lands where the water is detained. The nearest Criteria Cell is approximately 9 miles from the Mockingbird Canyon Reservoir. Flows from the Project site are ephemeral and would only reach the conservation area during heavy storm events. Since the flows are not proposed to be diverted and will continue to outlet in the same location, there will be no impact to sensitive habitats or species within the Conservation Areas. For these reasons, a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation is not needed for this Project.

Permitting conditions to offset these impacts will be identified during coordination through the regulatory permitting process with the regulatory agencies (USACE, CDFW, SWRCB) and may include compensatory mitigation, avoidance, or nonnative plant removal within the communities.

There are no vernal pools on the Project site (Chambers, 2020a). No potential for fairy shrimp exists due to the lack of suitable habitat (Chambers, 2020a).

Section 6.1.3 Narrow Endemic Plant Species

The Project site is not located within any of the MSHCP Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Areas.

Section 6.1.4 Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines

The Project site is not located adjacent to any Criteria Cells, Conservation Areas, Cores/Linkages, or P/QP lands identified by the MSHCP and thus would not affect these areas. The requirements for Urban/Wildlands Interface do not apply to this Project site because it is not located adjacent to any MSHCP Conservation Areas. The Project site is relatively isolated from larger, contiguous blocks of native habitat and surrounded by residential development and other anthropogenic land use; therefore, net long-term increase of edge impacts is not expected because of the Project. Flows from the Project site do not ordinarily convey to downstream MSHCP Conservation Areas and would not significantly impact water quality as described in the Hydrology and Water Quality section. Impacts related to urban/wildlands interface would be less than significant.

Section 6.3.2 Criteria Area Survey Species

The Project site is located within an MSHCP-designated survey area for burrowing owl. If burrowing owls are present on the Project site during construction, direct impacts to burrowing owls may occur in the form of individual take of species and habitat loss and indirect impacts may occur from construction noise and vibrations. Impacts to burrowing owls would be less than significant with the implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-1**.

Section 7 Covered Activities/Allowable Uses

The development of new public facilities or modifications to existing public facilities are contemplated as 'Covered Activities' in the MSHCP and are described in MSHCP Sections 7.3.4–9. Covered Activities that are carried out by Permittees, Participatory Special Entities, Third Parties Granted Take Authorization, and others within the MSHCP Plan Area, that are outside of the Criteria Area and P/QP Lands, are permitted under the Plan, subject to consistency with MSHCP policies. The proposed Project would be considered a covered activity. The proposed Project will incorporate the applicable Construction Guidelines per MSCHP Section 7.5.3 and the BMPs contained in Appendix C. As such, the proposed Project will satisfy the BMP requirements of the MSHCP and is consistent with Section 7.5.3 of the MSHCP.

Based on the results of the biological technical report, the Project would not conflict with the MSHCP or any other habitat conservation plan. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A cultural resources assessment was completed by Chambers Group, Inc. for the proposed Project (Chambers, 2020c). A copy of this report is included as Appendix E. As part of the cultural resources assessment a records search was conducted at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) located at the University of California, Riverside on March 10, 2020. The records search results issued on October 2, 2020, indicated that 61 cultural resources studies have been conducted within a one-mile radius of the Project site, three of which cover a portion of the Project site. A total of 47 cultural resources properties have been recorded within a one-mile radius of the Project site. None of the previously recorded cultural resources were identified within the Project site. As such, no impacts to a cultural resource would occur.

The cultural resources assessment also included a reconnaissance survey of the Project site. No archaeological resources were identified during field survey. Several historic-period resources (built environment properties) were identified during pre-field survey research. These potential historical resources were visited during the field survey and assessed both in the field and through archival research. While a small number of the properties appear to maintain integrity of construction

and setting, none are recommended for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) under any criteria (Chambers, 2020c). Furthermore, while these properties may be classified as historical due to their age (older than 50 years) none of the properties would be affected by implementation of the proposed Project. As such, no impacts to a historical resource would occur.

