



Sand Canyon Sewer Relocation Project

Final Addendum to the Initial Study – Mitigated
Negative Declaration

State Clearinghouse No. 2024030871

prepared by

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

26521 Summit Circle

Santa Clarita, California 91350

Contact: Wai Lan Lee, Project Manager

prepared with the assistance of

Rincon Consultants, Inc.

250 East 1st Street, Suite 1400

Los Angeles, California 90012

June 2025



RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.

Environmental Scientists | Planners | Engineers

rinconconsultants.com

Responses to Comments on the Draft Addendum No. 2

This section includes comments received during the circulation of the Draft Addendum to the Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft Addendum) for the Sand Canyon Sewer Relocation Project.

The Draft Addendum was circulated for a 31-day public review period that began on May 9, 2025 and ended on June 9, 2025. Two comment letters were received from agencies during the public review period. Table 1 presents the list of commenters, including the numerical designation, author, and date for each comment letter received. Comment letters have been ordered by the date they were received by the Santa Clarita Valley Water District (SCV Water).

Table 1 **List of Commenters**

Letter/Commenter No.	Commenter	Date
1	Yunsheng Su, PWA-WP Case Reviewer, Ventura County Public Works Watershed Planning and Permits Division	May 20, 2025
2	Miya Edmonson, LDR/CEQA Branch Chief, California Department of Transportation	June 2, 2025

The comment letters and responses follow. The comment letters are numbered sequentially and each separate issue raised by the commenter, if more than one, has been assigned a number. The responses to each comment identify first the number of the comment letter, and then the number assigned to each issue (Response 1.1, for example, indicates that the response is for the first issue raised in Comment Letter 1).

Letter 1



WATERSHED PROTECTION WATERSHED PLANNING AND PERMITS DIVISION 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California 93009

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 20, 2025

TO: Philip Hess, Case Planner
County of Ventura

FROM: Yunsheng Su, PWA-WP Case Reviewer

SUBJECT: RMA25-019
APN:083006132
CEQA Review Comments and Conditions

Pursuant to your request dated 5/15/2025, this office has reviewed the submitted materials and provides the following comments.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Location Map:



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) adopted the Final IS-MND for the Sand Canyon Sewer Relocation Project on October 1, 2024 (State Clearinghouse No. 2024030871). As originally proposed, the project includes construction of approximately 3,500 feet of 21-inch and 15-inch sewer pipeline along the north side of the Santa Clara River. The goal is to move the existing sewer line out of the river's flow path and into the adjacent overbank, and the project would involve abandoning the existing sewer line in place. The eastern end of the new sewer line will be within Sand Canyon Road, terminating near existing commercial areas, while the western end will connect to the existing line west of Mitchell Hill. The project will temporarily impact an area of about 104,000 square feet. Additionally, the project includes a 12-foot paved access road and bank protection for the new sewer line, with two 16-foot-wide bridges over drainage features. The bank protection will consist of an 8-foot-wide soil cement section with varied height, and the adjacent bed will be vegetated with native species. SCV Water now proposes modifications to the Original Project, referred to as the "Modified Project." The Modified Project includes an expansion of the project site, minor modifications and adjustments to the access road/multipurpose trail alignment, minor modifications and adjustments to the soil cement bank protection to include rock slope protection in three locations, the removal of the exposed portions of nine manholes from within the Santa Clara River channel, and new access routes from the southern bank of the Santa Clara River to the manhole locations. SCV Water has prepared an Addendum to the Final IS-MND for the Sand Canyon Sewer Relocation Project, and determined that the Modified Project would not result in a new significant environmental effect, or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified effects.

1.1
cont.

APPLICATION COMPLETENESS:

Complete - from our area of concern.

1.2

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS:

Item 31a. Flood Control Facilities/Watercourses – Ventura County Public Works Agency, Watershed Protection is deemed to be Less Than Significant.

The proposed project is situated about 65000 feet from the Santa Clara River, which is a WP jurisdictional redline channel. No new or modified direct stormwater drainage connections to this WP channel, activities within WP's easement, or activities over, under, or within the redline channel appear to be proposed or indicated on the applicant's submitted materials.

1.3

This proposed project would result in NO increase of impervious area within the subject property.

WP staff determines that the environmental impact is less than significant (LS) on redline channels under the jurisdiction of the Ventura County Public Works Agency - Watershed Protection.

WATERSHED PROTECTION COMMENTS:

None.

