

INITIAL STUDY and MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project

Prepared for:

San Geronio Pass Water Agency

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ACRONYMS

AB 52	Assembly Bill 52
AQ	Air Quality
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
AWWA	American Water Works Association
BAR	Biological Assessment Report
BMP	Best Management Practices
BSA	Biological Study Area
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish & Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGP	Calimesa General Plan
CH ₄	Methane
CLTC	County Line Transportation Corridor
CMC	Calimesa Municipal Code
CMA	Calimesa Management Area
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CO ₂ E	Carbon dioxide equivalent
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
DOC	Department of Conservation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substance Control
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EBX	East Branch Extension
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GMA	Groundwater Management Agency
GP	General Plan
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
gpm	Gallons per minute
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
IS	Initial Study
LF	Linear Feet
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
LRZ	Local Responsibility Zone
LST	Localized significance threshold
MM	Mitigation measure
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility

MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
MTCO ₂ E/year	Metric tonnes per year of carbon dioxide equivalents
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
N ₂ O	Nitrous oxide
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	Oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PCC	Portland cement-concrete
PM-2.5	Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PM-10	Particulate matter 2.5 to 10 microns in diameter
PRC	Public Resources Code
QSD	Qualified SWPPP Developer
QSP	Qualified SWPPP Practitioner
RCA	Riverside Conservation Authority
ROW	Right-of-way
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAWPA	Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
SBVMWD	San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (San Bernardino Valley)
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SGPWA	San Geronio Pass Water Agency
SLF	Sacred Lands File
SMWC	South Mesa Water Company
SO ₂	Sulfur dioxide
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SRZ	State Responsibility Zone
SWP	State Water Project
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USACE	Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VMT	Vehicles miles traveled
VOC	Volatile organic compounds
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program
Yucaipa SGMA	Yucaipa Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency

I. INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.), the *CEQA Guidelines* (California Code of Regulations Sections 15000 et seq.). San Geronio Pass Water Agency is the lead agency and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), City of Calimesa, and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (San Bernardino Valley) are the responsible agencies for CEQA purposes.

Section 15063(c) of the State *CEQA Guidelines* lists the following purposes of an Initial Study (IS):

1. *Provide the Lead Agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an EIR or a negative declaration;*
2. *Enable an applicant or Lead Agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is prepared, thereby enabling the project to qualify for a negative declaration;*
3. *Assist in the preparation of an EIR, if one is required;*
4. *Facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of a project;*
5. *Provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in a negative declaration that a project will not have a significant effect on the environment;*
6. *Eliminate unnecessary EIRs; and*
7. *Determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used with the project.*

According to Section 15070 (Decision to prepare a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration [MND]) of Article 6 (Negative Declaration Process) of the *CEQA Guidelines*:

A public agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed negative or mitigated negative declaration for a project subject to CEQA when:

- a) *The initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, or*
- b) *The initial study identified potentially significant effects, but:*
 - 1) *Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to by the applicant before a proposed mitigated negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and*
 - 2) *There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.*

The purpose of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is to assess at a project level, the potential for any significant environmental effects and impacts resulting from the construction and operation associated with the adoption of the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project ("Project").

This IS/MND is organized as follows:

1. Introduction, which provides the context for review along with applicable citation pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines and discusses the purpose and need for the project.
2. Project Description describes the proposed project.
3. Environmental Checklist Form, which as suggested in Section 15063(d)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines provides an environmental impact assessment consisting of the environmental checklist from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines and accompanying analyses for responding to the checklist questions. The Form is used to evaluate whether or not there are any significant environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed Project.
4. CEQA-Plus Federal Cross-Cutters Analysis (CEQA-Plus), addresses the requirements of CEQA-Plus and provides project analysis for environmental review and federal coordination.
5. References, which includes a list of reference sources, the location of reference material used in the preparation of this IS/MND and CEQA-Plus document and identifies those responsible for preparation of the IS/MND and other parties contacted during the preparation of the IS/MND.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Initial Study analyzes the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project (the Project). This Initial Study analyzes the construction and operation of the Project at a project-level. Because this Initial Study evaluates construction and operation of the Project at a project-level, subsequent CEQA review is not required prior to construction of the facilities.

Purpose and Need

The Project is a collaborative effort between the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) and San Bernardino Valley, both of which are State Water Contractors to provide imported water to disadvantaged communities located within the Cities of Calimesa and Yucaipa, and the severely disadvantaged communities served by a small mutual water company in Calimesa called South Mesa Water Company (SMWC). The Project consists of new water conveyance pipelines, a new groundwater recharge basin to benefit the Calimesa Management Area (CMA) of the Yucaipa Groundwater Subbasin using State Water Project water, and a new connection on the East Branch Extension (EBX) pipeline. Part of this Project, specifically the repurposed pipeline has previously been evaluated in the County Line Transportation Corridor (CLTC) Addendum to IS/MND, adopted in August 2022, included as **Appendix G** of this IS/MND, herein incorporated by reference as CLTC Addendum.

The Project is consistent with and supported by the Yucaipa Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency (Yucaipa SGMA) and its Yucaipa Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), which was approved by DWR as of January 18, 2024. The purpose of the GSP is to prevent undesirable results and increase groundwater replenishment to the Yucaipa Subbasin. This Project will help prevent a net decline of groundwater levels by facilitating recharge of imported State Water Project water supplies when they are available to an area that previously did not have access to such supply. As a result of this Project, San Bernardino Valley and SGPWA as member agencies of the Yucaipa SGMA, will have infrastructure to store water and provide a reliable source of water during drought emergencies, leaving the communities of Calimesa and Yucaipa less vulnerable to drought restrictions and the groundwater basin at less risk of future groundwater level declines as climate change progresses.

The Project components include the turnout facility, conversion/construction/replacement of potable and non-potable pipelines, recharge basin, elevation control basin, monitoring well, and street improvements. Components of the Project will be located within the City of Calimesa, Riverside County (**Figure 1 – Regional Location, Figure 2 – Vicinity Map, and Figure 3 – Topographic Map**).

The following Project components, which are described below, will be constructed over a period of approximately one year. **Figure 4 – Project Site** depicts the location of these components. Overall, the Project will include repaving approximately 16,495 square feet of existing paved surfaces, and new impervious areas totaling 29,530 square feet; 18,230 square feet will occur onsite (within recharge basin property), and 11,300 square feet will occur offsite (within Buena Vista Court and 4th Street). Operation and maintenance (O&M) activities of the proposed facilities are included in this analysis. They will vary depending on the Project component.

Construction of Turnout Facility at EBX Pipeline

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) owns and operates the EBX pipeline which conveys water from the State Water Project (SWP) into the Project service area. The existing 16-inch diameter turnout nozzle on the 54-inch diameter EBX pipeline is located at the southwest corner of Bryant Street and County Line Road in the City of Calimesa. San Bernardino Valley will connect to the existing 16-inch diameter nozzle and route the flow to the existing 14-inch pipeline in County Line Road with a maximum turnout capacity of 10 cubic feet per second (cfs). The pressure will need to be reduced from the EBX pipeline to the existing 14-inch diameter pipeline, so a vault will be installed with an energy dissipation valve and a flow meter. After the energy dissipation valve, a weir structure vault will be installed. Water will flow from the EBX through the turnout, to the flowmeter, to the energy dissipation valve, and then fill the weir structure. The weir structure will have a stub-out to connect to the existing 14-inch pipeline in County Line Road. The vault and weir box structure will be located on private property, and San Bernardino Valley has obtained a temporary construction easement and a permanent easement. The total disturbance area is approximately 1,942 SF, of which 1,230 SF is on private property and the remainder is within City right-of-way (ROW). In addition, San Bernardino Valley is actively working towards establishing a turnout agreement with DWR.

FIGURE 1

Regional Location

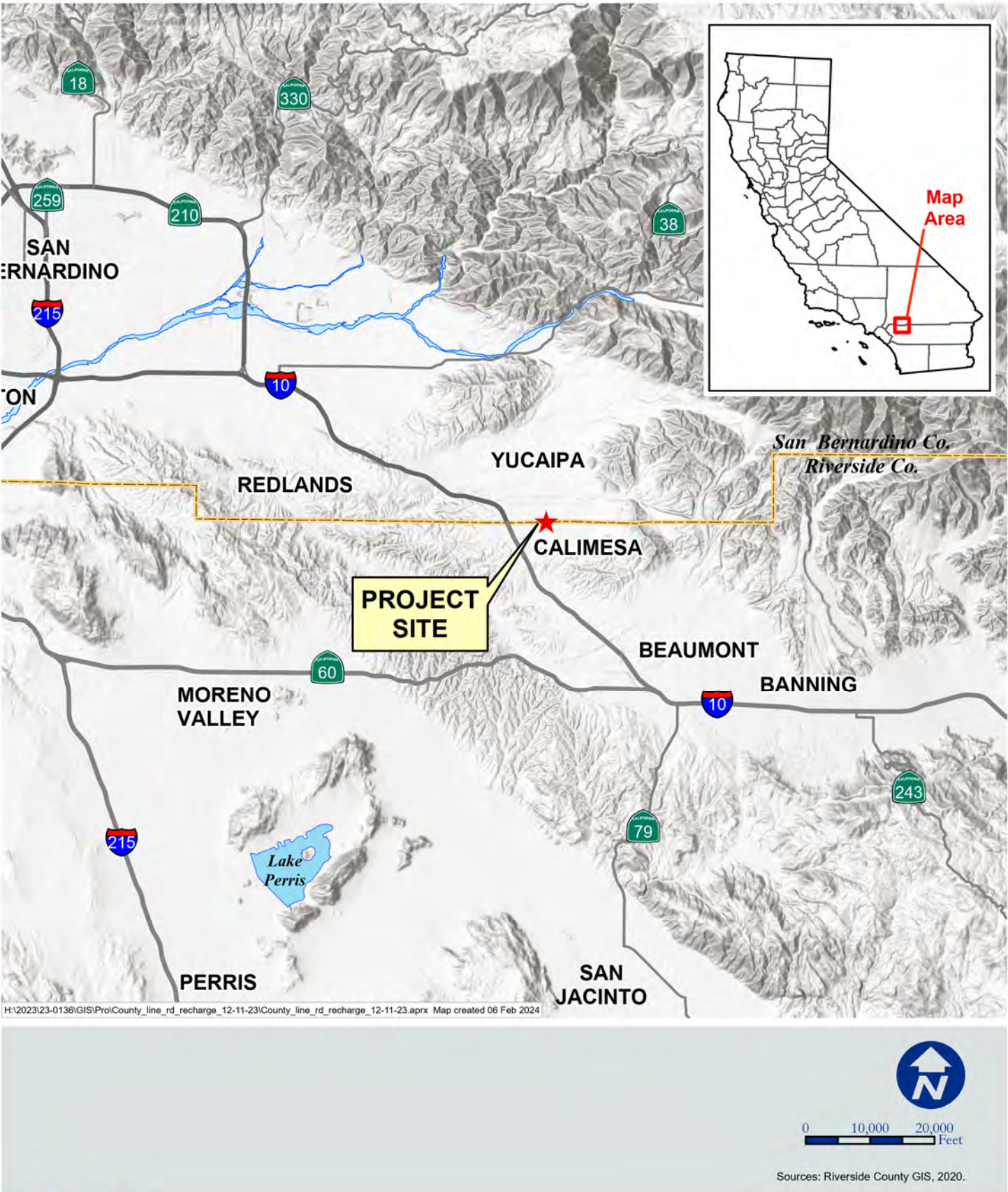
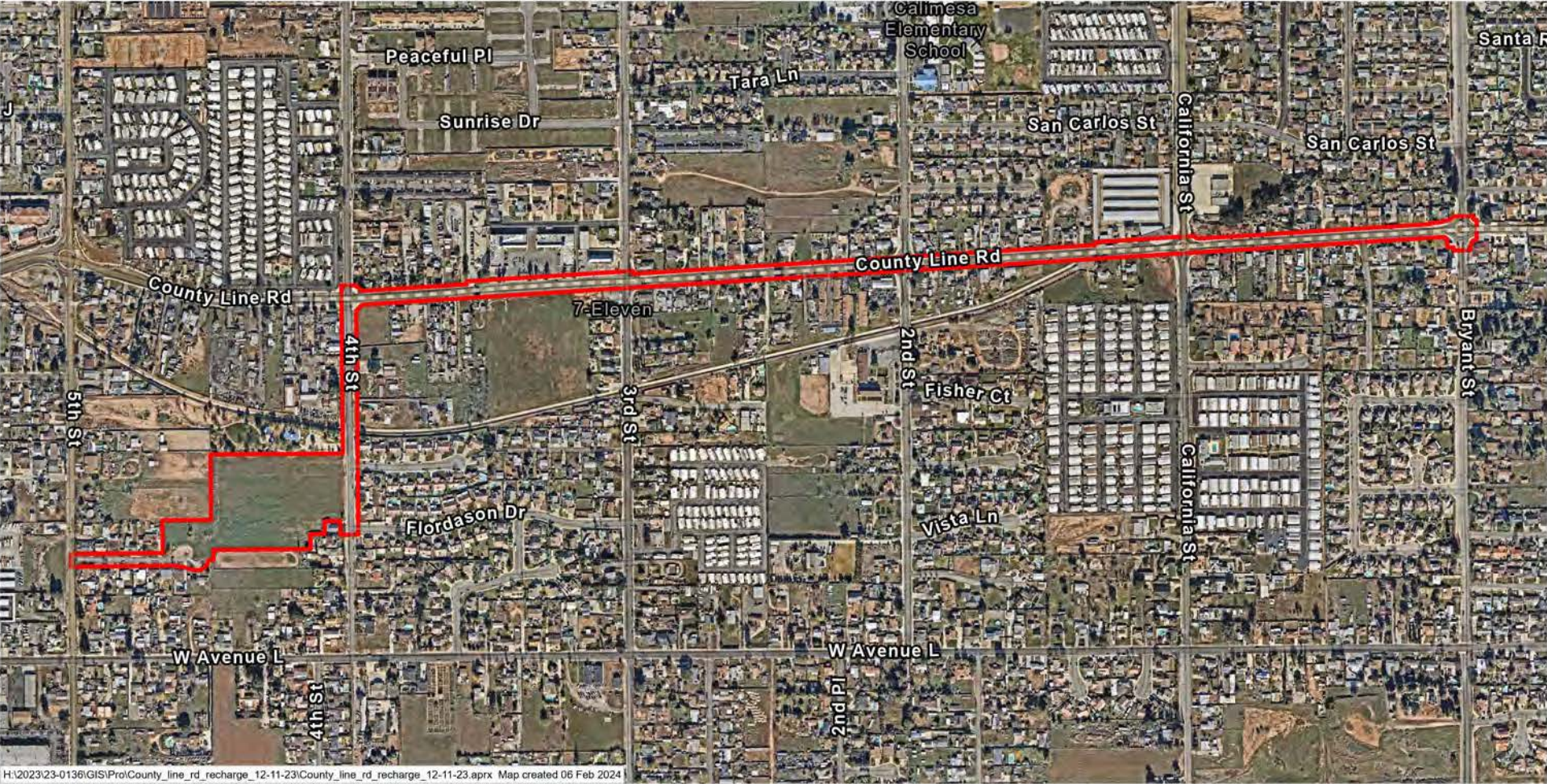