Project-related excavation may result in impact to unknown buried cultural resources along the storm drain alignment if such resources are encountered during construction activities. Implementation of the District's 'Accidental Discovery' mitigation measure, **Mitigation Measure CR-1**, would ensure that impacts to any discovered resources are less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

CR-1: Accidental Discovery. If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologists shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find. The archaeologist shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required. If the professional archaeologist determines that the find represents a cultural resource, the handling of the cultural resource(s) shall follow the applicable recommendations as described in the Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) prepared for the Project, as required by TCR-1.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The records search conducted for the proposed Project did not identify archaeological resources within the Project site and no archaeological resources were identified during field survey. Additionally, the geological setting of the Project site does not include Holocene alluvial fills, therefore, the likelihood of identifying buried archaeological resources is very low (Chambers, 2020c). As such, no impacts to archaeological resources are expected.

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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There are no known human remains within the vicinity of the Project site, and no conditions exist that suggest human remains are likely to be found on the Project site. It is not anticipated that implementation of the Project would disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. However, ground-disturbing activities, such as grading or excavation, have the potential to disturb unknown human remains.

In the event that human remains are unearthed during excavation and grading activities, all activity shall cease immediately. Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours. The NAHC shall then contact the most likely descendant of the deceased Native American, who shall serve as consultant on how to proceed with the remains. As this procedure is a requirement of existing laws and regulations, and identified in the District's Standard Operating Procedures, no mitigation is required. Project impacts would be less than significant.

VII. ENERGY.				
Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>During construction and maintenance, the Project would consume energy in two general forms: (1) the fuel energy consumed by construction vehicles and equipment; and (2) bound energy in construction materials, such as asphalt, steel, concrete, pipes, and manufactured or processed materials such as lumber and glass. Contractors are required to minimize idling of construction equipment during construction and maintenance per state law and reduce construction waste by recycling. These required practices would limit wasteful and unnecessary energy consumption. Furthermore, there are no unusual Project characteristics that would necessitate the use of construction of maintenance equipment that would be less energy efficient than at comparable construction sites in other parts of the state. Therefore, the proposed short-term construction and infrequent long-term maintenance activities would not result in inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary fuel consumption. Impacts would be less than significant.</p>				
a) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The Project would be required to comply with applicable county, city, state, and federal energy conservation measures related to construction and maintenance activities. Many of the regulations regarding energy efficiency are focused on increasing building efficiency and renewable energy generation, promoting sustainability through energy conservation measures, as well as reducing water consumption and vehicle miles traveled. The Project consists of the construction and maintenance of underground storm drains, street improvements, and an outlet structure, as well as routine maintenance activities. No building construction is proposed as part of the Project as it consists of flood control protection facilities. The Project does not impact renewable energy sources as the it would not have ongoing operational activities except for infrequent maintenance activities, similar to that of existing maintenance activities within flood control facilities. Impacts are less than significant, and no mitigation is required.</p>				
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.				
Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a Known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A geotechnical investigation report was prepared for the Project by Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc. (IFE) (IFE, 2021). A copy of this report is included as Appendix G. The findings of this report have been summarized below.

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act was passed in 1972 to mitigate the hazard of surface faulting to structures for human occupancy. This state law was a direct result of the 1971 San Fernando earthquake, which was associated with extensive surface fault ruptures that damaged numerous homes, commercial buildings, and other structures. Surface rupture is the most easily avoided seismic hazard. An active fault is one that shows displacement within the last 11,000 years and, therefore, is considered more likely to generate a future earthquake. The act requires the California State Geologist to establish regulatory zones (now known as Earthquake Fault Zones; prior to January 1, 1994, these zones were known as Special Studies Zones) around the surface traces of active faults that pose a risk of surface ground rupture and to issue appropriate maps in order to mitigate the hazard of surface faulting to structures for human occupancy.

There are no known earthquake faults that traverse the Project site or earthquake fault zones that include the Project site (IFE 2021). No habitable structures would be constructed by the proposed Project. The proposed Project is a paved street and an underground storm drain facility that would be located within streets rights of way. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to rupture of a known earthquake fault. No impact would occur.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The Project will be constructed using approved District design standards. Because the Project site is within Southern California, strong seismic events are a possibility throughout the region. As such, the Project will be built to a condition engineered to withstand most seismic events. Therefore, impacts from strong seismic ground shaking would be less than significant.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Liquefaction is a phenomenon where water-saturated granular soils lose shear strength during strong ground shaking produced by earthquakes. The loss of soil strength occurs as a consequence of cyclic pore water pressure increases below the groundwater surface. Potential hazards due to liquefaction include loss of bearing strength beneath structures, possibly causing foundation failure and/or significant settlements and differential settlements. Liquefaction generally occurs where the groundwater table is less than 50 feet below the surface.