WATERSHED PROTECTION CONDITIONS:

None.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at Yunsheng.Su@Ventura.Org or by phone at [805-654-2005](tel:805-654-2005).

END OF TEXT.

1.4

Letter 1

COMMENTER: Yunsheng Su, PWA-WP Case Reviewer, Ventura County Public Works Watershed Planning and Permits Division

DATE: May 20, 2025

Response 1.1

The commenter provides a map of the project site and a summary of the proposed project.

This comment is noted. This comment does not contain a substantive comment on the analysis or conclusions of the Draft Addendum. No further response is required.

Response 1.2

The commenter states the project's application is complete from the division's area of concern.

This comment is noted. This comment does not contain a substantive comment on the analysis or conclusions of the Draft Addendum. No further response is required.

Response 1.3

The commenter states that the project would result in no increase of impervious area within the subject property, and that staff have determined the environmental impact to redline channels is less than significant.

This comment is consistent with the analysis and conclusions in the Draft Addendum. As discussed under Hydrology and Water Quality on page 17 of the Draft Addendum, the Modified Project would not result in an increase in impervious surfaces at the Modified Project site and the Modified Project would not result in a new or substantially more severe significant impact to hydrology and water quality.

Response 1.4

The commenter states there are no comments or conditions regarding watershed protection.

This comment is noted. This comment does not contain a substantive comment on the analysis or conclusions of the Draft Addendum. No further response is required.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**DISTRICT 7**

100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

PHONE (213) 269-1124

FAX (213) 897-1337

TTY 711

www.dot.ca.gov

Letter 2*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

June 2, 2025

Wai Lan Lee, P.E. Engineer
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
26521 Summit Circle
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

RE: San Canyon Sewer Relocation Project
SCH # 2024030871
Vic. LA-14/PM 33.4
GTS # LA-2024-04815-Addendum

Dear Wai Lan Lee:

2.1

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced environmental document. The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) adopted the Final IS-MND for the Sand Canyon Sewer Relocation Project on October 1, 2024 (State Clearinghouse No. 2024030871). As originally proposed, the project includes construction of approximately 3,500 feet of 21 inch and 15-inch sewer pipeline along the north side of the Santa Clara River. The goal is to move the existing sewer line out of the river's flow path and into the adjacent overbank, and the project would involve abandoning the existing sewer line in place. The eastern end of the new sewer line will be within Sand Canyon Road, terminating near existing commercial areas, while the western end will connect to the existing line west of Mitchell Hill. The project will temporarily impact an area of about 104,000 square feet. Additionally, the project includes a 12-foot paved access road and bank protection for the new sewer line, with two 16-foot-wide bridges over drainage features. The bank protection will consist of an 8-foot-wide soil cement section with varied height, and the adjacent bed will be vegetated with native species.

SCV Water now proposes modifications to the Original Project, referred to as the "Modified Project." The Modified Project includes an expansion of the project site, minor modifications and adjustments to the access road/multipurpose trail alignment, minor modifications and adjustments to the soil cement bank

2.1
cont. protection to include rock slope protection in three locations, the removal of the exposed portions of nine manholes from within the Santa Clara River channel, and new access routes from the southern bank of the Santa Clara River to the manhole locations.

We offer the following additional comments supplementing our April 11, 2024 letter (see attached):

2.2 The Modified Project would have a longer construction period than the Original Project (18 to 24 months instead of 4 months), resulting in more worker and equipment trips. However, due to the relatively short duration overall and minimal impact on transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities, it would not conflict with transportation policies or plans. Excavation and construction activities would be similar to the Original Project, and daily trip generation would remain below 110 trips, consistent with thresholds for less-than-significant VMT impacts per City of Santa Clarita guidelines. No incompatible uses would be introduced. Again, temporary one-lane closures on northbound Sand Canyon Road would be managed under a City-approved traffic control plan, ensuring no significant impacts to emergency access. Overall, the Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe transportation impacts.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin, the project coordinator, at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2024-04815-Addendum.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 269-1124
FAX (213) 897-1337
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

April 11, 2024

Amy Anderson, Project Manager
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
26521 Summit Circle
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

RE: San Canyon Sewer Relocation Project
SCH # 2024030871
Vic. LA-14/PM 33.4
GTS # LA-2024-04485-MND

Dear Amy Anderson:

2.3

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced environmental document. The Sand Canyon Sewer Relocation Project (hereby referred to as “proposed project” or “project”) involves the construction of approximately 3,500 linear feet of new 21-inch and 15-inch sewer pipeline along the north side of the Santa Clara River. An existing sewer line extends east from Vista Canyon Boulevard at the State Route 14 undercrossing within the Santa Clara River, crosses under the Sand Canyon Road bridge, and terminates approximately 600 feet east of the bridge.

