Honby Tanks Pipeline Project

Addendum to the Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration
SCH #2023090505

prepared by

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October 2025

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1 Introduction

This Addendum was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the *CEQA Guidelines*. This document serves as an Addendum to the previously approved Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) (State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 2023090505) for the Honby Tanks Pipeline Project (Original Project). The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) is the lead agency for the adopted Final IS-MND and is the lead agency for the environmental review in this Addendum.

This Addendum addresses the proposed modifications in relation to the previous environmental review document prepared for the Original Project. Section 15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines* provides the circumstances under which an Addendum should be prepared:

(a) The lead agency or responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.

(b) An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.

(e) A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 should be included in an addendum to an EIR, the lead agency's findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record.

1.1 Background and Purpose of the Addendum

The Final IS-MND for the Original Project was adopted on January 16, 2023, by the SCV Water Board of Supervisors. The adopted Final IS-MND consists of responses to public and agency comments received on the Draft IS-MND and the text of the Draft IS-MND. The adopted Final IS-MND is further supported by an accompanying Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). Information and technical analyses from the adopted Final IS-MND are utilized or referenced throughout this Addendum; the adopted IS-MND is available for review on SCV Water's website.[1] In conjunction with adoption of the Final IS-MND, SCV Water also adopted the MMRP and approved the Original Project.

As approved, the Original Project involved the construction and operation of a new underground pipeline to convey water between the Honby Tanks and the Honby Booster Station. The pipeline was designed to replace an existing 16-inch pipeline with a larger pipeline, ranging from 24 to 30 inches in diameter, constructed of either steel or ductile iron. The alignment would follow the existing Honby Pipeline route downhill from the Honby Tank site to the Santa Clara River, spanning approximately 2,608 feet in length. Upon completion, the pipeline would be entirely underground with no aboveground components.

The purpose of the Original Project was to eliminate a hydraulic bottleneck in the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency's system by improving water flow between the Honby Tanks and the Honby

[1] https://yourscvwater.com/departments/engineering/environmental-review

Booster Station. The upsized pipeline would enhance long-term reliability and operational efficiency of the regional water supply system without increasing system capacity or water demand.

Construction of the Original Project would disturb approximately 2.4 acres, triggering the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit, including preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The hillside work area would require a width of approximately 40 feet, with excavation depths averaging 10 feet. The project included the export of approximately 300 cubic yards of soil (20 haul truck trips) and the import of approximately 400 cubic yards of pipe bedding material (25 haul truck trips). No new operational or maintenance activities or staffing were proposed as part of the Original Project.

Project Site

The Original Project site encompassed approximately 2.4 acres in the central portion of Santa Clarita, California. Under the Original Project, the pipeline alignment begins at the Honby Tank site, located on a hillside north of the Santa Clara River, and extends approximately 2,608 feet southward. The pipeline would cross the Santa Clara River then head west, parallel to the river to the intersection with Honby Avenue. Once the pipeline intersects Honby Avenue, it would turn south and connect with the existing pipeline at the intersection of Honby Avenue and Santa Clara Street. The overall alignment and key features of the Original Project are shown in Figure 2.

The pipeline would be buried underground for the entirety of the alignment and would not have any above ground components upon completion. The Original Project required the removal of the fencing bordering the Honby Tanks due to the limited work area at the top of the slope. At the end of the existing pipeline's usable life, the existing Honby pipeline would be abandoned in place.

Addendum

SCV Water now proposes modifications to the Original Project, herein referred to as the "Modified Project." This document is an Addendum to the previously adopted Final IS-MND and has been prepared by SCV Water to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Modified Project. This Addendum has been prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of CEQA and Section 15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines*. A detailed description of the Modified Project is provided in Section 2, *Project Description*, of this Addendum.

1.2 Basis for the Addendum

When an IS-MND has been adopted and a project is modified or otherwise changed after adoption, additional CEQA review may be necessary. The key considerations in determining the need for the appropriate type of additional CEQA review are outlined in Section 21166 of the Public Resources Code (CEQA) and Sections 15162, 15163, and 15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines*.

Section 15162(a) of the *CEQA Guidelines* provides that a Subsequent MND is not required unless the following occurs:

(1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;

(2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due

to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or

(3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:

(A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;

(B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;

(C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or

(D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Pursuant to Section 15164(b) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, an Addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared by the Lead Agency that prepared the original negative declaration if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 have occurred that require preparation of a Subsequent EIR or negative declaration. An Addendum must include a brief explanation of the agency's decision not to prepare a Subsequent EIR and be supported by substantial evidence in the record as a whole (Section 15164[e]). The Addendum to an adopted negative declaration need not be circulated for public review but it may be included in or attached to the adopted negative declaration (Section 15164[c]). The decision-making body must consider the Addendum with the adopted Final IS-MND prior to making a decision on the project (Section 15164[d]).

An Addendum to the adopted Final IS-MND for the Original Project is appropriate to address the proposed Modified Project because the proposed modifications to the approved Original Project do not meet the conditions of Section 15162(a) for preparation of a Subsequent EIR or negative declaration. The proposed Modified Project would not result in new or more severe impacts related to: 1) substantial changes to the Original Project which require major revisions to the adopted Final IS-MND; 2) substantial changes to the circumstances under which the Original Project are being undertaken which will require major revisions to the adopted Final IS-MND; or 3) new information of substantial importance showing significant effects not previously examined.

The adopted Final IS-MND and this Addendum to the adopted Final IS-MND serve as informational documents to inform decision-makers and the public of the potential environmental consequences of approving the proposed Modified Project. This Addendum neither controls nor determines the ultimate decision for approval of the proposed Modified Project, described herein in Section 2, *Project Description*. The information presented in this Addendum to the adopted Final IS-MND will be considered by SCV Water alongside the adopted Final IS-MND prior to making a decision on the Modified Project.

2 Project Description

2.1 Modified Project Characteristics

The Modified Project would consist of installing approximately 15 linear feet of new 30-inch and approximately 215 linear feet of upsized 14-inch to 30-inch pipeline along Cedarcreek Street and Santa Clara Street. The new pipeline would be installed via open-trench excavation. The Modified Project would be installed at a maximum depth of eight feet and would require the export of 211 cubic yards of soil. The Modified Project would not involve any new operation and maintenance activities, and no new employees would be required. The purpose of the additional pipeline extension is to connect the Honby Tanks pipeline to the Santa Clara Well pressure distribution zone directly, and to upsize the existing pipeline to alleviate the pressure bottleneck with the existing 14-inch potable water line. Figure 1 shows the project's regional location, and features of the Original Project and Modified Project are shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** and Figure 3.

Modified Project Construction Activities

The Original Project proposed construction activities to take place between October 2024 and January 2026. Construction activities would typically occur between 7:00 A.M. and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. The Original Project proposed no nighttime construction and occasional weekend work would have been required.

The Modified Project would involve the additional pipeline to be installed via open-trench excavation and construction would occur over two to three weeks. No nighttime or weekend construction is anticipated to be required. Construction equipment would be parked along Furnivall Avenue as well as on the SCV Water-owned pump station located on the northeast corner of Santa Clara Street and Furnivall Avenue, as needed.