FIGURE 2

Vicinity Map



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 Project Site

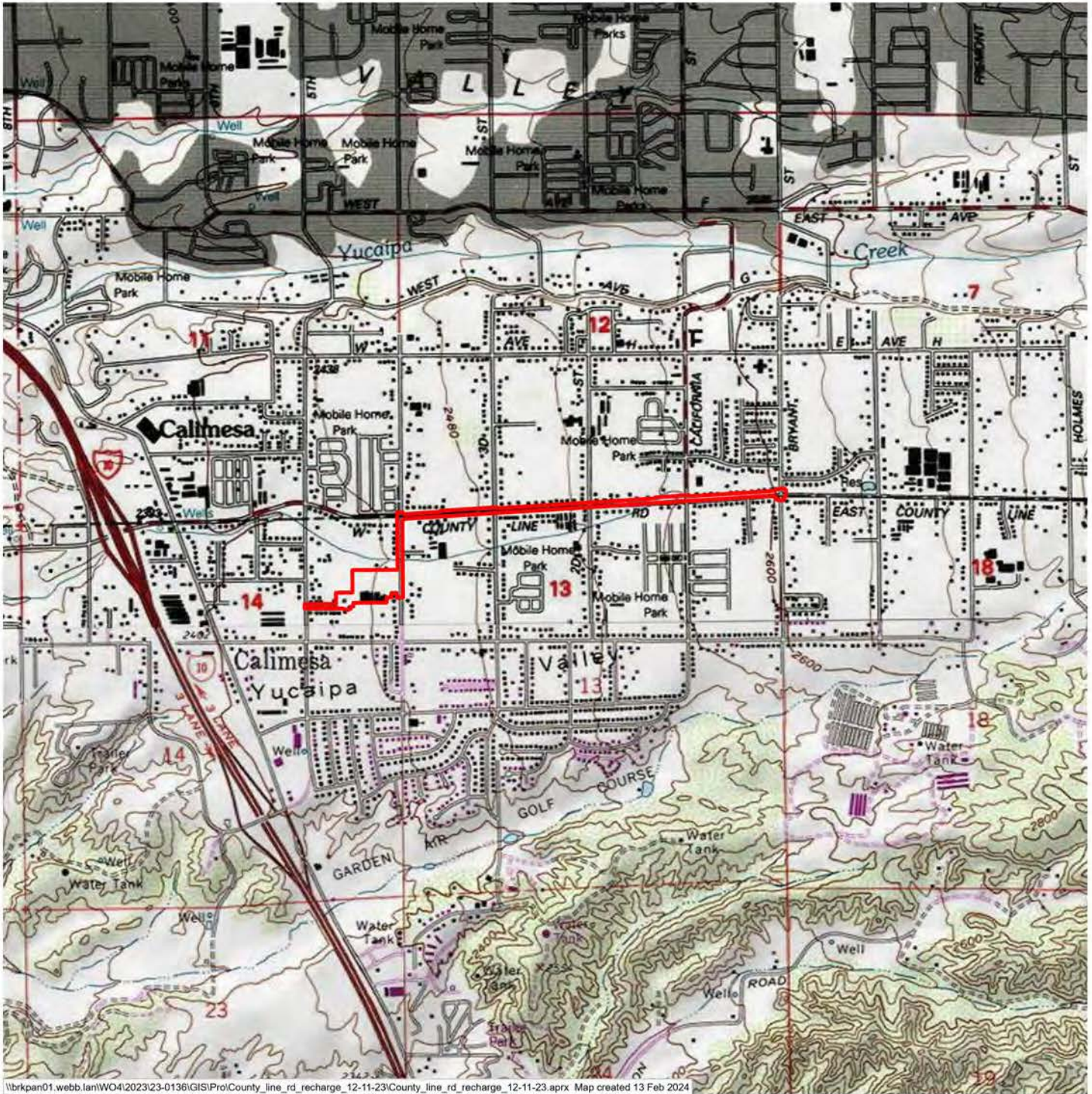


0 387.5 775 Feet

Sources: Nearmap, 2024.

FIGURE 3

Topographic Map



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LEGEND

Project Site



0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Sources: ESRI / USGS 7.5min Quads: YUCAIPA, Sections: 11, 12, 13, 14, 18; Township: 02 South; Ranges: 02 West and 01 West.

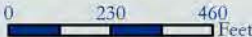
FIGURE 4

Project Site



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 Project Site

Sources: Nearmap, 2024.

Conversion of Existing 14-inch Potable Pipeline

Water will flow by gravity from the weir structure constructed at the EBX turnout to an existing 14-inch diameter potable water pipeline located in County Line Road from Bryant Street to 4th Street for approximately 5,300 linear feet. This existing water pipeline is currently owned by SMWC. This 5,300-foot section of existing pipeline will be abandoned by SMWC as part of this Project and ownership conveyed to SGPWA. SGPWA, as the new owner of this section of pipeline, will convert the pipeline to a non-potable raw water pipeline conveying diverted EBX SWP water. As part of the conversion process, SGPWA will evaluate the pipe's integrity to determine if repairs and/or sliplining¹ are needed which would take place within the existing Project footprint. Inspection and access to the pipeline would require several manholes dug along the pipeline alignment. The manholes would be permanent access points and can be used for inspections in the future. In exchange for SMWC transferring ownership of this pipeline, SGPWA will provide SMWC one-acre of land adjacent to the new groundwater recharge basin. The Project includes land division of APN 411-150-027 in order for SGPWA to convey one-acre to SMWC. SMWC will utilize the one-acre property as they see fit and to be determined at a later date. Any future uses of this one-acre property transfer will be determined and permitted by SMWC separately and is not a part of the Project.

Construction of Proposed Non-Potable Pipeline in 4th Street

In order to connect the EBX SWP water to the new groundwater recharge basin discussed below, SGPWA will construct a new segment of 14-inch diameter non-potable pipeline within 4th Street for a length of approximately 1,072 linear feet with a maximum excavation depth of 6 feet, aside from the channel crossing at 13 feet depth. This new extended pipeline in 4th Street will cross under the Calimesa Channel, which may require notification to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) by SGPWA. The trenchless method of jack and bore drilling will be used to install the pipe underneath Calimesa Channel with entry and exit pits dug on either side of the channel located within the 4th street ROW. The approximate disturbed area width will be 40 feet. The extended pipeline will connect the converted 14-inch diameter pipeline in County Line Road to the proposed recharge basin.

Construction of Proposed 8-inch Potable Pipeline

There is an existing South Mesa Water Company potable water main that crosses the proposed SGPWA recharge basin; the pipeline segment that is within the Project boundary will be abandoned. SGPWA will construct a new 8-inch diameter potable water line from the existing water main south for a length of 469 linear feet along the Project's westerly boundary to an existing potable water main located in Buena Vista Court. This will support a looping connection from Buena Vista Court to 5th Street.