2.4

Construction activities may cause a temporary increase in VMT, but it'll be short-lived and not significant. Once the project is up and running, there won't be any new maintenance activities compared to what's already there, so operational VMT won't increase. According to the City of Santa Clarita's guidelines, projects with fewer than 110 daily trips are considered to have minimal VMT impacts unless proven otherwise. Since this project won't exceed this threshold during construction or operation, its VMT impacts will be minimal and not significant.

2.5

Construction activities would require a temporary one-lane closure along northbound Sand Canyon Road. A traffic control plan would be submitted to the City for review and approval. Traffic control measures would be implemented during lane closures, including flaggers at both ends. Although construction of the proposed project would temporarily increase heavy vehicle trips to and from the project site, these trips would be localized and temporary and would not have potential to impede emergency access at the project

Amy Anderson, Project Manager

April 11, 2024

Page 2 of 2

2.5
cont. | site, as construction equipment staging, and worker parking would occur adjacent to Vista Canyon Boulevard and the northern bank of the Santa Clara River.

2.6 | Please be reminded that any work performed within the State Right-of-way will require an Encroachment Permit from Caltrans. Any modifications to State facilities must meet all mandatory design standard and specifications.

2.7 | Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin, the project coordinator, at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2024-04485-MND.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse

Letter 2

COMMENTER: Miya Edmonson, LDR/CEQA Branch Chief, California Department of Transportation

DATE: June 2, 2025

Response 2.1

The commenter provides a summary of the proposed project, and states the provided comments are in addition to comments provided on April 11, 2024.

This comment is noted. All comments provided in the letter dated June 2, 2025 and the letter dated April 11, 2024 are included below.

Response 2.2

The commenter provides a summary of the project changes, including the duration of construction and vehicle trips, and states that the Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe transportation impacts.

This comment is consistent with the analysis and conclusions in the Draft Addendum; as discussed under Transportation on page 18 of the Draft Addendum, the Modified Project would not involve a substantial increase in daily trips and would not exceed thresholds established in the City of Santa Clarita's Transportation Analysis Updates.

Response 2.3

In the April 11, 2024 letter, the commenter provides a summary of the proposed project.

This comment is noted. This comment does not contain a substantive comment on the analysis or conclusions of the Draft Addendum. No further response is required.

Response 2.4

The commenter states that the project would not exceed the applicable vehicle miles traveled (VMT) threshold of 110 daily trips, as established by the City of Santa Clarita's guidelines, during construction or operation and the project's VMT impacts would be less than significant.

This comment is consistent with the analysis and conclusions in the Draft Addendum. As discussed under Transportation on page 18 of the Draft Addendum, the Modified Project would not involve a substantial increase in daily trips and would not exceed the threshold of 110 daily vehicle trips established in the City of Santa Clarita's Transportation Analysis Updates.

Response 2.5

The commenter summarizes the temporary one-lane closure along northbound Sand Canyon Road that the project would require, and states that this closure would not have potential to impede emergency access at the project site.

This comment is consistent with the analysis and conclusions in the Draft Addendum. As discussed under Transportation of page 18 of the Draft Addendum, the temporary one-lane road closure

would require implementation of a traffic control plan, which would be reviewed and approved by the City. As concluded in the Draft Addendum, the Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to emergency access.

Response 2.6

The commenter states that work performed within the state's highway right-of-way would require an encroachment permit, and that modifications to state facilities must meet all mandatory design standards and specifications.

As discussed in the Project Description on page 4 of the Draft Addendum, and shown in Figures 2 and 3, the Modified Project would not involve modifications to State Route 14 but may require work in the area of potential effects, which may overlap with the state's right-of-way. SCV Water will comply with Caltrans encroachment permit requirements should work occur within the state right-of-way.

Response 2.7

The commenter states oversized-transport vehicles on state highways would require a Caltrans transportation permit, and recommends limiting large truck trips to off-peak commute periods.

Truck trips and deliveries during project construction will be limited to off-peak commute periods. SCV Water will comply with Caltrans transportation permit requirements if oversized-transport vehicles for the project use state highways.