Figure 1 Regional Location

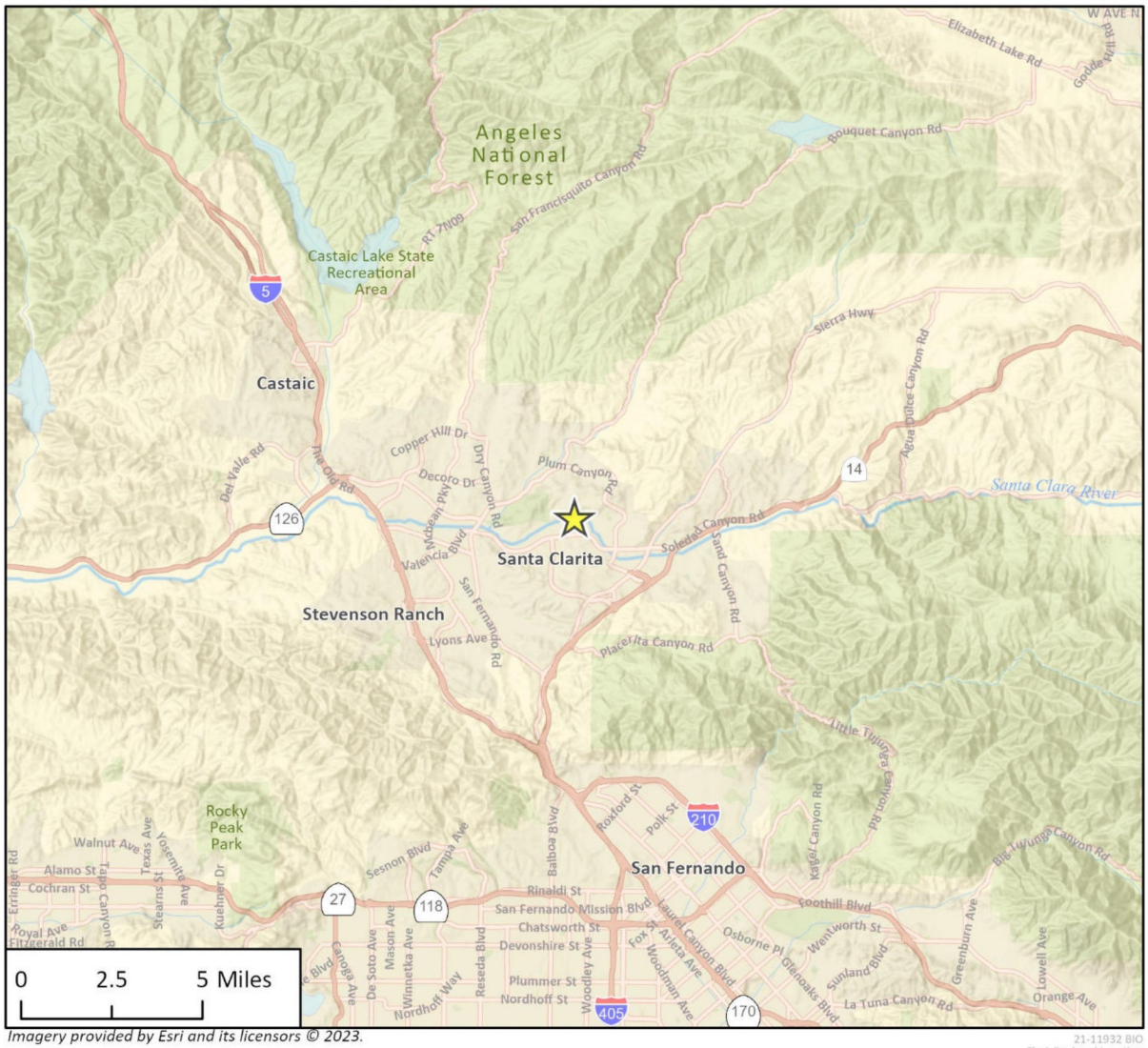

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Fig 1 Regional Location

Project Location

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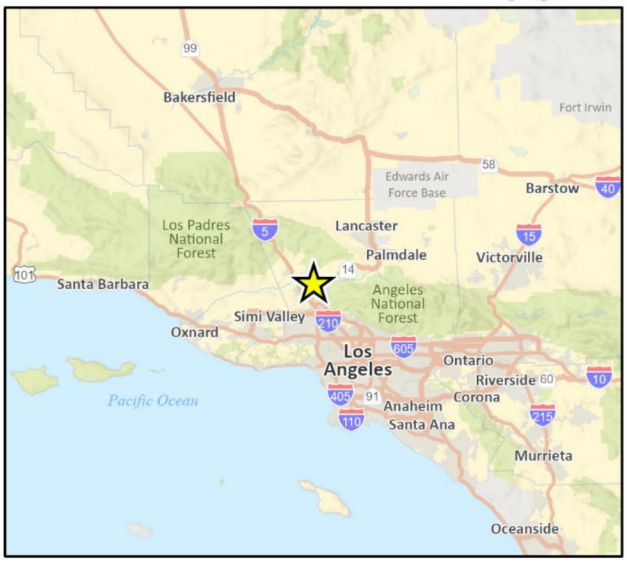