The Project site is not located within an area mapped for potential to experience liquefaction (IFE 2021). The Project will be constructed using approved District design standards. Because the Project site is within Southern California, strong seismic events are a possibility throughout the region. Routine maintenance activities would ensure that any damage to Project facilities due to seismic-related ground failure is repaired. Impacts would be less than significant.

ii) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The Project site is not located within a state or county mapped landslide hazard area (IFE 2021). Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects involving landslides. No impact would occur.

b) Result in substantial changes in topography, unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill, or soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Implementation of the proposed Project would require ground-disturbing activities, such as grading, that could potentially result in soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Construction of the proposed Project would be required to comply with the Construction General Permit, either through a waiver or through preparation and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be included as part of the SWPPP to manage erosion and the loss of topsoil during construction-related activities. The proposed Project's grading plan would

also ensure that earthwork is designed to avoid soil erosion. Any impacts that would occur as a result of soil erosion or the loss of topsoil would therefore be less than significant.

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 off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The underground portions of the Project will consist of concrete pipe placed within the roadway. The soil will be compacted to support the proposed new asphalt paving as part of the Project. Impacts related to an unstable geologic unit or soil resulting in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse are discussed in the responses included in this section of the Initial Study. Impacts would be less than significant.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994 or most current edition), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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According to the geotechnical investigation report prepared for the Project, subsurface materials that will be encountered during construction primarily consist of granular alluvial deposits overlying granitic bedrock. The alluvial soils consist primarily of medium dense to dense silty sand (SM) and silty clayey sand (SC-SM). The underlying granitic bedrock is generally dense to very dense and slightly to highly weathered. The underground portions of the Project will consist of reinforced concrete pipe placed within the roadway. The soil will be compacted to support the proposed new asphalt paving as part of the Project. Earthwork and backfilling shall be performed in accordance with District requirements and the current edition of the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction. The impact would be less than significant.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed Project consists of underground storm drains, road improvements, and an outlet structure. The Project does not include septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems, and therefore, the Project would not impact disposal systems.

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site of unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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A Paleontological Resources Assessment Report was prepared for the Project by Chambers Group, Inc. (Chambers, 2020d). A copy of this report is included as Appendix D. The findings of this report are summarized in the responses included below.

The geologic mapping of the site, as well as the field survey, indicate that the bedrock is igneous intrusive rocks. As such, they are assigned a paleontological potential level of No Potential. The pedestrian survey confirmed that no significant paleontological resources should be expected from the rocks and soils of the Project. The minor amounts of soil that have accumulated on this bedrock do not appear to be old enough to contain significant paleontological resources. Therefore, the Project would not impact a unique paleontological resource or site of unique geologic feature.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

An Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Memorandum was prepared for the proposed Project to document the existing resources and to determine whether impacts would occur to air quality, as required under CEQA (Vista Environmental, 2020). A copy of this report is included as Appendix C. The proposed Project would not generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The proposed Project would consist of a series of 100-year storm drain facilities and street improvements. The proposed Project is anticipated to generate GHG emissions from construction equipment, however, no generation of GHG emissions is anticipated from the operation of the proposed Project. The Project's GHG emissions have been calculated with the CalEEMod model and the results is shown below in Table 8-1.

Table 8-1 – Proposed Project Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Category	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	CO ₂ e
Year 2021 Construction Activities	143.14	0.04	0.00	144.02
Total Emissions Amortized Over 30 Years ¹	4.77	0.00	0.00	4.80
County of Riverside CAP Threshold				3,000.00
Exceeds Threshold?				No

Notes:

¹ Construction emissions amortized over 30 years as recommended in the SCAQMD GHG Working Group on November 19, 2009.

Source: CalEEMod Version 2016.3.2.