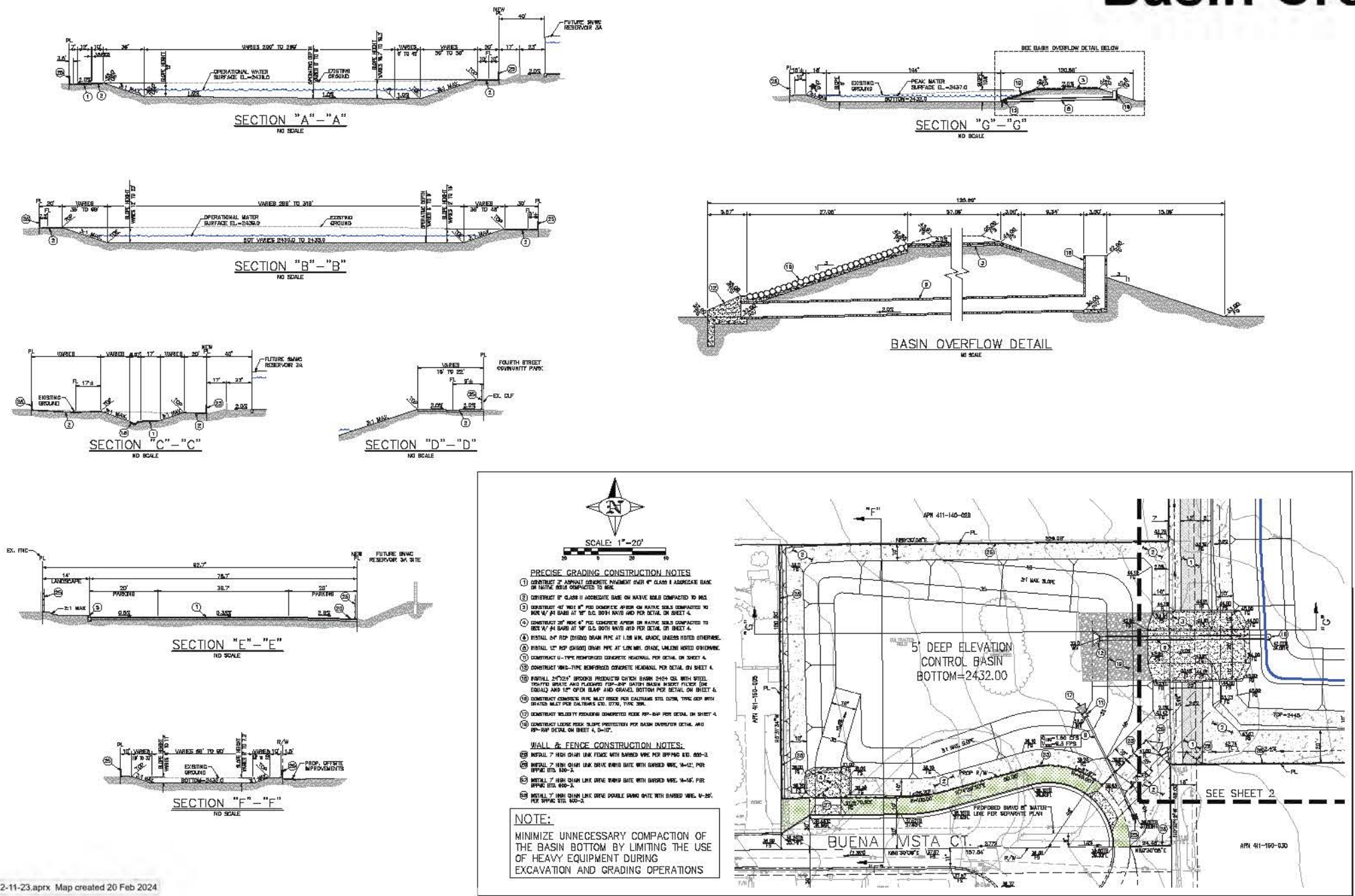
Construction of Proposed Recharge Basin

Water from the proposed non-potable pipeline in 4th Street will flow to the proposed recharge basin that will be located on the west side of 4th Street between County Line Road and Avenue L in the City of Calimesa on Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 411-150-027, as shown on **Figure 5 – Basin Cross Section**, which is owned by SGPWA. APN 411-150-027 is a 7.1-acre gross (6.7-acre net) parcel that contains vacant land historically used for dry farming and currently fallow agricultural land. Excavation of the recharge basin is expected to generate approximately 72,000 cubic yards of export.

¹ Sliplining pipe is a trenchless underground pipe rehabilitation technique that involves installing a pipe of a slightly smaller diameter into the larger host pipe.

FIGURE 5

Basin Cross Section



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The location of the exported fill is assumed to be at the San Timoteo Canyon landfill located approximately 11 miles from the basin site. The expected route of the exported fill trucks will be W County Line Road, I-10 W to Live Canyon Road to San Timoteo Canyon Road to Refuse Road.

The proposed recharge basin would have an approximate storage capacity of 16.8 acre-feet² and 2.6 acres of infiltrating surface area at the proposed 6 to 9-foot operating depth. The total estimated recharge is calculated using the infiltrating surface area and an assumed infiltration rate of 1.5 feet per day which provides 1,420 acre-feet per year of recharge (based on 2 cfs flow rate for 365 days). The maximum flowrate into the basin would be 10 cfs. Once constructed, the basin will have an earthen bottom and side slopes, vary between 6 to 9 feet deep with maximum 3:1 side slopes. The area around the edge of the basin will be landscaped with trees, shrubs, succulents, perennials, and wood mulch ground cover. There will also be a paved entrance and parking area, class 2 base access drive lanes, perimeter fencing, and gates. The total landscaping will be 2,785 SF onsite in the parking area near the entrance to the recharge basin from 4th Street, in addition to 2,928 SF offsite parkway landscaping within the ROW of Buena Vista and 4th Street.

Construction of Proposed Elevation Control Basin

A second, smaller “elevation control” basin will also be constructed on APN 411-150-027 by SGPWA for the unlikely event the recharge basin overflows. If the recharge basin were to overflow, then water would flow down Buena Vista Court to 5th Street and into an existing storm drain located at the northeast corner of 5th Street and Avenue L. The elevation control basin will not be used for groundwater recharge purposes. Therefore, an infiltration rate and total recharge is not available. The elevation control basin will be earthen, with a surface area of 0.25 acres, operating at a maximum depth of 5-feet and an approximate storage capacity of 1.7 acre-feet to maximum ponding depth. The area around the edge of the elevation control basin will be landscaped with trees, shrubs, succulents, perennials, and wood mulch ground cover.

Construction of Proposed Scientific Groundwater Monitoring Well

To evaluate groundwater levels in the CMA of the Yucaipa Subbasin, San Bernardino Valley and SGPWA propose a new scientific groundwater monitoring well on the recharge basin site. The monitoring well will provide data on how much supplemental water is recharged, help agencies determine the net benefit, and evaluate groundwater quality for human consumption through this Project. The monitoring well would also be used to fill groundwater data gaps for the Yucaipa SGMA. The monitoring well will be located within APN 411-150-027 at a location to be determined according to U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) standards at a nested well depth of up to 1,000 feet.

Construction of Proposed Road Improvements

The Project includes asphalt re-paving of the road and creating a combination of crown and asphalt drainage berms with grading along Buena Vista Court for approximately 600 feet. Crown and raised curbs with asphalt along 4th Street will be installed for approximately 367 feet. These road improvements are needed to facilitate SGPWA access and maintenance of the recharge and elevation control basin. Unpaved surfaces that will be paved as part of the Project total 29,530 square feet. SGPWA will obtain an encroachment permit from City of Calimesa for this task, which is a ministerial approval process with the City. The encroachment permit process includes review of traffic control

² One acre-foot of water is equivalent to 325,851 gallons.

plans, street plans, and frontage improvement plans. Parkway landscaping will be included in these improvements.

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III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project title: **County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project**

2. Lead Agency name and address:

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA)
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223
(951) 845-2577

3. Responsible Agencies name and address:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-0411

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-5791

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
380 East Vanderbilt Way
San Bernardino, CA 92408
(909) 387-9200

4. Contact person email address and phone number:

Mr. Emmett Campbell, Senior Water Resources Planner
ECampbell@sgpwa.com
(951) 845-2577

5. Project location:

The County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project is within the City of Calimesa. Refer to Section 2 – Project Description and **Figure 1 –Regional Location**, **Figure 2 – Vicinity Map**, and **Figure 3 – Topographic Map** and **Figure 4 – Project Site** for more details.

6. Project sponsor's name and address:

The proposed Project is a joint endeavor between the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223
(951) 845-2577

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
380 East Vanderbilt Way
San Bernardino, CA 92408
(909) 387-9200

7. General Plan Land Use Designation:

The City of Calimesa uses a single General Plan Land Use/ Zoning Map, divided into several zoning districts with more specific land use designations under each category. The City of Yucaipa also uses a single General Plan Land Use/Zoning Map in which the General Plan Land Use Designations and Zoning Categories are the same. Therefore, Yucaipa does not have a separate zoning map.

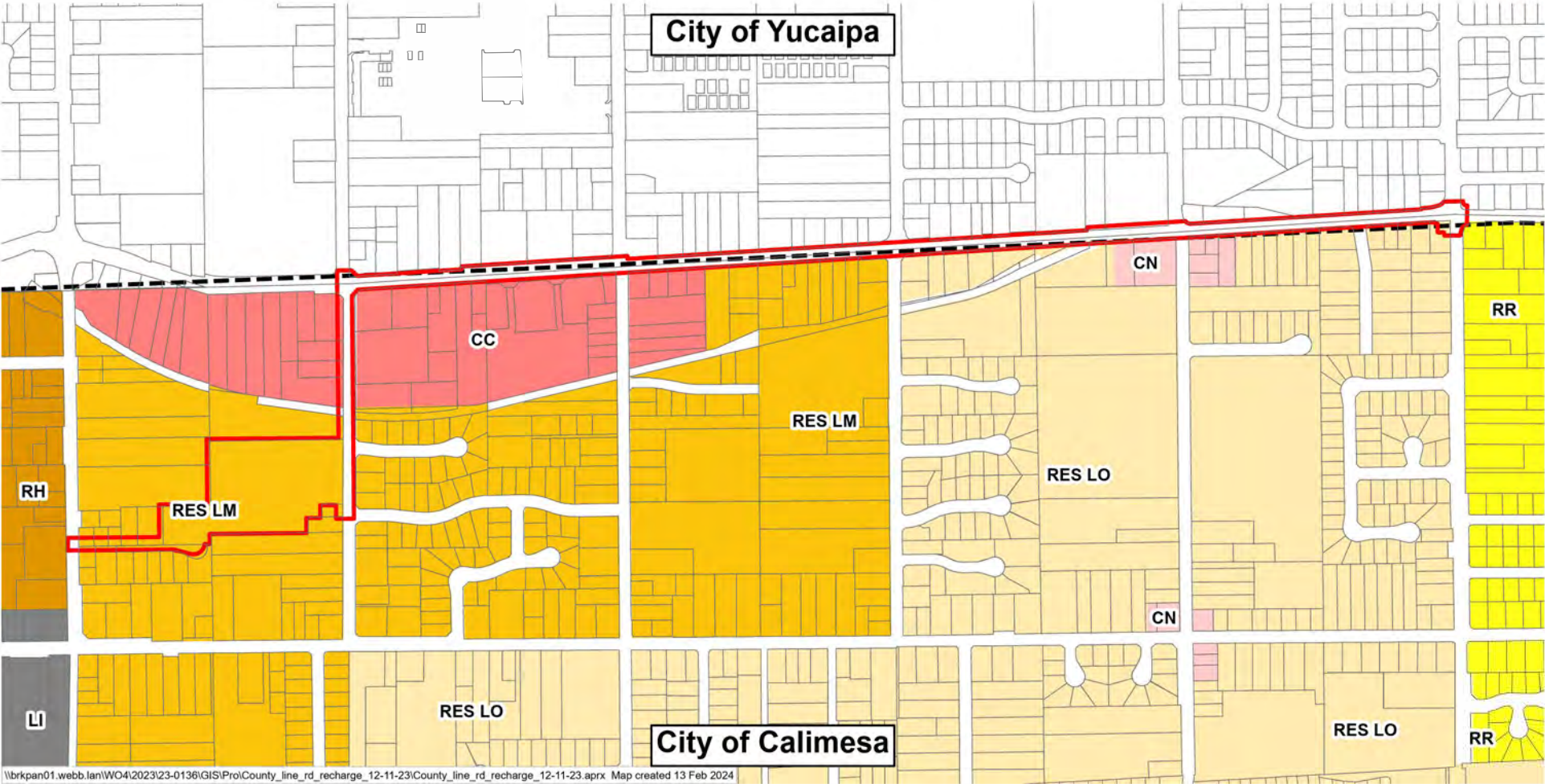
Land use designations of properties adjacent to the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project are shown on **Figure 6a – Calimesa General Plan Land Use Designations** and **Figure 6b – Yucaipa General Plan Land Use Designations** and listed below in **Table A – General Plan Land Use Designations**.