Figure 2 Original Project Features

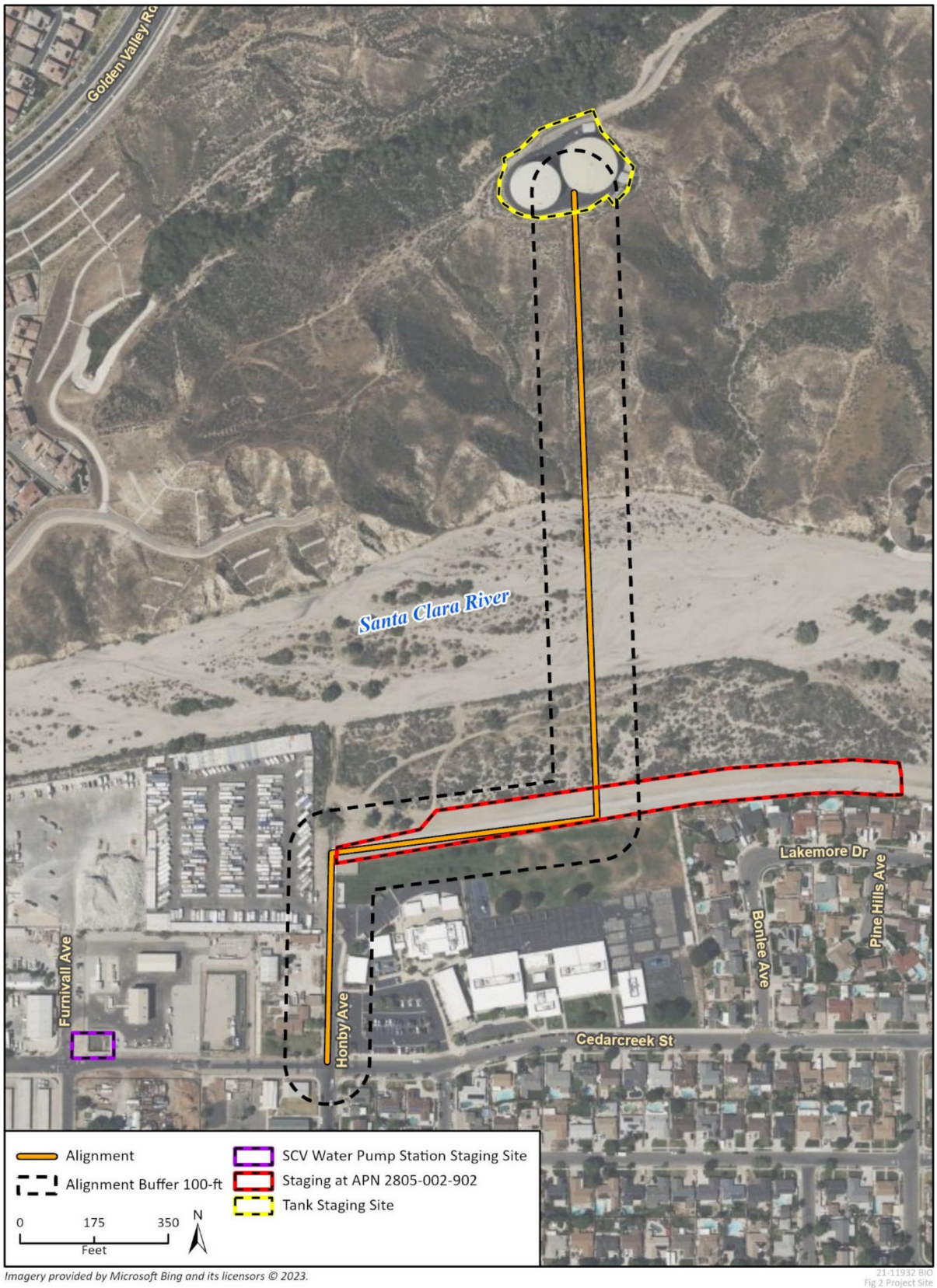
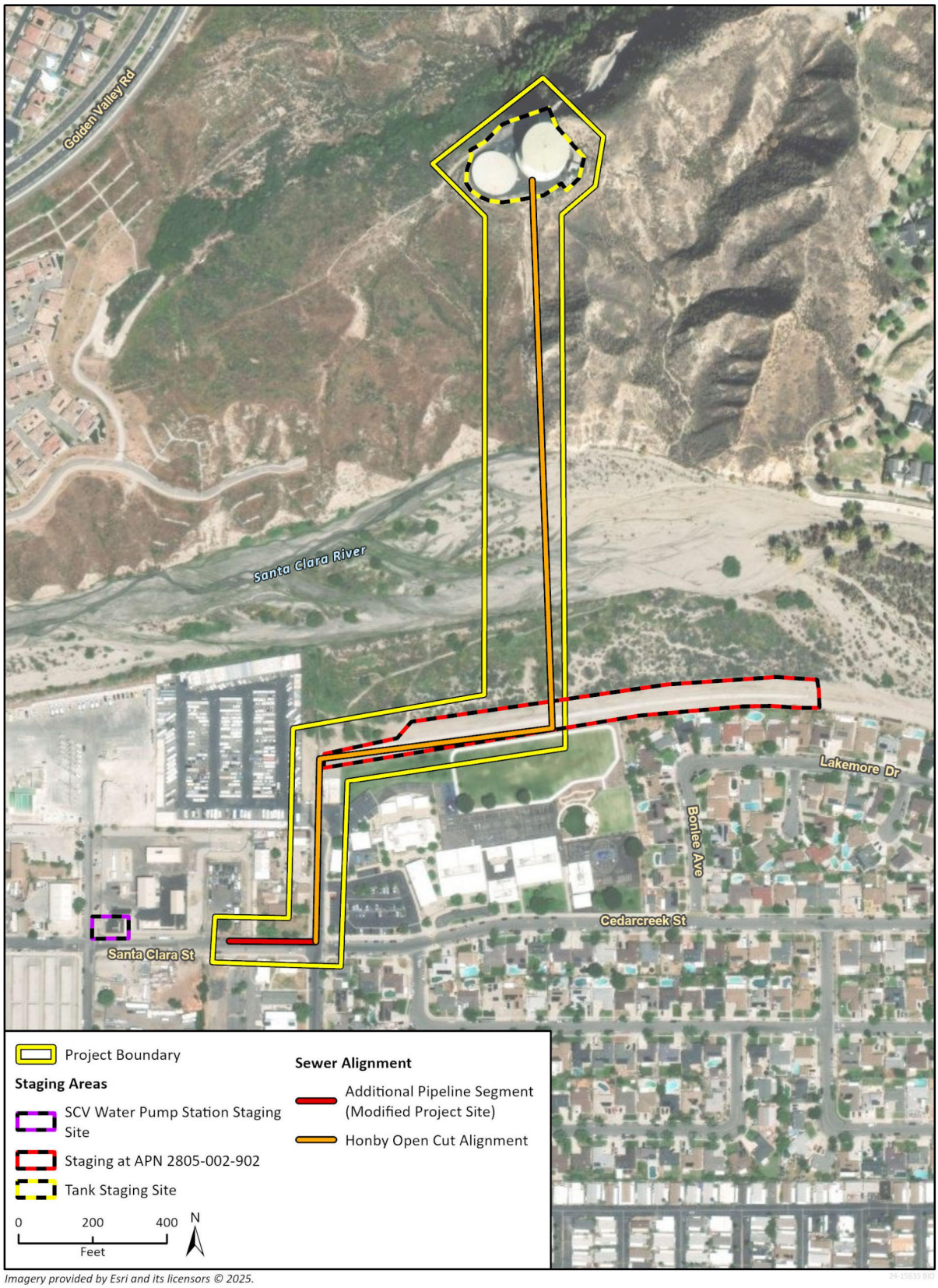


Figure 3 Modified Project Features



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2.2 Retained Original Project Characteristics

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would include construction and operation of a pipeline to convey water to and from SCV Water's Honby Tanks and Honby Booster Station. The Honby Pipeline has been identified as a hydraulic bottleneck and requires replacement to ensure water supply reliability and longevity for the SCV Water system.

Construction Activities

Construction personnel vehicles would be parked along Furnivall Avenue as well as on the SCV Water-owned pump station located on the northeast corner of Santa Clara Street and Furnivall Avenue, as needed. Staging is anticipated at several locations including the SCV Water-owned tank site at the top of the hill, the SCV Water easement behind Rio Vista Elementary school, and the SCV Water-owned pump station located on the northeast corner of Santa Clara Street and Furnivall Avenue. Construction of the project would have a ground disturbance of approximately 2.4 acres. Given the project would disturb over one acre, the project would be subject to the requirements of the NPDES) Construction General Permit. The Construction General Permit requires the development of a SWPPP.

The work area on the hillside would require approximately 40 total feet of width. The majority of the excavation would be approximately 10 feet deep. Construction within the Santa Clara River bed would occur over the course of one month. The segment of pipeline underlying the Santa Clara River would be installed at a depth below the known river scour level, which is estimated to be 20 feet. The pipe would be installed with a minimum of 24.5 feet of cover. Construction methods include the use of lighttight sheet shoring to allow groundwater to be pumped from the trench.

Standard Construction Practices

SCV Water maintains standard contractor specifications that would be applied to the Modified Project. These include:

- **Trench Backfill and Compaction/Soils Test/Geotechnical Reports.** The Developer or Contractor shall engage the services of a geotechnical engineering firm or individual licensed in the State of California to monitor soil conditions during earthwork, trenching, bedding, backfill and compaction operations.
- **Public Safety and Traffic Control.** Requires traffic control plans to be submitted to agencies with jurisdiction, as well as as-needed measures such as signs, lights, flares, barricades, traffic plates, etc.
- **Hazardous Waste and Unknown Physical Conditions.** If hazardous waste is discovered, Contractor shall cease work in the impacted area. If material that may be hazardous waste is discovered, the Developer or Contractor shall insure that the appropriate government agencies are contacted prior to any further work being performed and that a solution is implemented.

Operation and Maintenance

Upon completion of construction, the Modified Project would not involve any new operation and maintenance activities. No new employees would be required.

Lead Agency Permits and Approvals

SCV Water is the lead agency under CEQA for the Modified Project. As shown in Table 1, the Modified Project would continue to require the following approvals from other agencies.