The data provided in Table 8-1 above, shows that the proposed Project would create 144.02 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO₂e) per year, when amortized over the 30-year lifetime of the Project, the Project would create 4.80 MTCO₂e per year. According to the County's threshold of significance, a significant cumulative global climate change impact would occur if the GHG emissions created from the on-going operations would exceed 3,000 MTCO₂e per year. Therefore, a less than significant generation of greenhouse gas emissions would occur from development of the proposed Project and greenhouse gas emission impacts would be less than significant.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. The County of Riverside has adopted the *County of Riverside Climate Action Plan* (CAP) that was revised November 2019 (County of Riverside, 2019). The CAP was updated in 2019 in order to bring the CAP in conformance with SB 32 and AB 197 that set a statewide 2030 goal of reducing GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The CAP has developed a process for determining significance of greenhouse gas impacts from new development projects that includes (1) apply an emissions level that is determined to be less than significant for small projects, and (2) utilizing Screening Tables to mitigate project greenhouse gas emissions that exceed the threshold level. The CAP has provided a threshold of 3,000 MTCO₂e per year used to identify projects that require the use of Screening Tables or a project-specific technical analysis to quantify and mitigate project emissions.

As shown in Table 8-1 above, the proposed Project would create 144.02 MTCO₂e per year, when amortized over the 30-year lifetime of the Project would create 4.80 MTCO₂e per year, which is well below the 3,000 MTCO₂e per year threshold provided in the GHG Review Processes. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Impacts under this category would be less than significant.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>No acutely hazardous materials (as defined in Tit. 22 Cal. Code Regs. § 66261.30) are required to be used or stored within the Project site during the Project construction or maintenance. Hazardous materials to be used during Project construction or maintenance include gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, solvents, and lubricants associated with construction equipment and other vehicles and construction activities. These materials will be transported, used, and disposed of in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and District protocols designed to protect the environment, workers, and the public. Therefore, impacts associated with the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials would be less than significant.</p>				
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Limited quantities of hazardous materials will be used during Project activities including gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, solvents, and lubricants associated with the heavy equipment and vehicles used for operation and maintenance activities. The potential reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions may include minor spills and/or drips of limited quantities onto the ground from construction and maintenance activities. However, all Project activities will utilize BMPs that are designed to protect the environment and contain any spills. Additionally, District employees are trained to properly prevent and clean up minor spills, as well as being familiar with protocols to manage larger spills should they occur. Therefore, the impact associated with reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions by a potential release of hazardous materials into the environment would be less than significant.</p>				
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>The Project site is not located within one-quarter mile of existing schools. No impact would occur.</p>				
d) Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) and a limited Phase II ESA were prepared by Leighton Consulting, Inc. (Leighton) for the proposed Project (Leighton, 2020a; 2020b). A copy of this report is included as Appendix F. The findings of these two reports are summarized below. The results of the Phase I ESA indicate that the Project site is not located within a hazardous material site (Leighton, 2020a). Additionally, a limited Phase II ESA was prepared (Leighton, 2020b) which included soil testing at the proposed outlet location and the soil within the corridor leading to the future outlet. The results of the limited Phase II ESA indicate that there are no toxic materials currently present onsite or within the soil. Therefore, there is no impact to this criterion.

It should also be noted that the District has the following standard operating procedure that will be included in the construction contract and specifications. In the event that any hazardous materials, historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources are accidentally discovered within Project limits, the contractor shall immediately cease all construction or ground disturbance activity in the vicinity of the find and notify the engineer. District will provide the appropriate professional to assess the significance of the discovery and, if necessary, develop appropriate management and treatment measures. The contractor shall not resume construction in the affected area without the engineer's approval.

<p>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 site?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The Project site is not within an airport land use plan. Additionally, the Project site is not within two miles of an existing public airport. Therefore, there would be no impact to airports and people residing or working in the Project site.