Table A – General Plan Land Use Designations

Project Component	Calimesa General Plan Land Use	Yucaipa General Plan Land Use
Turnout Facility at EBX Pipeline	RR – Residential Rural RES-LO – Residential Low	RS-10M – Multiple Residential
County Line Road Pipeline	RES-LM – Residential Low Medium RES-LO – Residential Low CN – Commercial Neighborhood CC – Commercial Community	CG – General Commercial RS-10M – Single Residential RM- 10M – Multiple Residential
4 th Street Pipeline	CC – Commercial Community RES-LM – Residential Low Medium	RM- 10M – Multiple Residential
Recharge Basin and Elevation Control Basin	RES-LM – Residential Low Medium	n/a
Buena Vista Court Improvements	RES-LM – Residential Low Medium	n/a

FIGURE 6a

Calimesa General Plan Land Use Designation



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Project Site

County Boundary

Calimesa General Plan Land Use

Residential Rural

Residential Low

Residential Low Medium

Residential High

Commercial Neighborhood

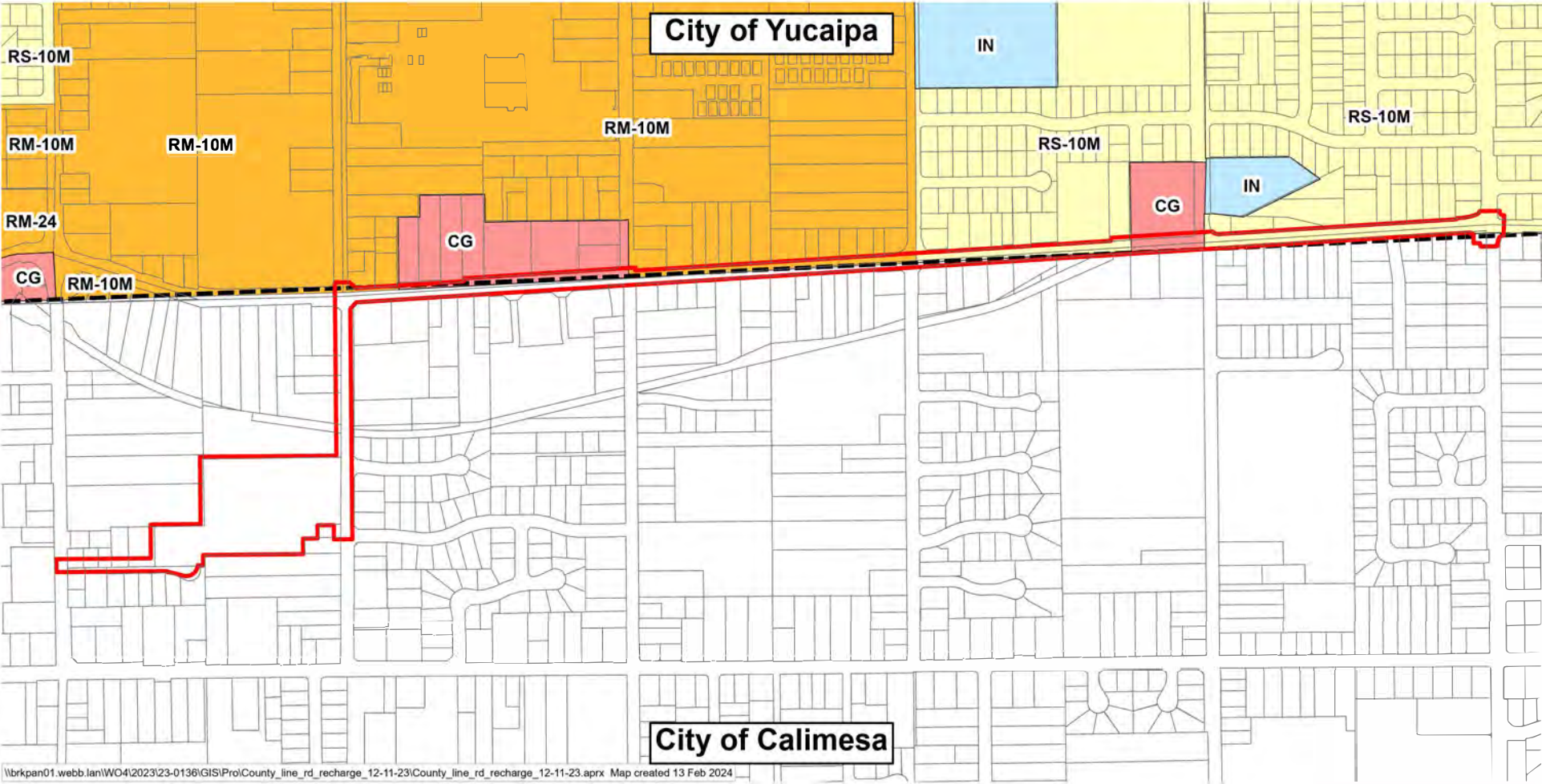
Commercial Community

Light Industrial

Sources: Calimesa General Plan Land Use, 2014.

FIGURE 6b

Yucaipa General Plan Land Use Designation



LEGEND

- Project Site
- County Boundary
- Yucaipa General Plan Land Use
- Multiple Residential
- General Commercial
- Institutional
- Single Residential



0 375 750 Feet

Sources: Yucaipa General Plan Land Use, 2020.

8. Zoning:

The pipeline conversion and construction will be located mostly within road rights-of-way that are not assigned zoning designations. San Bernardino Valley has acquired an easement for the turnout facility to access the private property located within Residential Low (R-L) Zone. Zoning of properties adjacent to the Project are shown on **Figure 7 – Calimesa Zoning** and included in **Table B – Calimesa Zoning** below (CGP, p. 2-21):

Table B – Calimesa Zoning

Project Component	Calimesa Zoning
Turnout Facility at EBX Pipeline	R-R – Residential Rural R-L – Residential Low
County Line Road Pipeline	R-L-M – Residential Low Medium R-L – Residential Low C-N – Neighborhood Commercial C-C Community Commercial R-R – Rural Residential
4 th Street Pipeline	C-C – Community Commercial R-L-M – Residential Low Medium
Recharge Basin and Elevation Control Basin	R-L-M – Residential Low Medium C-C – Community Commercial
Buena Vista Court Improvements	R-L-M – Residential Low Medium R-H – Residential High L-I – Light Industrial

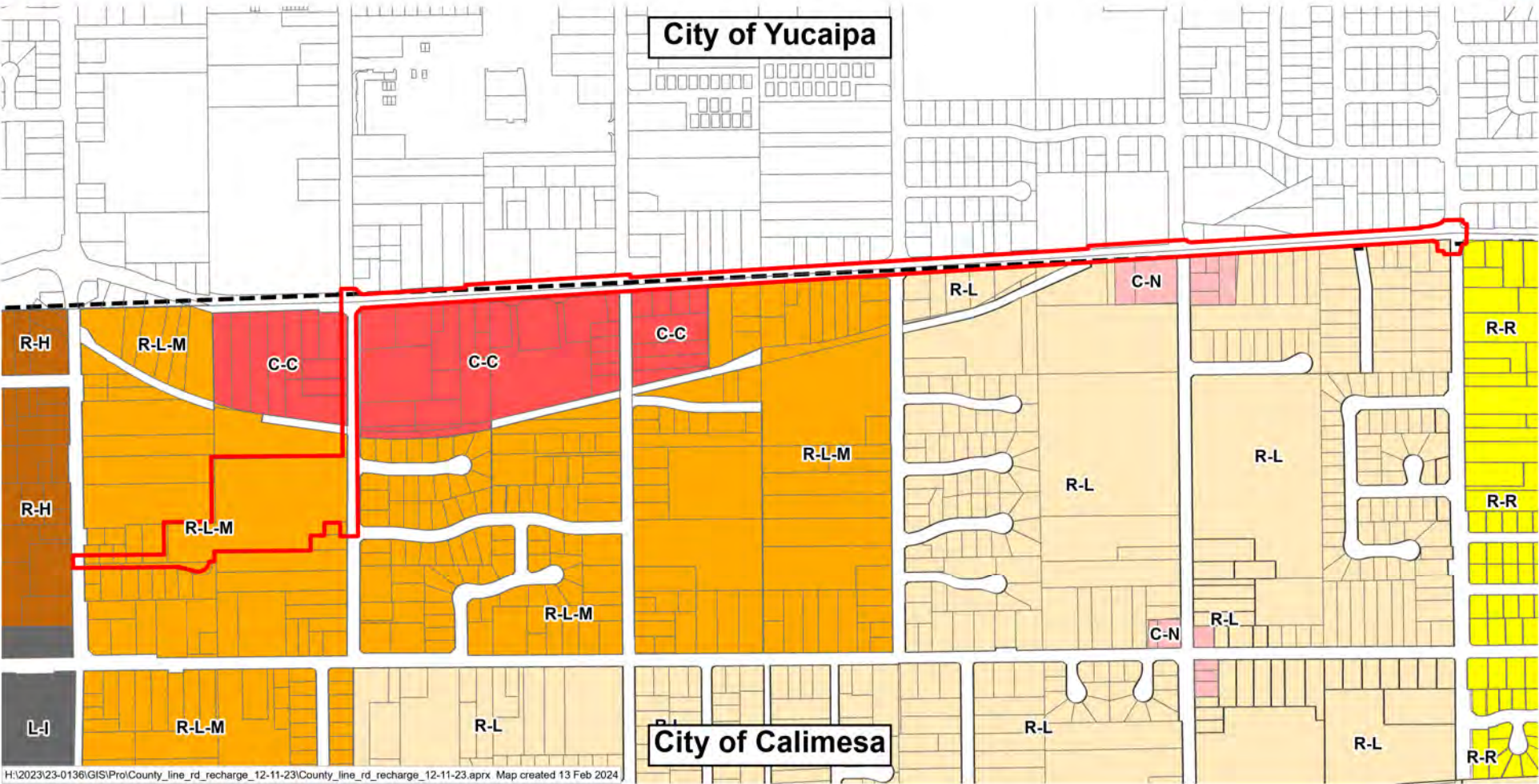
8. Project Description:

This Initial Study provides a project-level analysis of the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project. Refer to Section 2 – Project Description for project details.

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FIGURE 7

Calimesa Zoning



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- Project Site
- County Boundary
- Calimesa Zoning Designations**
- R-R - Rural Residential (0-2 DU/AC)
- R-L-M - Residential low/Medium (4-7 DU/AC)
- R-L - Residential Low (2-4 DU/AC)
- C-N - Neighborhood Commercial
- C-C - Community Commercial
- L-I - Light Industrial
- R-H - Residential High (14-20 DU/AC)



0 390 780 Feet

Sources: Calimesa General Plan Land Use, 2014.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Zoning and Land Use Designations are described above and shown on **Figure 6a – Calimesa General Plan Land Use Designations, Figure 6b – Yucaipa General Plan Land Use Designation, and Figure 7 – Calimesa Zoning**. Existing surrounding land uses along the Project site from approximately the intersection of 4th Street to approximately the intersection of Bryant Street, consist of several existing residential (e.g. mobile homes, apartments, single family units), commercial, and vacant lots.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

- State Agencies
 - o California Department of Drinking Water: Encroachment permit for access to East Branch Extension and turnout approval
 - o California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Notification of Streambed Alteration
 - o State Water Resources Control Board: Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
- Regional Agencies
 - o County of Riverside American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - funding allocation through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule
 - o South Coast Air Quality Management District: Dust Management Plan
- Local Agencies
 - o City of Calimesa: Encroachment permit for use of public ROW

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?³

WEBB Associates, on behalf of SGPWA provided “Notification of Tribal Consultation Opportunity” via certified mail on February 28, 2024 pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) to Tribes that have previously requested such a notice from SGPWA, as well as additional local Tribes. Notification was sent to five Tribes: Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pechanga Band of Mission Indians, Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (aka San Manuel Band of Mission Indians), Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, and Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.

On March 4, 2024, the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation responded that the Project is located within Serrano ancestral territory and is of interest to the Tribe. The Tribe requested the following items: cultural report; geotechnical report (if one was required for the project); and Project plans showing the depth of proposed disturbance. SGPWA provided the requested documents on March 12, 2024 and the Cultural Report on May 10, 2024. In response, Tribal Archaeologist Kristen Tuosto provided four mitigation

³ Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission’s Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

measures to SGPWA on May 15, 2024. The mitigation measures address having a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, Archaeological Monitoring, Treatment of Cultural Resources During Project Implementation, and Inadvertent Discoveries of Human Remains. These have been incorporated into this document.

On March 27, 2024, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians responded that the Project is located within the ancestral territory and traditional use area of the Cahuilla and Serrano people, and Tribe requests government-to-government consultation along with these items: currently proposed Project design and mass grading maps, a records search conducted at the appropriate California Historical Resource Information System center with at least a 1.0-mile search radius from the project boundary (if this work has already been done, the Tribe requests copies of the cultural resource documentation); Tribal participation (a.k.a. tribal monitors) during the pedestrian survey and testing, if this fieldwork has not already taken place. In the event that archaeological crews have completed this work, the Tribe requests a copy of the current Phase I study or other cultural assessments (including the cultural resources inventory); shapefiles of the Projects APE and geotechnical report. SGPWA provided the requested documents on March 28, 2024 and the Cultural Report on May 10, 2024. No subsequent communication has been received from this tribe.

The AB 52 letters stated, “If a response is not received within 30 days, the SGPWA will assume the Tribe wishes to forgo consultation on this Project.” Therefore, SGPWA assumes the other notified tribes (Pechanga Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, and Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians) wish to forgo consultation.