Table 1 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

Agency	Approval Required
United States Army Corps of Engineers	Nationwide Permit 58
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board	NPDES Construction General Permit, Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Permits related to the presence of federally listed species may be required

3 Impact Analysis

As described under Section 1.2, *Basis for the Addendum*, when an IS-MND has been adopted and a project is modified or otherwise changed after adoption, additional CEQA review may be necessary. In accordance with the *CEQA Guidelines*, SCV Water has determined that an Addendum to the adopted IS-MND is the appropriate form of environmental review for the proposed project. This examination includes an analysis of the provisions of Section 21166 of CEQA and Sections 15162 to 15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines* and their applicability to the Modified Project.

As discussed in the impact analysis below, the Modified Project would not introduce new significant environmental impacts beyond those which have already been identified and characterized in the adopted Final IS-MND. None of the conditions described in *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15162 calling for preparation of a Subsequent IS-MND have occurred or would occur as a result of the Modified Project. This Addendum will be considered by the SCV Water Board of Directors in making a decision on the Modified Project.

Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* provides a checklist of environmental issue areas suggested as the issue areas that should be assessed in CEQA analyses. The adopted Final IS-MND addressed in detail all 20 of the suggested environmental issue areas. To provide a thorough and conservative analysis of potential impacts associated with the Modified Project, this Addendum also addresses all 20 environmental issue areas suggested by Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*, as listed below.

1. Aesthetics
2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources
3. Air Quality
4. Biological Resources
5. Cultural Resources
6. Energy
7. Geology and Soils
8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials
10. Hydrology and Water Quality
11. Land Use and Planning
12. Mineral Resources
13. Noise
14. Population and Housing
15. Public Services
16. Recreation
17. Transportation
18. Tribal Cultural Resources
19. Utilities and Service Systems
20. Wildfire

The existing environmental conditions at the project site and its surroundings are substantially the same under present conditions as described in the adopted Final IS-MND. Potential environmental impacts of the proposed project are analyzed below to determine whether impacts are consistent with the impact analysis provided in the adopted Final IS-MND, and whether additional mitigation measures are required to minimize or avoid potential impacts.

3.1 Adopted IS-MND Analysis Summary

No impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, energy, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and recreation were found in the adopted Final IS-MND. In addition, impacts to geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, and utilities and service systems were determined to be less than significant with no mitigation required.

The adopted IS-MND determined that impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, transportation, tribal cultural resources, and wildfire could be reduced to less-than-significant levels with mitigation. Mitigation proposed in the adopted Final IS-MND included:

- Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Construction Particulate Matter Emissions Reduction
- Mitigation Measure BIO-1: General Best Management Practices
- Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Environmental Awareness Program
- Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Special Status Plant Surveys
- Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Special Status Plant Avoidance Measures
- Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Special Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
- Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Pre-activity Survey
- Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Qualified Biological Monitor
- Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Dry Season Construction
- Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Nesting Birds
- Mitigation Measure BIO-10: Habitat Revegetation, Restoration, and Monitoring Program
- Mitigation Measure BIO-11: Jurisdictional Habitat Best Management Practices
- Mitigation Measure CR-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program
- Mitigation Measure CR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources
- Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan
- Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Soil and Groundwater Management Plan
- Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Subsurface Investigation
- Mitigation Measure HAZ-4: Remediation
- Mitigation Measure HAZ-5: Disposal of Groundwater
- Mitigation Measure HAZ-6: Traffic Control Plan
- Mitigation Measure TCR-1: Tribal Cultural Resources Construction Monitoring
- Mitigation Measure TCR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resources
- Mitigation Measure TCR-3: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains

The adopted Final IS-MND determined that the implementation of these mitigation measures would result in all impacts being less than significant. Therefore, the Original Project would not result in significant and unavoidable impacts.

3.2 Modified Project

This discussion groups impact topics to allow a concise analysis of similar or related issue areas.

- **Aesthetics.** Similar to the Original Project, construction of the Modified Project would take place in a suburban setting surrounded by residential, institutional, and industrial development, as well as public rights-of-way. The area is not designated as a scenic vista or scenic resource under the City of Santa Clarita's General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element. The Modified Project would introduce a short additional pipeline segment along Cedarcreek Street and Santa Clara Street, within previously developed urban streetscapes. Installation of this segment is expected to take approximately 2 to 3 weeks and would occur within the Original Project's

overall construction duration of approximately 18–24 months. The Modified Project would not extend the overall construction period, nor would it introduce new sources of light, glare, or other construction-related impacts beyond those already evaluated for the Original Project. Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project would not obstruct views of the Santa Clara River or other scenic resources. During operation, the additional pipeline segment would be located entirely underground and would not alter the visual character of the area. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would not conflict with applicable zoning or regulations governing scenic quality and would not introduce new sources of light or glare. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new significant impact or a substantially more severe significant impact to aesthetics.

- **Agriculture and Forestry Resources.** Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project would not be located on land designated as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance.[2] Due to the absence of agricultural land on or near the Modified Project site, the project modification would not involve changes to the existing environment that could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new significant impact or a substantially more severe significant impact to agriculture and forestry resources.
- **Air Quality.** The Modified Project would involve a short extension of the Honby Tanks pipeline along Cedarcreek Street and Santa Clara Street, consisting of approximately 15 feet of new 30-inch pipe and 215 feet of upsized pipe from 14 inches to 30 inches, resulting in a slight increase in construction activity compared to the Original Project. As a result, the Modified Project would generate a slight increase in air pollutants. However, construction would be short-term (approximately 2 to 3 weeks) and would not involve substantially more intense activities or equipment. The Modified Project would continue to implement Mitigation Measure AQ-1, which requires unpaved demolition and construction areas to be wetted at least three times per day. This measure would reduce fugitive PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions by approximately 74 percent and ensure that localized air quality impacts remain less than significant. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new significant impact or in a substantially more severe significant impact to air quality.
- **Biological Resources.** The Modified Project would involve a short extension of the Honby Tanks pipeline along Cedarcreek Street and Santa Clara Street within a developed urban area. The Original Project site supports riparian and native scrub habitats and has the potential to support special-status plant and wildlife species. Construction activities were determined to potentially result in adverse effects to these resources, including direct impacts to sensitive vegetation communities and indirect impacts from erosion, runoff, and dust. These impacts were reduced to a less-than-significant level through implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-11, which include pre-construction surveys, biological monitoring, seasonal restrictions, and protective buffers for nesting birds. While the Original Project included some undeveloped areas with sensitive habitats, the Modified Project would be located entirely within a developed street and would not be located in undeveloped areas. However, because construction activities would still occur in habitat areas as part of the overall project, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-11 from the adopted Final IS-MND would continue to apply to the Modified Project and would ensure that potential impacts to special-status species, sensitive habitats, and nesting birds remain less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The Final IS-MND also concluded that the Original Project would not result in substantial effects to state- or federally-

[2] California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2022. California Important Farmland Finder. https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/ (accessed March 2023).

protected wetlands, wildlife movement corridors, or conflicts with local policies, ordinances, or conservation plans. The Modified Project would not alter these conclusions, as it would not affect new jurisdictional features or conflict with applicable biological resources policies. The mitigation measures identified in the Original Project would remain applicable to the Modified Project, and would ensure potential impacts to biological resources are less than significant. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new significant impact or in a substantially more severe significant impact to biological resources.

- **Cultural Resources.** A Cultural Resources Assessment Report Addendum was prepared for the Modified Project by Rincon Consultants in October 2025 (Appendix A). Rincon conducted a pedestrian field survey of the Original Project site and Modified Project site on July 19, 2022 and September 25, 2025. Rincon also reviewed the records and database search results originally conducted for the Original Project, which includes prior investigations such as the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search, the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File (SLF) search, and archival research.