<p>f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The Project is not designed to significantly impact the traffic circulation or increase demands on existing emergency response activities, or impact emergency access in the area. If road closures are necessary during construction and maintenance activities, the District will coordinate with local authorities regarding appropriate procedures to ensure that access road blockages are temporary and intermittent and that the roads remain available for use in case of emergency. The Project would also improve existing access for emergency services by paving existing dirt roads. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

<p>h) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) adopted Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps identify Project site is within moderate to high fire hazard areas for State Responsible Zones. The Project will occur within existing roadways and vacant parcels. Although most activities will require the use of heavy equipment including but not limited to dump trucks and dozers to push vegetation and debris and or transport equipment, soil and vegetation, the Project will not expose people or structures to wildfire or significant risk of wildfire. Once construction is complete, the Project will consist of an outlet structure, street improvements, and underground concrete pipes. Therefore, any changes to potential fire risks would be less than significant.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.				
Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The District must comply with all state, federal and local regulations related to water quality, including the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and the State of California's Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The Project provides conditions designed to avoid and minimize potential water quality impacts associated with construction, operation, and maintenance activities. Because the Project is greater than one acre, a SWPPP will be prepared, and the contractor will obtain coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity, General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ. Therefore, the Project can benefit water quality and is not expected to conflict with any adopted water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. District maintenance activities will also continue to be conducted in accordance with any applicable State Water Resources Control Board and/or any Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements, including all conditions and BMPs included and the 404 and 401 permits, and applicable provisions of the CWA. Furthermore, the District is the Principal Permittee for the three Riverside County NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits related to the District's jurisdiction within the Santa Ana (Santa Ana Watershed), Colorado River Basin (Whitewater Watershed), and San Diego (Santa Margarita Watershed) regions, and the District is required to implement BMPs during maintenance activities.</p> <p>In addition, the District implements the following standard operating procedures to protect water quality:</p> <p>Implementation of Water Quality Best Management Practices. All BMP materials are to be onsite prior to maintenance activity and ready for use. BMPs shall be in compliance with all specifications governing the proper design, installation, operation, and maintenance of such management practices.</p> <p>Equipment Staging and Maintenance. All fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage, and staging of vehicles and equipment shall be outside of Waters of the State and shall not result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to Waters of the State.</p> <p>Therefore, Project activities will continue to be conducted in accordance with any applicable State Water Resources Control Board and/or any Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements. Therefore, the individual and cumulative impacts to water quality would be less than significant.</p>				
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>The proposed Project does not include any new groundwater diversion, recharge projects, or management projects. Therefore, there will be no impacts to groundwater supplies or recharge capabilities.</p>				
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:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact

i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The Project is designed to resolve flooding and erosion within the Project site. The street paving would be completed to solve the issue of erosion within the existing dirt roads and the underground facilities are designed to convey flows away from problem areas. The Project will not create or result in any onsite or offsite erosion. Therefore, the proposed Project would have a less than significant impact to erosion or runoff, both onsite and off.</p>				
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The Project is designed to convey surface flows to underground facilities and ultimately outlet into an existing natural drainage system. The proposed Project includes improvements to existing unpaved roadways that would increase impervious surfaces in the Project site and result in a minor increase to the volume of runoff. Surface runoff from the Project site would be directed to the proposed underground drainage facilities but would not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff that would result in flooding on- or off-site. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact to the amount of surface runoff.</p>				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The Project consists of the construction, operation, and maintenance of a storm drain facility. The proposed Project would also include the paving of existing unpaved roadways, which would increase the surface area of impervious surfaces in the Project site and would be anticipated to increase the volume of runoff and facilitate transport of a minor amount of polluted runoff. Surface runoff from the Project site would be directed to the proposed underground drainage facilities that would be of sufficient size to accommodate anticipated flows. Thus, runoff volumes associated with the Project would not exceed the capacity of the proposed drainage facilities. Although the Project could facilitate transport of polluted runoff, the Project itself would not be a source of pollutants except any minor amounts generated by construction. Compliance with regulatory requirements for water quality and BMPs during and after construction, and proper maintenance of the constructed facility would minimize these impacts to a less than significant level.</p>				
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>The proposed facilities are not located within an area that would be subjected to tsunami or seiche hazards because it is not adjacent to the ocean or a large body of water. The Project site is located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Zone X (FEMA 2008). Zone X is defined as areas determined to be outside of the 0.2 percent annual chance floodplain.</p> <p>District facilities are designed to convey flows within flood hazard zones. The proposed Project itself would alleviate potential flooding in the Project site by conveying flows through underground pipes and discharging the flows into an existing natural drainage system downgradient. The proposed Project would result in a benefit by reducing flood hazards. No impact would occur since the Project would reduce inundation in an area that is already outside of a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone.</p>				
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The District is also responsible for implementing water quality programs within District facilities. The Project does not propose to conflict or obstruct the implementation of water quality plans or ground water management. The design of the facility would result in a very minor transport of additional flow downstream which would otherwise have percolated into the currently unpaved road surfaces. Construction of the Project would result in a minor increase in impervious surfaces and a near negligible change in groundwater input. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact to water quality plans or groundwater management plans.