In addition, two additional Tribes responded to Project scoping letters that were sent out by the Project archaeologist, Applied Earthworks, to 14 Tribes during preparation of the Project’s cultural resources report: Cahuilla Band of Indians and Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Neither Tribe requested formal AB 52 consultation. Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians requested a copy of the records search information, shapefiles, and a copy of the cultural report. The Cahuilla Band asked to be advised of the Project’s progress, any cultural findings, and tribal monitoring during construction. SGPWA provided cultural resources report, records search, and shapefiles to both Tribes on May 10, 2024.

An AB 52 Tribal Consultation meeting was held between Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (Kristen Tuosto, Tribal Archaeologist), SGPWA (Emmett Campbell, Senior Water Resources Planner), and its consulting archaeologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Joan George, Principal Archaeologist) on June 13, 2024. The meeting resulted in slight modification to the mitigation measures requested by the tribe, which has been incorporated herein. The modification focuses archaeological monitoring to “undisturbed native soils.”

Morongo Band of Mission Indians (Laura Chatterton, Cultural Resource Specialist) notified SGPWA on July 9, 2024 that the Tribal Historic Preservation Office completed review of the cultural resource documents provided to them. In response, the tribe requests tribal participation (a.k.a. tribal monitors) during all ground disturbing activities and requested eight mitigation measures added to this IS/MND. The mitigation measures for cultural resources and tribal cultural resources in this IS/MND have been revised accordingly. Refer to the discussions in threshold 5, Cultural Resources and threshold 18, Tribal Cultural Resources for additional information.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

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

V. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation (to be completed by Lead Agency):

- ☐ 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. 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, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.

Signature _____

Date _____

7-31-24

Lance Eckhart

Printed Name _____

VI. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (*e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone*). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (*e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis*).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including 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 EIR is required.
- 4) “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, “Earlier Analyses,” may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed below:
 - 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 measure which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (*e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances*). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. A source list should be attached and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) 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.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. In non-urbanized areas, 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 public accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

(Sources: Caltrans Scenic Highways, CGP, CMC, County Scenic Highways, DOF, Project Description))

1.a Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

A scenic vista is a distant and picturesque view of a natural landscape. On a clear day there are views of the San Gabriel Mountains (northwest), San Bernardino Mountains (northeast), San Jacinto Mountains (southeast), and the Santa Ana Mountains (southwest) from the Project area. The scenic and visual resources are protected by the City of Calimesa in the City's general plan. The City of Calimesa's Resource Management Goal RM-1 identifies conservation and protection of significant landforms and hillside areas. The City of Calimesa recognizes hillsides and canyon vistas as important scenic resources to be protected (CGP, p. 6-9.) The Project area is generally located on level topography due to its central location within Calimesa.

No impact. The proposed Project components will be underground or below grade, except for fencing around the property. The Project pipelines will be underground and therefore, will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. The Project basins will also be below grade. The recharge basin will have an operating depth of about 6-9 feet with a maximum 3:1 side slopes and will be landscaped with trees, shrubs, succulents, perennials, and wood mulch ground cover. The elevation control basin will have an operating maximum depth of 5 feet and will also be landscaped with trees, shrubs, succulents, perennials, and wood mulch ground cover. There are no facilities being constructed as part of the Project that would affect scenic vistas. As such the Project would not obstruct any scenic views as identified by the City of Calimesa (CGP, p. 6-9.) Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

1.b Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No impact. There are no state designated, state eligible, or county eligible scenic highways within the Project Area (Caltrans Scenic Highways, County Scenic Highways). The Project components are mostly within right-of-way so there will be no impact to trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings. Views from the Project site and the Project components are shown in **Appendix A**. The recharge basin and elevation control basin will be located on a vacant lot which undergoes regular maintenance; therefore, Project construction and operation at the recharge basin site will not substantially damage a scenic resource. There are no scenic resources that would be damaged by the construction and operation of the Project. Therefore, no impacts would occur in this regard.

1.c In non-urbanized areas, 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 public accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Less than significant impact. According to CEQA Statue Section 21071, the City of Calimesa meets the definition of an urbanized area because the City has a combined population with its neighboring cities of Yucaipa and Beaumont that adds up to more than 100,000 residents. As of 2023, the City of Calimesa, the City of Beaumont and the City of Yucaipa have a population of 10,962, 56,590, and 53,991, respectively (DOF). Because it is in an urbanized area as defined in the CEQA Guidelines Section 21071, the proposed Project does not conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. The City of Calimesa General Plan identifies various policies in the Land Use and Resource Management sections for the protection of significant landforms and hillside areas. The Calimesa General Plan recognizes hillsides as an important scenic resource that should be protected (Policy LU-39); however, there are no hillsides within the Project area. Because the Project is located within central Calimesa where it is relatively flat, and all components are located at or below grade, zoning and regulations governing scenic quality are not applicable. As such, implementation of the proposed Project would be less than significant.

1.d Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less than significant impact. The Project would not provide new substantial sources of light. The Project will remove an existing light pole along 4th Street at the recharge basin site and introduce no new sources of lighting. Temporary nighttime lighting may be used for security purposes during the construction phase. However, any security lighting would be directed downward and not onto adjacent properties. Thus, the Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare and potential impacts would be less than significant.

Aesthetics Mitigation Measures

Aesthetic impacts resulting from the Project are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
2. AGRICULTURAL and FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

(Source: DOC-A, CGP, CMC, Project Description, Site Visit)

2.a Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

No impact. According to the California Department of Conservation, the general location of the Project is within areas designated as Urban and Built-Up Land. Because the Project components are not located within or adjacent to areas designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, the construction of the Project would not convert special status Farmland and there would be no impacts in this regard. (DOC-A).

2.b Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No impact. The Project components are located within Calimesa in areas zoned for residential and commercial uses. As shown on **Figure 7 – Calimesa Zoning**, there is no agriculturally-zoned property in this portion of Calimesa. Additionally, based on a review of current data available from the California Department of Conservation, the Project site is not located within, or adjacent to, any Williamson Act contracted lands. For these reasons there would be no impact in this regard.

2.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))?

Forest land, as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) section 12220(g) is land that can support 10 percent of native tree cover of any species under natural conditions and that allows for the management of one or more forest resources. Timberland, as defined in PRC section 4526, means land other than land owned by the federal government and land designated as experimental forest land, which is capable of growing a crop of trees for any commercial species, including Christmas trees.

No impact. There are no properties zoned for forest land, timberland, or Timberland Production within Riverside County, other than Christmas tree farms (cultivated, not farmed), and such farms are not known in the Project site. Because the Project components do not traverse through nor adjacent to areas zoned for forest land, timberland, or Timberland Production there would be no impact in this regard.

2.d Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No impact. There is no forest land in proximity to the Project site. Construction of the turnout facility, pipelines, basins, and roadway improvements would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land; thus, there would be no impact in this regard.

2.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?

No impact. The Project site is designated “Urban and Built-Up Land” by the California Department of Conservation, which is not a Farmland designation. The proposed Project does not include any component that would result in the conversion of Farmland or forest land to other uses. No other changes in the existing environment from that which have been described in the Project Description are proposed. As such, no impacts would occur.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources Mitigation Measures

There are no impacts to agricultural and forestry resources; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

(Sources: CARB 2005, CARB 2022, SCAQMD 1993, SCAQMD 2003, SCAQMD 2022, WEBB-A, Project Description)

3.a Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

The Project is located in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) prepares the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the Basin. The SCAQMD sets forth a comprehensive program that would lead the Basin into compliance with all federal and state air quality standards. The AQMP's control measures and related emission reduction estimates are based upon emissions projections for a future development scenario derived from land use, population, and employment characteristics defined in consultation with local governments. Accordingly, if a project demonstrates compliance with local land use plans and/or population projections, then the AQMP would have taken into account such uses when it was developed. The SCAQMD is required to update its plans on a regular basis; the 2022 AQMP is the most recent plan (SCAQMD 2022).

No impact. The proposed Project consists of public utility improvements (basin, pipelines, and turnout connection) and minor road paving that do not directly impact population projections or conflict with local land use plans. The purpose of the Project is to fulfill the requirements of the Yucaipa SGMA GSP which will provide stable water supplies to existing disadvantaged communities of Calimesa and Yucaipa. No land use changes are proposed as a result of this Project. Thus, no indirect impacts will occur. For these reasons, the Project does not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP.

3.b Result in a 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?

The portion of the Basin within which the proposed Project is located in is designated as a non-attainment area for ozone, particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM-10), and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM-2.5) under the State standards and for ozone and PM-2.5 under Federal standards. (CARB 2022.) The SCAQMD considers the thresholds for project-specific impacts and cumulative impacts to be the same (SCAQMD 2003). Therefore, projects that exceed project-specific significance thresholds are considered by SCAQMD to be cumulatively considerable. Based on SCAQMD's regulatory jurisdiction over regional air quality, it is reasonable to rely on its thresholds to determine whether there is a cumulative air quality impact.

Less than significant impact. Air quality impacts can be described in a short- and long-term perspective. Short-term impacts occur during site grading and Project construction and consist of fugitive dust and other particulate matter, as well as exhaust emissions generated by construction-related vehicles. Long-term air quality impacts occur once the Project is in operation. The Project consists of non-potable raw water infrastructure, operational emissions would be primarily from infrequent visits by vehicles driven by existing maintenance personnel and are considered negligible; therefore, only short-term impacts were quantified. (WEBB-A, p. 2.)

The Project will be required to comply with existing SCAQMD rules for the reduction of fugitive dust emissions. SCAQMD Rule 403 establishes these procedures. Compliance with this rule is achieved through application of standard best management practices in construction and operation activities, such as application of water or chemical stabilizers to disturbed soils, managing haul road dust by application of water, covering haul vehicles, restricting vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph, sweeping loose dirt from paved site access roadways, cessation of construction activity when winds exceed 25 mph and establishing a permanent, stabilizing ground cover on finished sites. In addition, projects that disturb 50 or more acres or more of soil or move 5,000 cubic yards of materials per day are required to submit a Fugitive Dust Control Plan or a Large Operation Notification Form to SCAQMD. Based on the size of this Project's disturbance area (approximately 9.63 acres) a Fugitive Dust Control Plan or a Large Operation Notification Form would not be required. (WEBB-A, p. 2.)

The air quality impacts from the Project were evaluated in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas (AQ/GHG) Analysis prepared for the Project (WEBB-A) and provided in **Appendix B**. The focus of the air quality analysis is to evaluate the impacts of regulated air pollutants, which are the amounts of foreign and/or natural substances occurring in the atmosphere that may result in human health impacts due to their release from numerous sources. Health-based ambient air quality standards have been established for seven air pollutants: ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter less than 10 microns in size (PM-10), particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size (PM-2.5), and lead (Pb). Short-term emissions were evaluated for the Project using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2022.1 computer program. The results of this analysis are summarized in **Table C – Estimated Maximum Daily Construction Emissions**.

Table C – Estimated Maximum Daily Construction Emissions

Activity	Peak Daily Emissions (lb/day)					
	VOC	NO _x	CO	SO ₂	PM-10	PM-2.5
SCAQMD Daily Construction Thresholds	75	100	550	150	150	55
2024	5.53	58.70	51.90	0.12	8.35	4.48
2025	2.30	7.37	11.90	0.02	0.57	0.34
Maximum	5.53	58.70	51.90	0.12	8.35	4.48
Exceeds Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: WEBB-A, Table 2

Note: See the detailed model output reports attached in Appendix B. Numbers are the maximum of summer or winter emissions in a given year and may not match due to rounding within the model.

As shown in **Table C** above, volatile organic compound (VOC), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂) particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM-10), and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM-2.5) emissions from construction of the Project are below the SCAQMD Daily construction thresholds for all criteria pollutants in 2024 and 2025. Therefore, the Project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment and the impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

3.c Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

A sensitive receptor is a person in the population who is particularly susceptible to health effects due to exposure to an air contaminant including children, the elderly, and persons with pre-existing respiratory and/or cardiovascular illness. SCAQMD defines a “sensitive receptor” as a land use or facility such as residences, schools, child care centers, athletic facilities, playgrounds, retirement homes, and convalescent homes where these persons are typically located (SCAQMD 1993). Staff at the SCAQMD has developed localized significance threshold (LST) methodology that can be used by public agencies to determine whether or not a project may generate significant adverse localized air quality impacts (both short- and long-term). LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that will not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the state ambient air quality standard, and are developed based on the ambient concentrations of that pollutant for each source receptor area (SRA). The Project is located within SRA 28.