  As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would not disturb historical resources and would not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would not disturb historical resources and would not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The Modified Project, similar to the Original Project, is located in an area with low potential for intact subsurface archaeological deposits and does not contain any previously recorded cultural resources within or adjacent to the project site. As concluded in the Cultural Resources Assessment Report Addendum, the Modified Project would not result in impacts to known cultural resources and is unlikely to encounter subsurface archaeological materials. In the event of an unanticipated discovery, the Modified Project would continue to implement Mitigation Measures CR-1 and CR-2, as well as TCR-1 through TCR-3, which would ensure that potential impacts to cultural and tribal cultural resources remain less than significant. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new impact or a substantially more severe impact to cultural resources. Construction of the Modified Project would also follow the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 procedures following the unanticipated discovery of human remains, as described in the adopted Final IS-MND. The mitigation measures identified in the adopted Final IS-MND would remain applicable to the Modified Project and would ensure potential impacts to cultural resources are less than significant. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new significant impact or a substantially more severe significant impact to cultural resources.

- **Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** The Modified Project would involve a short extension of the Honby Tanks pipeline along Cedarcreek Street and Santa Clara Street, resulting in a slight increase in construction activity compared to the Original Project. As a result, the Modified Project would generate a slight increase in greenhouse gas emissions and energy. Construction of the Modified Project would be short-term (approximately 2 to 3 weeks) and would not involve substantially more intense activities or equipment. The Modified Project would continue to implement Mitigation Measure AQ-1, which requires unpaved demolition and construction areas to be wetted at least three times per day. The Modified Project would not involve new operational activities or increase long-term energy demand. It would not result in wasteful or inefficient energy use, nor would it conflict with applicable plans or policies related to energy efficiency or greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Construction emissions would be temporary and amortized over the life of the project, consistent with the methodology used in the Original

Project analysis. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new significant impact or in a substantially more severe significant impact on energy or greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Geology and Soils.** The Modified Project would be subject to the same geologic conditions as the Original Project. Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project would be located within a liquefaction hazard zone and could experience seismic ground shaking during an earthquake. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project does not include habitable structures and would be constructed in accordance with applicable seismic design standards. In the event of ground failure such as lateral spreading, subsidence, or liquefaction, SCV Water would temporarily shut off the facility and conduct emergency repairs. The Modified Project would also be subject to the NPDES Construction General Permit, requiring a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan to minimize soil erosion and topsoil loss. Like the Original Project, the Modified Project is not located on expansive soils and would not require septic systems or alternative wastewater disposal. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new significant impact or a substantially more severe significant impact related to geology and soils.

- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials.** The Modified Project would involve similar excavation and construction activities as the Original Project. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project site is located near three former leaking underground storage tank cleanup sites, including locations at 27050 Ruether Avenue, 20727 Santa Clara Street, and 26971 Furnivall Avenue. Although these sites have been classified as "Completed–Case Closed" by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, the adopted Final IS-MND acknowledged that there is still a risk that hazardous materials from these sites may have infiltrated the underlying soils or groundwater. The Modified Project would continue to require implementation of Mitigation Measures HAZ-1 through HAZ-5, as included in the Original Project. These measures include preparation of a Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan, a Soil and Groundwater Management Plan, subsurface investigation protocols, remediation procedures, and groundwater disposal requirements. These measures would reduce potential hazardous material impacts to a less-than-significant level by ensuring proper handling, investigation, and disposal of potentially contaminated soil and groundwater, and by protecting construction worker health and safety. Additionally, the Modified Project would continue to implement Mitigation Measure HAZ-6, which requires preparation of a Traffic Control Plan to ensure emergency access is maintained during temporary lane closures. This measure would minimize potential interference with emergency response or evacuation plans during construction. Furthermore, as outlined in the Original Project, the use, transport, and storage of hazardous materials during construction of the project would be subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing hazardous materials. In operation, the Modified Project would not require the use, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials, similar to the Original Project. Therefore, the Modified Project would not involve new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials.
- **Hydrology and Water Quality.** The Modified Project would involve similar excavation and construction activities as the Original Project, including open-cut trenching and potential dewatering within the Santa Clara River bed. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would be subject to the NPDES Construction General Permit, which requires preparation and implementation of a SWPPP. The SWPPP would include best management practices (BMPs) such as silt fencing, erosion control blankets, and vehicle maintenance protocols to minimize erosion and prevent water quality degradation. The Modified Project would also continue to implement Mitigation Measures HAZ-2 through HAZ-5, which address soil and groundwater management,

subsurface investigation, remediation, and proper disposal of groundwater. These measures would ensure that any groundwater encountered during construction is properly evaluated and managed to prevent contamination of surface water or the underlying groundwater basin. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would not increase impervious surface area and would restore the site to pre-project conditions following construction. Therefore, it would not interfere with groundwater recharge or substantially alter drainage patterns. Dewatering activities, if required, would be temporary and short-term, and would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or impede sustainable groundwater management. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new or substantially more severe significant impact to hydrology and water quality.

- **Land Use and Planning.** As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would involve installation of an underground water pipeline within existing public rights-of-way and SCV Water-owned property and would not divide an established community. The Modified Project would not result in changes to existing land use or zoning designations and would not introduce new land uses or development that would conflict with the City of Santa Clarita General Plan. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 53091, the building and zoning ordinances of the city do not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the transmission of water by a local agency. The Original Project concluded that the project would not conflict with any applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new or substantially more severe significant land use impact.
- **Mineral Resources.** As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would be located in an area designated as Mineral Resource Zone 2 (MRZ-2), which indicates the presence of known mineral deposits of regional significance. The Modified Project would not include mineral extraction and would not affect the availability of minerals in this area. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to mineral resources.
- **Noise.** The Modified Project would involve similar excavation and construction activities as the Original Project, including open-trench pipeline installation and use of heavy equipment. As with the Original Project, construction would occur adjacent to sensitive receptors, including residences and Rio Vista Elementary School. Construction equipment anticipated to be used for the Original Project was modeled to generate a maximum hourly noise level of 78 dBA Leq at 100 feet from sensitive receptors, which is below the Federal Transit Administration's 80 dBA Leq threshold for an 8-hour period. The Modified Project would involve a short construction duration (approximately 2 to 3 weeks) and similar equipment to the Original Project and would therefore be expected to generate comparable or lesser noise levels. Similarly, the Modified Project would not result in excessive vibration impacts. Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project's construction activities would occur during permitted hours (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday), consistent with the Santa Clarita Municipal Code. No nighttime construction is proposed, and no operational noise impacts would occur, as the pipeline would be located underground and would not require new maintenance activities. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new or substantially more severe significant noise impact.
- **Population and Housing, Public Services, and Recreation.** The Modified Project would involve installation of a short segment of new pipeline and would not introduce new residential, commercial, or industrial development. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would not induce population growth, displace housing or people, or require construction of

replacement housing. Because the Modified Project would not result in population growth or increased demand for services, it would not affect fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities. Similarly, the Modified Project would not increase demand for recreational facilities or result in the construction or expansion of such facilities. Thus, as with the Original Project, the Modified Project would not result in an increase in population and housing, demand for public services, and demand for recreational facilities beyond that analyzed in the Original Project. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to these resources.