XI. LAND USE PLANNING.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

While the Project site is located within an established community, no aspect of the Project would alter the land such that it would divide any portion of the established community. Once constructed, Project facilities would consist of underground storm drains, street paving, and an outlet structure into a natural drainage. The addition of stormwater drains, improved paved streets and reduction of surface water during storm events would serve to better connect the existing community. Therefore, there no impact would occur.

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The Project consists of construction and maintenance of a series of 100-year storm drain facilities, including the installation of an outlet structure and street improvements. Once constructed the Project would not conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations; and therefore, no impacts would occur.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The Project is located within an area mapped MRZ-1 (no significant mineral deposits). This classification is used by the State of California which defines MRZ-1 as an area where the available geologic information indicates no significant mineral deposits or a minimal likelihood of significant mineral deposits. (County of Riverside, General Plan Open Space Element. Figure OS-6, September 2021). There are no known mineral resources within the location of the proposed facilities and no known historic use for extraction of mineral resources. Therefore, no impacts to mineral resources would occur.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Per the County's 2021 General Plan, Open Space Element, the Project is not located within a locally important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, no impacts to locally important mineral resources or mineral resource recovery sites would occur.

XIII. NOISE.

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Project vicinity experiences significant ambient noise levels due to the surrounding developed residential homes and existing streets. Due to the short-term and temporary nature of construction and maintenance, the ambient noise level increase is not anticipated to be substantial. Furthermore, Capital Improvement Projects of a governmental agency are exempt from the County's Ordinance No. 847 Regulating Noise. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Construction and maintenance of the Project facilities would involve the temporary use of construction equipment which would result in temporary vibrational noise. Vibrational noise is a concern when sensitive receptors are in close proximity to the vibration sources. The Project would be located within the right of way of existing streets in an area with residential land uses. Residential land uses are considered sensitive receptors (County of Riverside 2015). However, construction and maintenance activities would be limited to the public right of way. Once operational, the Project would not be a source of ground-borne vibration. Impacts would be less than significant.

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 site to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The Project is not located within an existing airport land use plan area. No airports or private airstrips are located within two miles of the Project site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				
The Project includes the construction and maintenance of underground storm drains, street improvements, and outlet structure. No aspect of the Project proposed to develop any new residential or commercial buildings. The improvements proposed are not of a substantial enough scope and scale to induce population growth, and the areas that will be improved are already developed. The Project would not result in substantial unplanned population growth in an area and no impact would occur.				
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Project would install storm drains within existing roadways, pave existing dirt roads, and install an outlet structure in a vacant parcel. No portion of the Project will require the displacement of any person or housing, and therefore, no impact would occur.				
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Project will not expand, change, or otherwise impact fire protection as the facilities will be underground or in ground and does not propose to alter the existing access to the existing neighborhood. Road improvements will benefit access for emergency services. Therefore, no impacts associated with fire protection would occur.				
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Project will not expand, change, or otherwise impact police protection as the facilities will primarily be underground or in-ground concrete and paved surfaces. Road improvements will benefit access to the neighborhood for emergency services. Therefore, no impacts associated with police protection would occur.				
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The proposed Project would not result in population growth that would increase the use of schools, parks, or other public facilities. No impact would occur.				
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The proposed Project would not result in population growth that would increase the use of schools, parks, or other public facilities. No impact would occur.				

Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The proposed Project would not result in population growth that would increase the use of schools, parks, or other public facilities. No impact would occur.				
XVI. RECREATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The proposed Project is the construction of underground storm drains, street improvements, and an outlet structure. No increase in demand or increase in use of existing parks or other recreational facilities would result from the implementation of the proposed Project. No impact would occur.				
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Project will not expand, change, or otherwise impact recreational facilities, as the proposed Project is for the construction of underground storm drains, street improvements, and an outlet structure. The proposed Project would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. No impact would occur.				
XVII. TRANSPORTATION.				
Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed Project would generate short-term construction related vehicle trips. Potential roadway lane closures would be temporary and phased as construction progresses along the alignment. Construction-related vehicle trips during construction would include passenger trucks for workers traveling to and from the Project work areas, haul trucks (including for import of pipes and paving materials, as needed), and other trucks associated with equipment and material deliveries. However, traffic generated by construction of the proposed Project would be temporary and would not conflict with the County of Riverside's Circulation Element. Impacts occurring as a result of temporary construction would be less than significant.				
Once the construction of the proposed Project is completed, there would be no increase in automobile trips to the area because the improved facilities would not require daily visits. While it is anticipated that the proposed Project would require intermittent maintenance to be conducted by District staff, such maintenance would be minimal and infrequent requiring a negligible amount of traffic trips on an annual basis. Operational impacts would be less than significant.				

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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According to the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Technical Advisory on SB 743, many local agencies have developed screening thresholds to indicate when detailed traffic analysis is needed. Absent substantial evidence indicating that a project would generate a potentially significant level of vehicle miles travelled (VMT), or inconsistency with a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or general plan, projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day generally may be assumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact (OPR 2018).

Trips generated during operation of the proposed Project would be attributed to maintenance activities, which would require a negligible amount of traffic trips on an annual basis. The proposed Project would not generate 110 trips per day or more during operations. As such, the proposed Project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b). No impact would occur.

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The Project consists of the construction and maintenance of underground storm drains, street improvements, and an outlet structure. Street improvements have been designed to comply with County development standards and would not result in traffic safety impacts. The proposed Project would not include a design feature or an incompatible use that would increase hazards in the area. No impact would occur.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Construction and maintenance of the proposed Project may require temporary road closures. However, a traffic control plan would be implemented during the construction phase to maintain traffic flow and provide emergency response access in the Project site. Impacts would be less than significant.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.

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:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A Cultural Resources Phase 1 Survey and records search was completed for the proposed Project (Chambers, 2021). A foot survey of the Project site did not identify any CRHR eligible resources to be present on the Project site (Chambers, 2020c). No known California Register listed, or eligible resources have been identified on the Project site. As such, no impact to historic resources would occur.

b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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AB 52 Consultation

Assembly Bill No. 52 (AB 52) requires good faith consultation with California Native American Tribes on the potential for impacts to tribal cultural resources (TCR). TCR is defined by Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 21074 as 'sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe' that are either 'included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources' or 'included in a local register of historical resources'. TCR also include those resources determined by a lead agency in its discretion, supported by substantial evidence, to be significant. Additionally, PRC Section 21074 describes Tribal Cultural Landscapes (TCL) as being considered 'a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape.

In accordance with the requirements of AB 52, the District sent project notification letters to a list of California Native American Tribes, which had previously submitted general consultation request letters pursuant to 21080.3.1(d) of the Public Resources Code. Of those Tribes contacted, consultation proceeded with the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (Pechanga) and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians (Soboba). The Pechanga and Soboba Tribes also provided suggested mitigation measures for the Project. With the input of the Pechanga and Soboba tribes, AB 52 consultation was completed with Soboba and Pechanga on August 25, 2023.

Impact Analysis:
 Consultation under AB 52 and a Sacred Lands File search by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) determined that TCR are present within a 1-mile vicinity of the Project site (Chambers, 2021). Public disclosure of protected TCR is prohibited by law, as such, details of the location of such resources was communicated in government-to-government consultation between the District and the Tribes. It is possible that unknown buried TCR could be present within the area during ground-disturbing activities. Significant impacts may occur from the discovery of unknown TCR during ground disturbing activities from Project construction. Impacts to unknown TCR would be less than significant with the implementation of **Mitigation Measure TCR-1** and **TCR-2**.

TCR-1 The District shall prepare a Tribal/Cultural Resources Management Plan (TCRMP) prior to ground disturbing activities. The TCRMP shall be based on the final construction grading plans prepared by the District and may include requirements for pre-construction cultural sensitivity training, notification, and monitoring protocol. The TCRMP will consider concerns of the consulting Tribes and the consulting Tribes will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft TCRMP.