Less than significant impact. According to the LST methodology, only on-site emissions need to be analyzed. Emissions associated with vendor and worker trips are mobile source emissions that occur off site. The emissions analyzed under the LST methodology are NO_x, CO, PM-10, and PM-2.5. SCAQMD has provided LST lookup tables to allow users to readily determine if the daily emissions for proposed construction or operational activities could result in significant localized air quality impacts for projects five acres or smaller. The LST tables can be used as a screening tool to determine if dispersion modeling would be necessary. If project-related emissions are below the LST table emissions, no further analysis is necessary. Based on this SCAQMD guidance, the Project will disturb approximately three acres per day during basin grading. Therefore, the two-acre LST was used to compare the on-site emissions estimated by CalEEMod to be conservative.

The LST thresholds are estimated using the maximum daily disturbed area (in acres) and the distance of the Project to the nearest sensitive receptors (in meters). The closest sensitive receptor locations are residences adjacent to the Project alignment, including Bryant Street, County Line Road, 4th Street, Buena Vista, as well as the 4th Street Park. According to LST methodology, projects with boundaries closer than 25 meters (82 feet) to the nearest receptor should use the LSTs for receptors located at 25 meters. Therefore, a receptor distance of 25 meters was used. The results are summarized in **Table D – LST Results for Daily Construction Emissions**, below.

Table D – LST Results for Daily Construction Emissions

Activity	Peak Daily Emissions (lb/day)			
	VOC	NO _x	PM-10	PM-2.5
LST Threshold for 2-acres at 25 meters	234	1,100	7	4
Turnout Construction	17.50	18.30	2.49	1.61
Basin Grading/Construction	33.40	29.20	3.83	2.26
Pipeline Trenching	7.07	10.50	0.29	0.27
Paving	3.73	4.99	0.17	0.16
Maximum^(a)	50.90	47.50	6.32	3.87
Exceeds LST Threshold?	No	No	No	No

Source: WEBB-A, Table 3, LST = Localized Significance Threshold.

(a) Maximums are the greater of either the sum of Turnout Construction and Basin Grading/Construction because these activities overlap, or Pipeline Trenching alone, or Paving activities alone. Maximums are shown in bold.

As shown in **Table D** above, emissions from construction of the Project are below the LST daily construction thresholds established by SCAQMD. Therefore, construction-related air quality impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

This Project involves non-potable water infrastructure, with no stationary sources of emissions present. According to SCAQMD LST methodology, LSTs would apply to the operational phase of a project, if the project includes stationary sources, or attracts mobile sources that may spend long periods queuing and idling at the site; such as warehouse/transfer facilities. The proposed Project does not include such uses. Due to the lack of stationary source emissions, no long-term LST analysis is needed (WEBB-A, pp. 5-6.) Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and operational impacts are considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

3.d Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

Less than significant impact. The proposed Project presents the potential to result in other emissions, such as those leading to odors in the form of diesel exhaust during construction in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Project site. The closest sensitive receptors to the Project construction are the residences adjacent to the Project alignment, including Bryant Street, County Line Road, 4th Street, Buena Vista, as well as the 4th Street Park. However, odors generated during construction would be short-term (11-month construction period) and would not result in a long-term odorous impact to the surrounding area.

Additionally, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has developed an Air Quality and Land Use Handbook to outline common sources of odor complaints, including: sewage treatment plants, landfills, recycling facilities, and petroleum refineries (CARB 2005). The Project involves non-potable raw water infrastructure, which is not included on CARB's list of facilities that are known to be prone to generate odors. Recognizing the short-term duration and quantity of construction emissions in the proposed Project area, impacts with regard to other emissions such as odors affecting a substantial number of people would be less than significant.

Air Quality Mitigation Measures

Air quality impacts resulting from the Project are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

(Sources: CMC, BLUE-A, FEMA, RCA MSHCP, Site Visit)

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

Less than significant with mitigation. A Biological Assessment Report (BAR) was prepared for the Project by BLUE Consulting Group (BLUE) on June 10, 2023 and updated July 31, 2024, a copy of which is located in **Appendix C** of this Initial Study. The purpose of the BAR is to review and assess the biological resources that have been reported from the vicinity of, or have the potential to occur, on and adjacent to the turnout facility, pipelines, and recharge basin plus a 100-foot buffer (the biological study area or BSA). The BSA is shown in **Figures 8a-8b – Biological Study Area**. The BAR identifies the conservation status of special status species, suitable habitat for these species, and the potential for each to occur on or near the Project components. The BAR consisted of a review of pertinent literature, on-line databases and mapping tools and a field reconnaissance survey to determine locations and types of biological resources having the potential to exist within the region and CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants. Areas of the survey where potential habitat was present were surveyed on foot. All flora and fauna detected (e.g., through direct observation, vocalizations, presence of scat, tracks,

and/or bones) within the BSA during the survey were recorded. BLUE biologist conducted the habitat assessment site surveys within the BSA on April 6, 2023 and July 28, 2024. (BLUE-A, pp. 3-5.)

Vegetation Communities – Two vegetation communities/land cover types were observed onsite: Disturbed and Developed. The Disturbed habitat is comprised of the maintained, disked and irrigated agricultural area. Within this partially dirt lot, the following non-native weedy species were dominant: prickly sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*), common sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), bristly ox-tongue (*Picris echioides*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), mustard ssp., hottentot-fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*), wild lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), castor-bean (*Ricinus communis*), red-stem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), short-beak filaree (*Erodium brachycarpum*) and white-stem filaree (*Erodium moschatum*). These maintained urban lands do not support natural, native vegetation or provide essential habitat connectivity and therefore have a significantly reduced biological value. The Developed habitat is comprised of the surrounding streets and the existing single-family residence. No native or sensitive vegetation is present within this land cover type.

Plants – There were 11 special-status plant species reported to occur based on the biological literature reviews conducted by BLUE. Three species are listed under the federal and California Endangered Species Acts: San Jacinto Valley crownscale (*Atriplex coronata* var. *notator*), thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), and spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*). All 11 special-status plant species were determined to have an “Absent” potential for occurrence within the survey area (BLUE-A, p. 7.)

Wildlife – There were 15 special-status wildlife species (including 8 federally listed as threatened or endangered species listed in the USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) resource list) reported to occur within the vicinity of the BSA based on the biological literature reviews conducted by BLUE. Due to the developed and disturbed/maintained quality of vegetation onsite and within the BSA, all 15 special-status wildlife species were determined to have an “Absent” potential for occurrence within the survey area.

The literature review and field assessment data confirm that no special-status species currently utilize the BSA. The BSA lacks suitable habitat that would typically support special-status species. No special status species were observed, and none are expected to occur. (BLUE-A, p. 10.) Furthermore, the Project site is fully within the boundary of the Western Riverside County MSHCP. SGPWA is not a permittee to the plan.

Because of the disturbed nature of the site, it has limited potential to support nesting birds. During a Project site visit conducted by Webb staff on February 15, 2024, scattered and poor-quality nesting bird habitat was observed along the Project roadways (ornamental front-yard vegetation), and poor quality habitat was observed at the proposed basin recharge site: low-nesting quality trees are present in the southwest corner of the recharge basin site, but the remainder of the site is mowed and disked regularly. Project pipeline alignments are located within existing paved ROW and will not directly affect ornamental front-yard vegetation. Though the proposed recharge basin site supports poor quality habitat for ground and vegetation nesting bird species, a pre-construction nesting bird survey (see **MM BIO-1** below) will be conducted three (3)-days prior to project commencement to ensure that the Project is compliant with nesting bird rules and regulations.

With the implementation of existing regulations for the protection of plant and animal species, and **MM BIO-1** for compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, (see below) impacts to special status species will be less than significant.

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

Less than significant impact. According to the BAR, there is no riparian habitat or federally designated critical habitat present within the Project's BSA (BLUE-A, p. 9). Vegetation communities identified within the BSA of the Project area include Disturbed and Developed and are shown on **Figures 8a-8b – Biological Study Area**. Calimesa Creek Channel is a concrete-lined channel that crosses under 4th Street. The Project will use trenchless methods (jack and bore) to install the proposed pipeline in 4th Street underneath Calimesa Creek Channel. Although concrete-lined, the channel is potentially jurisdictional and SGPWA will notify CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1602. There are no other sensitive habitats or natural communities within the Project area therefore, impacts to riparian and other sensitive habitats are less than significant.

4.c Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Less than significant impact. Refer to the responses to thresholds 4.a and 4.b, above. The BAR did not identify any wetlands or jurisdictional aquatic resources that would be adversely affected by the Project. The Project will include installation of a pipeline in 4th Street under the concrete-lined Calimesa Creek Channel. The Project will employ trenchless (jack and bore) methods to avoid impacts during construction to the channel itself. Pursuant to standard practice, CDFW will be notified of the channel crossing pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1602. Notification to RWQCB or USACE is not required because Calimesa Creek Channel is concrete-lined and trenchless methods will be used to cross underneath. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

4.d Would the Project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

No impact. As noted in threshold 4.a above, the Project site is not located within a MSHCP Criteria Area, Cell, Group, or Linkage Area; therefore, conservation of the Project site is not required pursuant to the MSHCP. Additionally, as noted in threshold 4.b above, the proposed Project is not located within a riparian habitat or federally designated critical habitat. The Project would be within previously disturbed paved right of way, regularly mowed vacant land, and portions of existing developed parcels. The proposed Project would not interfere substantially with the movement of wildlife or impede the use of a native wildlife nursery site. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

4.e Would the Project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Less than significant impact. Because of the disturbed and developed conditions of the Project site, conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources are not anticipated. No oak trees are located within the Project footprint; therefore, the City of Calimesa municipal code provisions regarding tree preservation and removal (Ord. 342 § 3 (Exh. A), 2016) are not applicable. Through compliance with the applicable provisions of the Calimesa Municipal Codes, impacts regarding conflict with local policies to protect biological resources would be less than significant.

4.f Would the Project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Less than significant impact. As previously described in threshold 4.a, the Project site is located within the MSHCP area. The MSHCP is a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan focusing on conservation of species and their associated habitats in western Riverside County. The Project is not located within any MSHCP designated Criteria Areas or Subunits. SGPWA is not a Permittee to the MSHCP, the proposed Project would not conflict with the MSHCP as discussed below. While SGPWA is not a Permittee to the MSHCP, the SGPWA has the responsibility to make sure its Project does not conflict with the MSHCP.

The proposed Project would be constructed on existing roadways and portions of acquired parcels which have been previously disturbed, portions of vacant lots, or portions of developed parcels. Based on the existing developed nature of the Project site, the proposed Project would not impact riparian/riverine habitat (MSHCP Section 6.1.2), narrow endemic plant species survey area (MSHCP Section 6.1.3), criteria area species survey area (MSHCP Section 6.3.2), and Guidelines Pertaining to Urban/Wildlands Interface (MSHCP Section 6.1.4) as described below:

Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP requires assessment of riparian, riverine, fairy shrimp, and vernal pool habitats. None of these features, habitats or vegetation communities are present within BSA. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP (BLUE, p. 9).

Section 6.1.3 requires assessment of sites in a designated survey area for narrow endemic plants to be completed. The BSA is not within a narrow endemic plant survey area and is therefore not required to survey for any narrow endemic plants. The Project would not conflict with Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP.

Section 6.1.4 requires projects located adjacent or near MSHCP conservation areas to consider edge effects or conditions of their urban/wildlife interface into the project design. The BSA is not located near lands identified for MSHCP conservation. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP.

Section 6.3.2 requires assessments for particular species in designated survey areas. The BSA is not within designated survey areas for particular species; thus, the Project would not conflict with Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP (BLUE, p. 8).

For the reasons set forth above, the Project would not conflict with the MSHCP and impacts to approved conservation plans are considered less than significant.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-1: Nesting bird survey.

A preconstruction survey for nesting birds shall be conducted no more than 72 hours prior to commencement of project activities, including project staging. The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist with prior experience conducting nesting bird surveys for construction projects. The study area should include the affected area and suitable habitat within a 500-foot buffer, or a buffer size determined by the qualified biologist based on level of proposed disturbance and access. Results of the survey shall be provided to SGPWA. If no active nests are found, no additional measures are required. If active nests are found, then the biologist will map the location and document the species and nesting stage for SGPWA. A no-work buffer will be established around the active nest as determined by the qualified biologist and based on the species sensitivity to disturbance and the type and duration of the disturbance. No construction activities shall occur within the no-work buffer until the biologist has determined the nest is no longer active.