- **Transportation.** The Modified Project would involve similar excavation and construction activities as the Original Project, including temporary lane closures and construction-related vehicle trips. The Modified Project would generate daily trips during construction similar to the Original Project, including worker commutes, haul trucks, and equipment deliveries. The Original Project estimated a maximum of 48 daily trips, which is well below the City of Santa Clarita's threshold of 110 daily trips for requiring a VMT analysis. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in significant VMT impacts. The Modified Project would not alter roadway geometry or introduce incompatible uses. It would not conflict with adopted plans or policies related to transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. No transit stops, sidewalks, or bike lanes are located along the affected segment of Honby Avenue, and construction impacts would be temporary. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would require implementation of a Traffic Control Plan (Mitigation Measure HAZ-6) during temporary lane closures to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow and maintain emergency access. The plan would be reviewed and approved by the city, and as such, the Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to emergency access. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new or substantially more severe significant impact related to transportation.
- **Tribal Cultural Resources.** The Modified Project would generally involve similar excavation and construction activities as the Original Project and would be located in the same geographic area as the Original Project. As with the Original Project, no tribal cultural resources have been identified within the Modified Project site. A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search conducted by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the Original Project returned positive results, indicating the potential presence of tribal cultural resources within the broader USGS quadrangle. However, this does not confirm the presence of such resources within the project footprint. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would continue to require the implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-2, which includes procedures for unanticipated discovery of archaeological resources, and Mitigation Measures TCR-1, TCR-2, and TCR-3, which require Native American monitoring of ground-disturbing activities, procedures for unanticipated discovery of tribal cultural resources, and compliance with existing regulations outlined in California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 should human remains be inadvertently discovered during construction, respectively. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a new or substantially more severe significant impact related to tribal cultural resources.
- **Utilities and Service Systems.** The Modified Project would involve installation of a short segment of new pipeline and would not substantially increase water system capacity. Although the project itself represents a minor expansion of a water utility system, it would not require additional supporting utilities beyond what was analyzed for the Original Project. The Modified Project would not generate wastewater, require additional water supply, or result in increased solid waste generation beyond temporary construction-related waste. The Modified Project

would continue to comply with applicable regulations for solid waste disposal and would not conflict with federal, state, or local waste management policies. Thus, as with the Original Project, the Modified Project would not result in an increase in demand for utilities beyond that analyzed in the Original Project. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts to utilities and service systems.

- **Wildfire.** The Modified Project would be located in the same area as the Original Project, including portions of the hillside north of the Santa Clara River that are designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by CAL FIRE. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would involve construction activities in brush-covered open space vegetated with native plant communities, which are highly combustible. Potential ignition sources during construction may include sparks from exhaust pipes, contact of hot equipment with dry vegetation, and accidental spills of flammable materials. However, construction activities would be subject to standard fire safety protocols, including the use of on-site fire extinguishing equipment and compliance with applicable federal and state regulations governing hazardous materials handling. The Modified Project would not involve installation of fuel breaks, emergency water sources, or aboveground utilities that could exacerbate fire risk. It would also not introduce habitable structures or increase long-term fire exposure. Additionally, as with the Original Project, the Modified Project would implement a Traffic Control Plan (Mitigation Measure HAZ-6) to maintain emergency access during temporary lane closures, ensuring consistency with the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to wildfire.

3.3 Effects and Mitigation Measures

As described above, the Modified Project is consistent with the analysis of the adopted Final IS-MND and would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts beyond those identified in the adopted Final IS-MND. Mitigation measures identified in the adopted Final IS-MND would continue to be required with the Modified Project. Additionally, the Modified Project is consistent with the findings and conclusions of the adopted Final IS-MND regarding mandatory findings of significance.

4 Conclusion

As discussed in Section 3, *Impact Analysis*, there are no new or substantially more severe significant impacts associated with the Modified Project beyond those identified in the adopted Final IS-MND. Mitigation measures included in the adopted Final IS-MND are required to be implemented as part of the Modified Project. Implementation of all existing mitigation measures would ensure all impacts remain less than significant. This conclusion is consistent with the conclusions in the adopted Final IS-MND. Therefore, preparation of a Subsequent IS-MND is not necessary and the following determinations have been made:

- No further evaluation of environmental impacts is required for the Modified Project;
- No Subsequent IS-MND is necessary per *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15162; and
- This Addendum is the appropriate level of environmental analysis and documentation for the proposed project in accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15164.

Pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15164(c), this Addendum will be attached to the adopted Final IS-MND. Documents related to the adopted Final IS-MND, including this Addendum, are available on SCV Water's website at https://yourscvwater.com/departments/engineering/environmental-review.

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Appendix A

Cultural Resources Assessment Report Addendum

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
250 East 1st Street, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90012
213-788-4842

October 10, 2025
Project No: 24-15635

Wai Lan Lee, P.E., Engineer
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
26515 Summit Circle
Santa Clarita, California 91350
Via email: wlee@scvwa.org

Subject: Cultural Resources Assessment Report Addendum for the Honby Pipeline Project, Santa Clarita, California

Dear Ms. Lee:

The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) retained Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) to prepare a cultural resources assessment report addendum in support of the Honby Pipeline Project (project) in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County. The project involves the construction and operation of a new pipeline to convey water between the Honby Tanks and the Honby Booster Station. In 2023, SCV Water adopted an Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the pipeline extending from the existing Honby Tanks to the intersection of Honby Avenue and Santa Clara Street (herein referred to as the Original Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Since the adoption of the IS-MND for the Original Project, a 230-foot-long pipeline segment along Santa Clara Street (herein referred to as the Modified Project) has been added to the project. As such, an Addendum to the Original Project IS-MND is being prepared to assess the Modified Project pursuant to CEQA.

This cultural resources assessment addendum letter report was prepared to support SCV Water's CEQA documentation. The report summarizes the methods and results of California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search through the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), a geoarchaeological review, and cultural resources survey.

Project Background

In 2023, SCV Water adopted an IS-MND prepared for the Original Project pursuant to CEQA (SCV Water 2023; State Clearinghouse No. 2023090505). In support of the IS-MND, Rincon prepared a cultural resources assessment report (Montgomery et al. 2022) that summarized the methods and results of a CHRIS records search through the SCCIC, an SLF search through the NAHC, and a cultural resources survey. No cultural resources were identified within the Original Project site as a result of the 2022 cultural resources assessment. Although no cultural resources were identified within the Original Project site, Rincon recommended mitigation measures for Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training and unanticipated discovery protocols due to the moderate geoarchaeological sensitivity of the Original Project.

As part of the 2023 IS-MND, SCV Water engaged in Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) consultation with the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI) in March 2022. Although the FTBMI did not identify the presence of tribal cultural resources within the Original Project, they requested tribal monitoring of project-related ground disturbing activities, as well as unanticipated discovery protocols for tribal cultural resources and human remains.

Based on Rincon's cultural resources assessment for the Original Project and SCV Water's AB 52 consultation with FTBMI, the cultural resources and tribal cultural resources sections of the 2023 IS-MND included the following mitigation measures:

- **Cultural Resources Mitigation Measures**
  - CR-1: WEAP Training
  - CR-2: Unanticipated Discovery Protocols for Cultural Resources
- **Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measures**
  - TCR-1: Tribal Cultural Resources Construction Monitoring
  - TCR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resources
  - TCR-3: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains

Inclusion of these five mitigation measures in the Original Project's IS-MND would reduce potential impacts to historical, unique archaeological, and tribal cultural resources to less than significant.

Modified Project Location and Description

The Modified Project is located in the city of Santa Clarita in the west-central portion of Los Angeles County within Section 18 of Township 4 North, Range 15 West on the *Mint Canyon, CA* United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Attachment 1, Figure 1). Specifically, the Modified Project includes an approximately 230-foot-long segment of Santa Clara Street extending west from Honby Avenue (Attachment 1, Figure 2).

The Modified Project would install 15-linear-feet of new 30-inch-diameter pipe and 215-linear-feet of upsized 14- to 30-inch-diameter pipeline along a contiguous segment of Santa Clarita Street extending west from Honby Avenue. The pipe segments would be installed via open-cut trenching extending to a maximum depth of eight feet. The purpose of the additional pipeline extension is to connect the Honby Tanks pipeline to the Santa Clara Well pressure distribution zone, and to upsize the existing pipeline to alleviate the pressure bottleneck.