In the event that the consulting Tribes are not able to reasonably accommodate the District's requests and/or needs regarding monitoring, the District may proceed with Mitigation Measure TCR-2 as needed:

TCR-2 The District may, at its discretion, conduct archaeological monitoring and/or reconnaissance of the Project site using a qualified archaeologist that is not a Tribal monitor or representative of a Native American Tribe. This would occur only as needed during ground-disturbing construction activities.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, or wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Project consists of the construction, operation and maintenance of underground storm drains, and an outlet structure and paving of existing unpaved/paved roads. Although it is unlikely that utility lines are under the vacant parcel where the outlet structure will be constructed, there is potential for the underground storm drains to require relocation of any underground utilities. Should any existing underground utility need to be relocated, it would be relocated within the existing right of way for that utility company and in coordination with the respective owner of the utility. Therefore, impacts associated with the relocation or construction of any of the above-listed facilities would be less than significant.				
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed Project does not include the development of any residential or commercial developments. Water will only be necessary temporarily during construction and maintenance to control fugitive dust from leaving the site. The Project does not require supplemental water once constructed and no new demand inducing facilities would be constructed. A less than significant impact would occur in this regard.				
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Project will not require the use of wastewater treatment services, some limited temporary disposal of wastewater from construction workers would be needed during construction. No new permanent source of wastewater would result from the Project. A less than significant impact would occur in this regard.				
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction activities may generate small quantities of solid waste, inert materials, and green waste. No new permanent source of solid waste would result from the Project. All waste would be disposed of in accordance with all local statutes and regulations. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.				

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The small quantities of solid waste generated by the Project during construction activities would be handled in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. No impact would occur.				
XX. WILDFIRE.				
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Project site is not located within a state responsibility area (SRA); however, it is located adjacent to the SRA at Lake Matthews (Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, 2022). Operation of the Project would not interfere with an adopted emergency response plan. However, the construction and maintenance of the Project may require temporary lane closures which has the potential to interfere with emergency response access. If lane closures are anticipated, the Project would implement a traffic control plan that provides precautionary measures (i.e., detour signage, flagging) to address any temporary circulation impacts at this intersection. A less than significant impact would occur in this regard.				
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Project would construct drainage infrastructure and street improvements and would not include the permanent siting of employees or housing on the Project site. Therefore, the Project would not expose residents in the surrounding area to pollutant concentrations from wildfire due to any change in the conditions of slope, prevailing winds, or other factors. No impact would occur.				
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Project consists of the construction and maintenance of underground storm drains, street improvements, and an outlet structure. The District currently maintains access to all improved facilities, up to and including, access roads within District right of way. The proposed street improvements include paving existing dirt roads within an established residential neighborhood, these streets would be maintained by the RCTD on an infrequent basis, due to the minimal size and scope of the improvements. Maintenance activities would be expected to occur on a limited number of occasions per year. A less than significant impact would occur in this regard.				
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The primary purpose of the Project is to prevent flooding from storm events under normal conditions. The construction and maintenance of these facilities is necessary to provide adequate flood control within the Project site and would be beneficial in the event of flooding or post-fire runoff. Therefore, no adverse impacts associated with downstream flooding are anticipated to occur.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The majority of the proposed Project alignment is within previously developed urban area. The proposed Project consists primarily of the installation of underground storm drain facilities. The proposed Project has the potential to adversely affect biological resources and tribal cultural resources. With the adoption and implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 Burrowing Owl and BIO-2 Nesting Bird, potential impacts to these biological resources would be reduced to less than significant levels. In addition, Mitigation Measures TCR-1: Tribal/Cultural Resources Management Plan and TCR-2: Archeological Monitoring/Reconnaissance would reduce or avoid potential impacts to tribal cultural resources.

<p>b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ('Cumulatively considerable' means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The Project would not result in any impacts that would be significant, after the inclusion of mitigation. Implementation of mitigation measures at the project-level would reduce the potential for the incremental effects of the proposed Project to be considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects, or probable future projects. With the mitigation measures listed in this Initial Study, impacts from the Project would not be cumulatively considerable.

<p>c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The construction of the proposed storm drainage facility and street improvements would not cause a substantial adverse effect on human beings. The proposed improvements would beneficially protect life and property by reducing flood risk within the Project site by allowing for vehicular access during a storm event to the surrounding area for emergency services and residential access. No adverse impact would occur.

REFERENCES

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