With implementation of existing regulations and the incorporation of **MM BIO-1** biological resource impacts resulting from the Project will be less than significant.



LEGEND

- Project Footprint
- Developed Area
- Disturbed Habitat

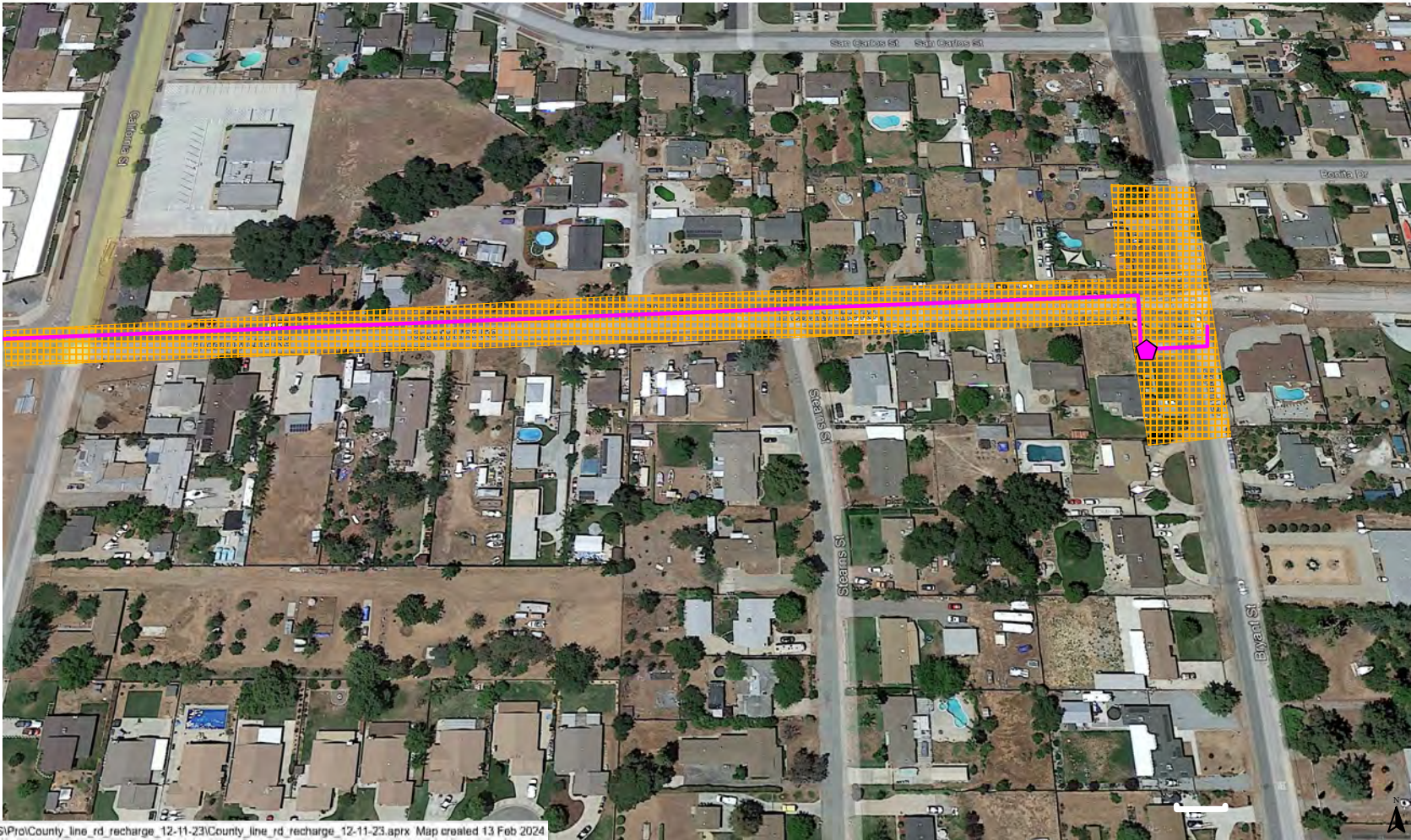
NTS



Sources: Biological Assessment Report for the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project, BLUE Consulting Group, Jun 10, 2023; Nearmap, 2024.

FIGURE 8b

BSA



H:\2023\23-0136\GIS\Pro\County_line_rd_recharge_12-11-23\County_line_rd_recharge_12-11-23.aprx Map created 13 Feb 2024

LEGEND

-  Project Footprint
-  Developed Area
-  Disturbed Habitat

NTS

Sources: Biological Assessment Report for the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project, BLUE Consulting Group, Jun 10, 2023.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
5. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

(Sources: AE-A, AB 52 Consultation, CHSC)

5.a Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

For purposes of CEQA, a cultural resource considered “historically significant” is considered a “historical resource,” if it is more than 50 years of age and is included in a local register of historical resources or is listed in or determined eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) under any one of the following criteria (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15064.5 [14 CCR 15064.5]):

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

Compliance with CEQA’s cultural resource provisions typically involves several steps. Briefly, archival research and field surveys are needed, and identified cultural resources are inventoried and evaluated in prescribed ways (AE-A, p. 4).

For purposes of projects with a federal nexus, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. Undertakings include any federally funded, licensed, or permitted project (36 CFR 800.16[y]). A historic property as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l)(1) means any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In the context of a federally permitted undertaking, which may include this Project, the significance of cultural resources is measured against the NRHP criteria (Criteria A, B, C, and D) for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4):

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack distinction; or
- D. That has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

A property must meet one or more of Criteria A, B, C, or D and retain sufficient integrity to qualify as a good representative of a significant historical theme or pattern. Unless a site is of exceptional importance, it is not eligible for listing in the NRHP until it is 50 years of age. (AE-A, p.5.)

DETERMINATION. Applied Earthworks conducted a literature and records search at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) of the California Historical Resource Information System (CHRIS), which is housed at U.C. Riverside. A copy of the Cultural Resources Investigation (AE-A) is located in **Appendix D.1**. Because the records search limits extend into San Bernardino County, Applied Earthworks also conducted a literature and records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center of the CHRIS, housed at California State University, Fullerton. The objective of these records searches was to determine whether any precontact or historical cultural resources had been recorded previously within the Project area and a 0.5-mile search radius of the proposed Project. Results of the records search indicate 22 cultural resource studies have been conducted previously within the 0.5-mile search radius. Six of the previous studies involved the Project area. As a result, 80 percent of the Project area has been investigated previously.

The records search also identified four previously recorded cultural resources within the 0.5-mile search radius, but no previously recorded cultural resources are located within the Project area. Two of the four previously recorded resources in the search radius are historical and the other two are built-environment resources, as shown in **Table E – Cultural Resources in 0.5-Mile Search Radius**. None of the previously recorded cultural resources listed in **Table E** are documented within the Project area.

Table E – Cultural Resources in 0.5-Mile Search Radius

ID Number	Existing Condition	Resources Located Within Project Area?
Historic Resources		
33-015299	Two glass bottle fragments	No
33-015300	Electrical utility line	No
Built-Environment Resources		
33-016792	1929 single-family residence	No
33-023900	1930 storm drain	No

Source: AE-A, p. 16.

Following the records searches, Applied Earthworks conducted a pedestrian survey of the Project area on February 28, 2024. The survey results found the unpaved portion of the Project area (i.e., the

recharge basin parcel) is a heavily disturbed open field with evidence of tilling. Survey transects were oriented east to west, moving southward with 15-meter spacing. Ground visibility was generally poor, approximately 35 percent, due to extensive pinweed growth. Sparse patches of modern refuse were observed on the south side of the recharge basin parcel. The sediments appear to be a brown loam. Moving eastward, the survey covered a long stretch of County Line Road, which is entirely paved and developed. The survey concluded that no cultural resources were encountered within the Project area during the survey. (AE-A, p. 19.) As a result, there is a low likelihood that archaeological deposits or features will be found during construction. Because none of the previously recorded resources (**Table E**) are within the Project area, and no resources were found during the onsite pedestrian survey, the undertaking will not affect historic properties and a NHPA recommendation of No Historic Properties Affected for the Project is recommended. Likewise, no resources determined to be listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR were identified by the literature and records searches and the pedestrian survey. Therefore, no further cultural resource management within the Project area is recommended for historic resources and impacts are **less than significant**.

5.b Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

DETERMINATION. As shown in **Table E** in Threshold 5.a, the cultural resources records searches identified four previously recorded cultural resources within the 0.5-mile search radius of the Project area. Two of the four identified resources are historical (an electrical utility line and two amethyst bottle finishes) and the other two are built-environment resources (a residence and a storm drain). No archaeological resources were identified by the records searches, or during the pedestrian survey of the Project site conducted February 28, 2024. Furthermore, the soil under existing roadways has been previously disturbed during installations of the road, and other pipelines and utilities. As a result, there is a low likelihood that archaeological deposits or features will be found during construction.

Applied Earthworks contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on January 16, 2024, for a review of their Sacred Lands File (SLF) to determine if any known Native American cultural properties (e.g., traditional use or gathering areas, places of religious or sacred activity) are present within or adjacent to the Project area. The NAHC responded on March 6, 2024, stating the SLF search was completed with negative results. The NAHC requested that Native American individuals and organizations should be contacted to elicit information regarding cultural resource issues related to the proposed Project. Project scoping letters were sent via email and U.S. Postal Service by Applied Earthworks on March 8, 2024 to 14 individuals and organizations on the NAHC's Native American contact list that may have traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic region of the Project. Copies of the letters, the list of contacts, and received responses are in **Appendix D.1**. Follow-up emails were sent March 22, 2024 to the organizations who had not responded to the initial request.

As of March 26, 2024, the following three responses to the Project scoping letter were received (AE-A, p. 18):

- 1 The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians stated that the Project is not located within the boundaries of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians' Reservation. However, the Project does fall within their Traditional Use Area. For this reason, the Tribe requests a copy of the records search, survey reports, site records from the EIC, copies of any cultural resource documentation generated from the current Project, and shapefiles of the Project area.

- 2 The Cahuilla Band of Indians stated that they desire to consult on the Project. Their people inhabited this area and established villages, camps, food processing areas, resource areas, and other areas. They request to be advised of the Project's progress and any cultural findings. Subsurface cultural resources are always possible, and they would ask that their Native American monitors be present for the work.
- 3 The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation stated that the Project area may be considered sensitive for subsurface cultural resources due to their proximity to previously recorded sites of a highly sensitive nature. As the area is of concern, the Tribe wishes to engage in government-to-government consultation pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) with the Lead Agency for the Project.

Because these Tribes expressed that the Project area may contain buried archaeological resources, mitigation measure **MM CR-1** for preparation of a Monitoring and Treatment Plan and **MM CR-2** for the provision of an archaeological monitor shall be implemented in areas of undisturbed native soils. With incorporation of these mitigation measures, potential impacts to archaeological resources would be reduced to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

5.c Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

Less than significant impact. Human remains are not expected to be disturbed as a result of construction of the Project. In the unlikely event that unknown human remains or funerary objects are uncovered during construction, pursuant to law, the proper authorities would be notified and standard procedures for the respectful handling of human remains would be adhered to in compliance with CCR Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15064.5(e); Public Resources Code Division 5, Chapter 1.75, Section 5097.98; and State Health and Safety Code Division 7, Part 1, Chapter 2, Section 7050.5. By request of Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, mitigation measure **MM CR-3** will provide for a buffer around any human remains or funerary objects that are found. Through implementation of the mitigation measure and compliance with existing regulations would reduce potential impacts from the disturbance of human remains to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce impacts to cultural resources to less than significant.

MM CR-1: MONITORING AND TREATMENT PLAN

Prior to the pre-grade/kickoff meeting, the San Geronio Pass Water Agency shall retain a qualified project archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior Standards. A Monitoring and Treatment Plan that is reflective of the project mitigation measures ("Cultural Resources" and "Tribal Cultural Resources") shall be completed by the Project archaeologist and submitted to the San Geronio Pass Water Agency for dissemination to the Consulting Tribes (Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI), and Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Management Department (YSMN, also known as San Manuel Band of Mission Indians)). Once all parties review and approve the plan, it shall be adopted by San Geronio Pass Water Agency – the plan must be adopted prior to the start of ground disturbing activities for the project. Any and all findings will be subject to the protocol detailed within the Monitoring and Treatment Plan. This Plan shall

allow for monitors to be present that represent the Consulting Tribes for the remainder of the project construction, should the Tribe(s) elect to place a monitor on-site.