CHRIS Records Search

On January 19, 2022, a CHRIS records search for the Original Project were conducted by Rincon staff at the SCCIC, housed at California State University, Fullerton. The records search included a review of all previously recorded cultural resources and previous studies within the Original Project and a 0.5-mile radius, which includes the entirety of the Modified Project footprint.

Previous Cultural Resource Studies

The records search results indicate two previous studies, LA-01030 and LA-10560, overlaps the Modified Project site. Study LA-01030 is a cultural resources study prepared in 1981 by R.W. Robinson The study was not available from the SCCIC at the time of this study.

Study LA-10560 is a cultural resources study prepared in 2005 by SWCA Environmental Consultants as part of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report prepared for an arundo and tamarisk removal plan covering a 2,405-acre corridor along the Santa Clara River, a portion of which includes the southern portion of the Modified Project (Hunt and Schultz 2005). The study included a CHRIS records search, an SLF search through the NAHC, and Native American consultation. No cultural resources were identified within or adjacent to the Modified Project as a result of the study.

Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

The records search results indicate one historic- period archaeological resource (P-19-004452/CA-LA-4452H) was previously recorded within the 0.5-mile records search radius. No previously recorded cultural resources were identified within or immediately adjacent to (within 100 feet of) the Modified Project as a result of the 2022 CHRIS records search.

Sacred Lands File Search

The SLF search conducted for the Original Project by the NAHC on December 21, 2021, identified the presence of Native American cultural resources in the vicinity of the Original Project. Although details regarding the Native American cultural resources referenced in the SLF search were not provided, the NAHC recommended the FTBMI be contacted for further information. As part of the AB 52 process for the Original Project, SCV Water consulted with FTBMI resulting in the inclusion of mitigation measures TCR-1, -2, and -3 in the Original Project IS-MND discussed above.

Geoarchaeological Review

A geoarchaeological review was conducted to assess the potential for subsurface archaeological resources to be present within the Modified Project. Sources reviewed as part of this assessment include geologic maps and soil survey maps.

The geologic mapping indicates Holocene-age (11,650 years ago to present) gravel and sand of major stream channels (map unit Qg) is mapped at surface within the Modified Project (Dibblee and Ehrenspeck 1996). The Holocene-age alluvium was deposited during a period that entirely encompassed human occupation of the region. Although this geologic unit was deposited during a period that entirely encompassed human occupation of the area, it appears to represent high energy and dynamic alluvial deposits associated with the braided South Fork of the Santa Clara River as indicated by the large clastic particles (i.e., gravel).

Soils mapping indicates the soil series Cortina Sandy loam mapped at the surface within the Modified Project. Cortina Sandy Loam deposits are comprised of deep, excessively drained soils on alluvial fans and floodplains. These soils are formed in gravelly alluvium from mixed rock sources. Cortina Sandy Loam has a typical profile consisting of sandy loam from the ground surface to a depth of 12 inches below the ground surface (bgs), followed by gravelly sandy loam from 12 to 28 inches bgs, and very cobbly sandy loam from 28 to 60 inches bgs (USDA 2025).

The Holocene-age gravel and sand geologic unit mapped at surface within the Modified Project is of appropriate age to preserve subsurface archaeological deposits. However, the sand, gravel, and cobbles constituents of the geologic unit and soil types present in the Modified Project represent a high energy and dynamic landform associated with the braided Santa Clara River that is not conducive to the natural burial and preservation of subsurface archaeological deposits (Waters 1992:126). Further, the Modified Project is located within the Santa Clara Street right-of-way within an area of Santa Clarita comprised of residential and commercial development. The degree of previous ground disturbance within the Modified Project associated with the surrounding development would have destroyed or displaced archaeological deposits if once present. Therefore, the potential for encountering intact subsurface archaeological deposits during implementation of the Modified Project is low.

Field Survey

On September 25, 2025, Rincon Cultural Resources Specialists, Debbie Balam, B.A., and Catalina Niessen, B.A., conducted a pedestrian field survey of the Modified Project. The survey area included the additional pipeline segment along Santa Clara Street. Given the paved nature of the Modified Project, a reconnaissance survey approach was used to identify areas of visible ground surface.

Areas of visible ground surface were examined for artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools, ceramics, fire-affected rock), ecofacts (marine shell and bone), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden and features indicative of the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., standing exterior walls, postholes, foundations) or historical debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). Survey accuracy was maintained using a handheld Global Positioning System unit and a georeferenced map of the Modified Project site. Survey conditions were documented using field records and a digital camera. Copies of the survey notes and digital photographs are maintained digitally on Rincon's servers.

The Modified Project is located within the paved Santa Clara Street right-of-way, comprised of a two-lane road bounded by sidewalks with ornamental landscaping (Attachment 1, Figure 3 and Figure 4). The portions of the Modified Project site with ornamental landscaping were inspected had ground surface visibility ranging from 60 to 90 percent. The paved areas had no ground surface visibility. Modern debris was noted throughout the survey area; however, no cultural resources were identified as a result of the survey.

Conclusions and Recommendations

No cultural resources were identified within the Modified Project. The geoarchaeological review indicates the likelihood of encountering subsurface archaeological deposits during implementation of the Modified Project is low. As such, the Modified Project is not likely to result in new impacts to known or unknown cultural resources that qualify as historical resources or unique archaeological resources pursuant to CEQA. In the unlikely event that subsurface archaeological deposits or tribal cultural resources are encountered during construction of the Modified Project, implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the cultural resources and tribal cultural resources elements of the IS-MND prepared and adopted for the Original Project would reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Should you have any questions concerning this study, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 619-241-9238 or mvader@rinconconsultants.com.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Debbie Balam, BA
Archaeologist

Michael Vader, BA
Senior Archaeologist

Steven Treffers, MHP
Cultural Resources Director

Attachments

Attachment 1 Figures

References

Dibblee, T.W., and H.E. Ehrenspeck

1996 Geologic map of the Newhall quadrangle, Los Angeles County, California. Dibblee Geological Foundation.

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Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water)

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United State Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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1992 Principles of Geoarchaeology. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press.

Attachment 1

Figures

Figure 1 Regional Location

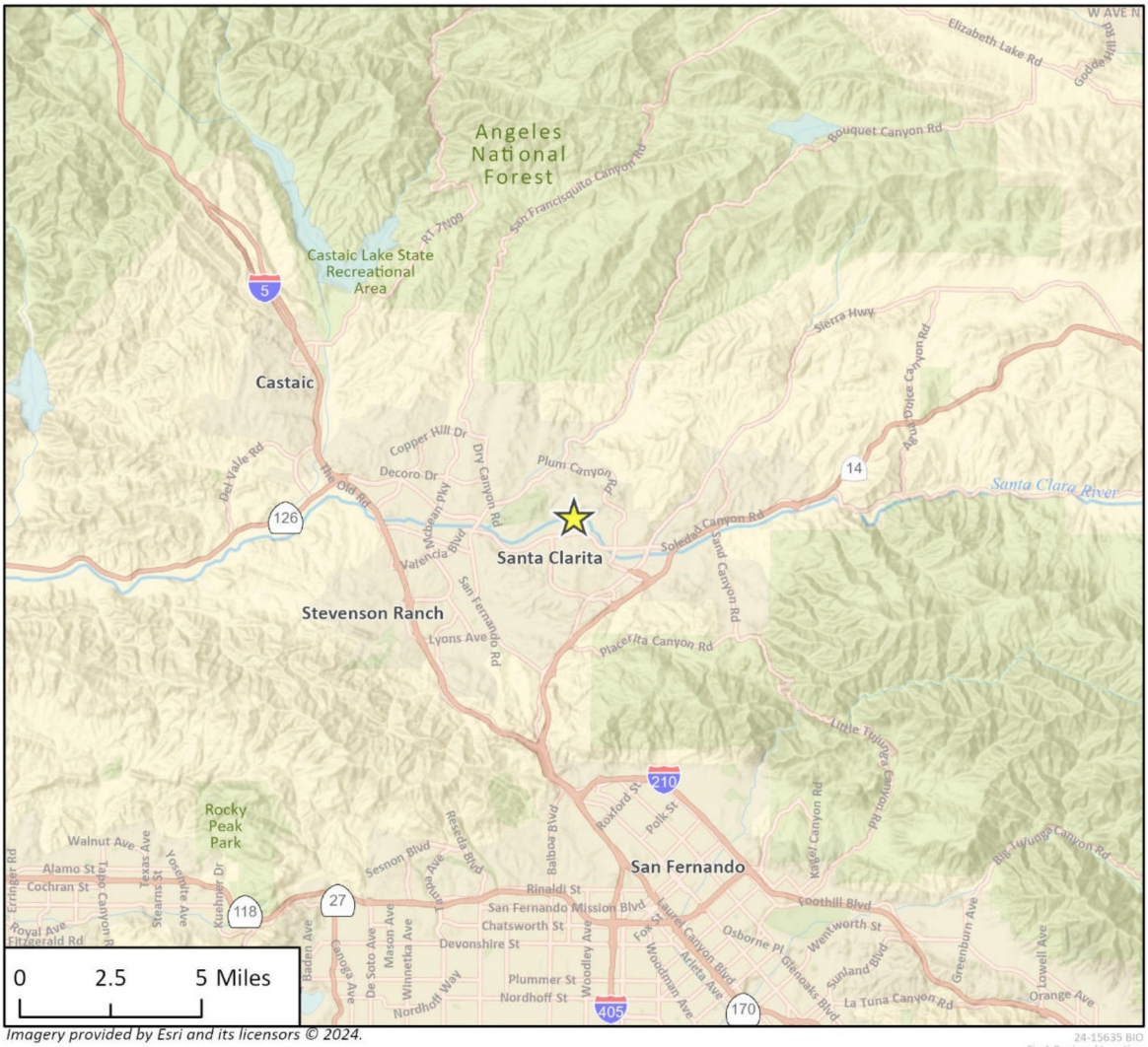

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Fig 1 Regional Location

Project Location

N

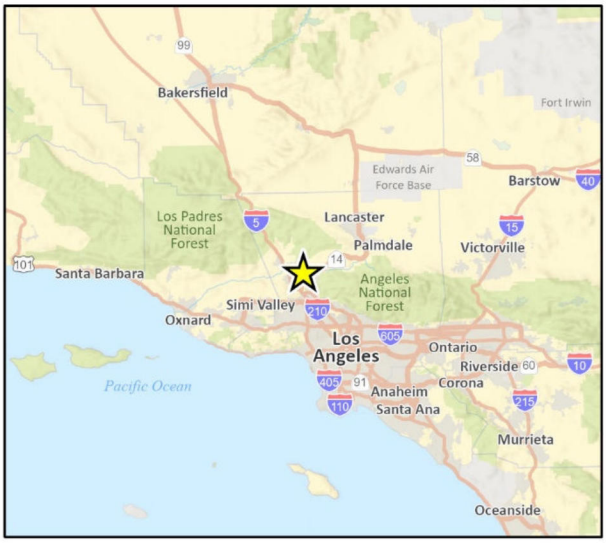

Figure 2 Project Location

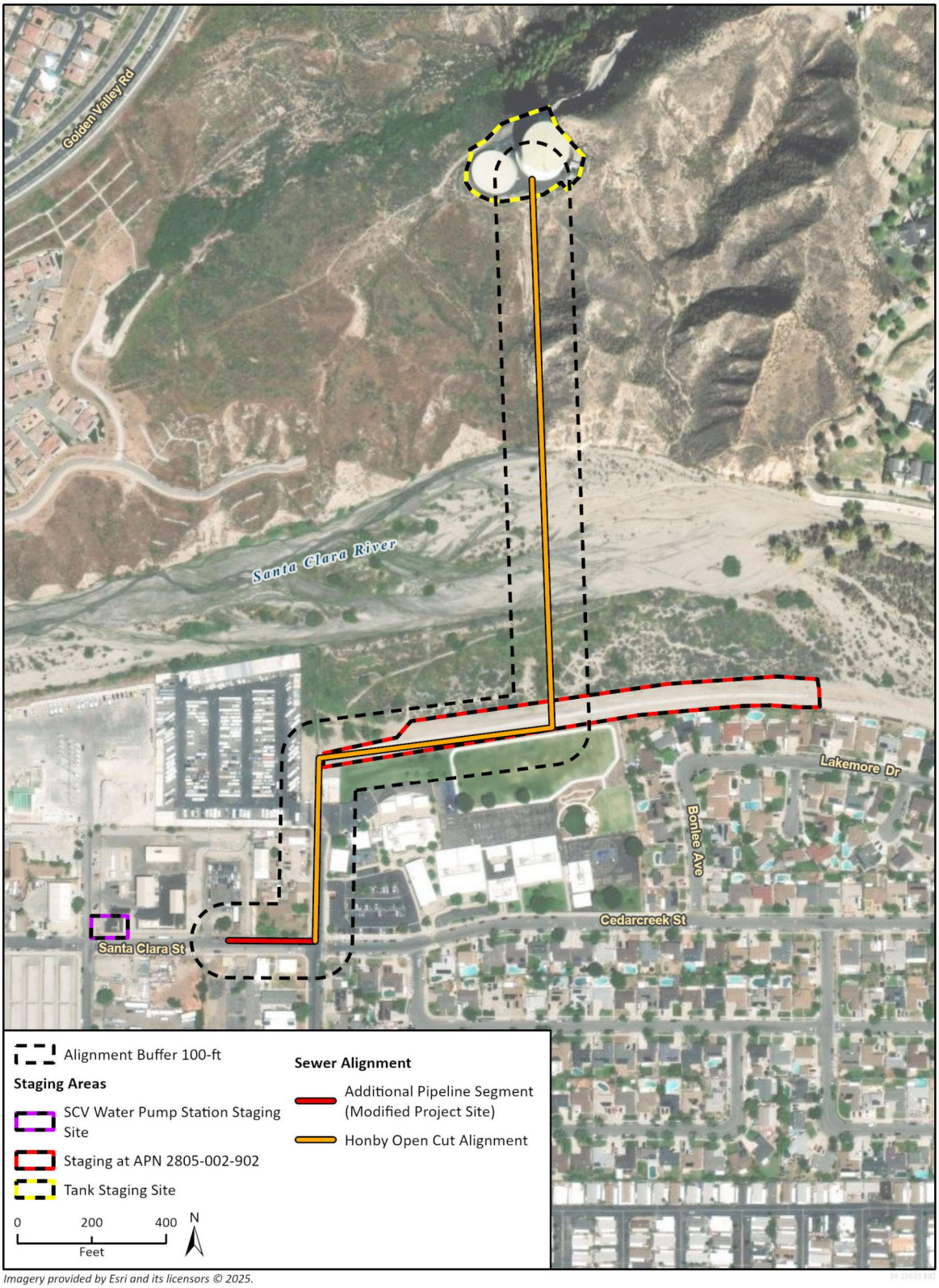

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Figure 3 Overview of the Modified Project site, View to West

Figure 4 Example of Ornamental Landscaping within the Central Portion of the Modified Project, View to East