The final report(s) created as a part of the project (e.g., monitoring and treatment plan, isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be submitted to the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the Consulting Tribes for review and comment. After approval of all parties, the final reports are to be submitted to the Eastern Information Center, and the Consulting Tribes.

MM CR-2: ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Due to the heightened cultural sensitivity of the undisturbed native soil in the proposed project area, the Project archaeologist or designated archaeological monitor with at least 3 years of regional experience in archaeology that is retained by San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency to conduct a Cultural Resource Sensitivity Training at the pre-grade/kick-off meeting. The purpose of the training is to explain and coordinate the requirements of the monitoring plan (see MM CR-1). The archaeologist shall also be present for all ground-disturbing activities that occur within the proposed project area of undisturbed native soil (which includes, but is not limited to, tree/shrub removal and planting, clearing/grubbing, grading, excavation, trenching, compaction, fence/gate removal and installation, drainage and irrigation removal and installation, hardscape installation [benches, signage, boulders, walls, seat walls, fountains, etc.], and archaeological work). A sufficient number of archaeological monitors shall be present each work day to ensure that simultaneously occurring ground disturbing activities receive thorough levels of monitoring coverage.

MM CR-3: INADVERTENT DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted immediately pursuant to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and that code enforced for the duration of the project. No photographs are to be taken by anyone other than the coroner, except with written approval by the Consulting Tribes. The area shall be protected; project personnel/observers will be restricted. The County Coroner has 48 hours to make his/her determination pursuant to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If the County Coroner contacts the Native American Heritage Commission pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 7050.5(c), then the procedures in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98 for the discovery of human remains shall be implemented.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
6. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

(Sources: Project Description, WEBB-A, WEBB-B)

6.a Would the Project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Less than significant impact. As an infrastructure project, operational emissions would be primarily from infrequent visits by vehicles driven by existing maintenance personnel and are considered negligible. The majority of impacts would be considered short term. As described in the AQ/GHG Analysis (WEBB-A), the Project's short-term construction would last approximately 11 months. Project construction would require the use of construction equipment for the turnout, basin, pipeline installation, and paving construction operations, as well as construction workers and vendors traveling to and from the Project site. Construction equipment requires diesel as the fuel source and construction worker and vendor trips use both gasoline and diesel fuel. Project-related fuel consumption was estimated and is included in **Appendix E** (WEBB-B). Construction of the Project is estimated to use approximately 51,785 gallons of diesel fuel and 3,106 gallons of gasoline (WEBB-B).

Fuel consumption from on-site heavy-duty construction equipment and construction would be temporary in nature and uses a limited number of equipment, which would represent a negligible demand on energy resources. Furthermore, there are no unusual Project site characteristics that would necessitate the use of construction equipment that would be less energy-efficient than at comparable construction sites in other parts of the State.

For these reasons, the Project would not result in a potentially significant impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy during Project construction or operation. Impacts are less than significant and no mitigation is required.

6.b Would the Project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy

Less than significant impact. Implementation of the Project will not result in an inefficient, unnecessary, or wasteful consumption of energy, as outlined in the response to Threshold 6a. The proposed Project would be required to comply with state and federal energy conservation measures related to construction and operations, as applicable. As such, impacts to obstructing a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency during construction or operation will be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Energy Mitigation Measures

Energy impacts resulting from the Project are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Sources: (Construction General Storm Water Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ, DOC-B, DOC-C, AE-B, CBSC, CGP, CGP DEIR, LOR-A, LOR-B)

The analysis in this section is based in-part on the *Infiltration/Percolation Feasibility Investigation* and *Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation for APN 411-150-027* reports prepared by LOR Geotechnical Group, Inc. (LOR-A and LOR-B), which are located in **Appendix F.1** and **Appendix F.2**, respectively.

7.a.(i) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Surface rupture refers to the actual “tearing apart” of the ground surface along a fault trace resulting from an earthquake. The effects of surface rupture may be mitigated by placing structures a specific distance from the known fault trace. The Alquist-Priolo Act requires the State Geologist to establish regulatory zones (known as Earthquake Fault Zones) and to issue appropriate maps. Local agencies must then regulate most development projects within the zones.

Less than significant impact. Seismic activity is expected in Southern California; however, the Project is not located within an Alquist-Priolo zone. The Project area does not contain any known faults; therefore, the potential for on-site fault rupture is very low. The closest fault is El Casco – San Geronio Pass Fault, located approximately 0.85 miles from the turnout facility and approximately 1.35 miles from the recharge basin. As previously discussed, the proposed Project includes pipeline replacement, construction of new pipeline, turnout facility, and recharge basins, along with roadway improvements. The Project does not propose any structures, habitable or otherwise, that could pose a substantial risk to people or other structures in the event of strong seismic ground shaking. The Project components would be designed to incorporate standard seismic design criteria, including those set forth by SGPWA. Therefore, the potential for impacts that would expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects associated with the rupture of a known earthquake fault is less than significant.

7.a.(ii) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking

Given the proximity of known faults as shown in **Figure 9 – Fault Zones**, the Project area, like almost all of California, is susceptible to potentially intense seismic ground shaking. The effects of ground shaking on structures and underground pipelines are difficult to predict, and depend on the intensity of the quake, the distance from the epicenter to the site, the composition of soils and bedrock, construction design, and other physical criteria. Based on these factors, ground shaking may cause none, little, or major structural damage or destruction to the proposed facilities. However, compliance with current seismic design measures to minimize the effects of seismic movement on water infrastructure will ensure risks from seismicity is reduced.

Less than significant impact. Although the Project components would be subject to seismic activity from faults located in the vicinity, no habitable structures that would involve exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving earthquake rupture are proposed. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

7.a.(iii) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Liquefaction commonly occurs in loose, saturated, sandy sediments that are subjected to ground vibrations greater than 0.2g (g-force). When liquefaction occurs, the sediments involved have a substantial loss of shear strength and behave like a liquid or semi-viscous substance, which can result in structural distress or failure due to ground settlement, a loss of load-bearing capacity in foundation soils, and the buoyant rise of buried structures.

Less than significant impact. According to the California Department of Conservation and the City of Calimesa General Plan, the Project site is identified as having low liquefaction susceptibility (CGP, p.8-4). According to the Project's Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation for APN 411-0150-027, prior to construction, near-surface loose soils will be removed and replaced with compacted fill during site grading (LOR-B, p. 8). Additionally, Project components will incorporate standard seismic design criteria. As such, the potential for impacts that would expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury, or death associated with seismic related ground failure including liquefaction is less than significant.

FIGURE 9

Fault Zones



H:\2023\23-0136\GIS\Pro\County_line_rd_recharge_12-11-23\County_line_rd_recharge_12-11-23.aprx Map created 20 Feb 2024

LEGEND

- Alquist-Priolo Fault Traces
- Accurately Located
- - -

 Approximately Located
- - -

 Inferred
-

 Concealed
- Project Site
- Alquist-Priolo Fault Zones



0 1,250 2,500 Feet

Sources: California Department of Conservation and California Geological Survey, Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones and Active Fault Traces, accessed Feb 13, 2024; Nearmap, 2024.

7.a.(iv) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?

Strong ground motions can result in landslides, rockslides, and rock falls, particularly where saturated ground conditions exist. During an earthquake, groundwater conditions also have an influence in the development of seismically induced slope failures, as well as landslides and mudflows. Lateral spreading is a type of landslide that can occur on gentle to steep slopes where seismic-induced liquefaction occurs in saturated soils.

Less than significant impact. The Project site along the pipeline alignment has been previously excavated, filled, graded, and leveled and is currently paved. The recharge basin site is on a vacant lot and due to its flat gradient and the absence of known landslides within or immediately adjacent to the site, the potential for landslides at the site is very low. As such, the potential for impacts associated with landslides are considered less than significant. (LOR-B, p. 2.)

7.b Would the Project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than significant impact. The Project components will be constructed along existing roadways and along portions of parcels that will be acquired by SGPWA, SMWC, and San Bernardino Valley. The construction will take place on previously disturbed portions of vacant lots, or portions of developed parcels. Because they are located underground, installation of the proposed pipelines would not result in significant changes to existing topography. The Project roads are currently being used and are presently travelled upon. Grading and excavation associated with construction of the recharge basin and elevation control basin may lead to localized erosion as wind and water carry loose soil offsite. Maximum excavation depth crossing underneath Calimesa Creek Channel will be 13 feet, and the rest of the Project facilities will be at a depth of 5.5-6 feet.

To minimize soil disturbance, non-storm water discharges, construction materials, and construction waste during its construction phase, the Project will implement an effective Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) pursuant to the California General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. Project-related construction would involve excavation and earthmoving. With implementation of the SWPPP, substantial loss of topsoil is not anticipated and the construction phase of the Project would not be exposed to extensive rain during the rainy season. Therefore, impacts related to substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, are considered less than significant.

7.c Would the Project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

Impacts related to landslide and lateral spreading are addressed in threshold 7.a.iv above; impacts related to liquefaction are addressed in threshold 7.a.iii above. This analysis addresses impacts related to unstable soils, as a result of lateral spreading, subsidence, or collapse.

Less than significant impact. The Project components will be constructed on existing roadways and portions of parcels that are previously developed/disturbed and generally flat. No steep slopes are present in the Project area. Furthermore, the potential for land-sliding at the site is very low (LOR-B p. 8). Implementation of the Project will not contribute to or expose people or structures to substantial adverse

effects associated with on-or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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

This question makes specific reference to a definition from the Uniform Building Code (1994), which has been replaced by the California Building Code (2016) and the definition of expansive soil provided in section 1803.5.3. Expansive soils are those that contain a significant amount of clay particles that have a high shrink (dry) and swell (wet) potential. The upward pressures induced by the swelling of expansive soils under moist conditions can damage structures.

Less than significant impact. Geologic and engineering reports indicate that soils in Calimesa generally have low shrink-swell potential because they are generally sandy. As a result, soil in the north-central portion of Calimesa are generally suitable for development purposes (CGP DEIR, p. 3.6-8.) The site on 4th Street where the basins are proposed has very low expansion potential (LOR-B, p. 11). Portions of the Project traverse through existing roadways which have already been determined suitable for development. Therefore, potential impacts related to being located on expansive soils that would create substantial risks to life or property, are considered less than significant.

7.e Would the Project 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?

No impact. The Project does not include the handling of wastewater, the use of septic tanks, or alternative wastewater disposal systems. The Project would not dispose of any wastes, including by applying to soil. Thus, there would be no impact in terms of having soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

7.f Would the Project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Paleontological resources include fossils of plant and animal remains from prehistoric eras.

Determination. Applied Earthworks conducted a Paleontological Resource Assessment (PRA) for the Project (AE-B), a copy of which is located in **Appendix F.2**. The PRA was completed from a combination of desktop studies and fieldwork. The desktop studies included a review of published and unpublished literature and maps, as well as museum records searches. The purpose of these studies was to identify the geologic units in the Project area and to determine whether previously recorded paleontological localities occur either within the Project area, or within the same geologic units nearby but outside the Project area.

The desktop analysis suggests that deposits of middle to late Pleistocene old axial-valley deposits, Unit 1 ("Qoa1") have a high potential of preserving significant paleontological resources. The geotechnical reports for the Project (LOR-A and LOR-B) described sediments matching the descriptions of Qoa1 at 0–2 feet below ground surface within the western terminus (recharge basin area). Although no subsurface

data was available for the roadway portions of the Project area, Qoa1 deposits are mapped throughout the entire extent (AE-B, p. 19).

Fieldwork was conducted by Applied Earthworks, Inc. on February 28, 2024 to confirm presence or absence of exposed fossils and to evaluate geologic exposures for their potential to yield significant subsurface paleontological resources (AE-B, p. 10). Prevalent hardscaping, including roads, extensive vegetation, and the absence of geologic outcrops or road cuts in the Project area limited close field examinations of the surficial geology in the Project area. Specifically, the surficial geology was only visible in sparse patches between vegetation in the open field at the west terminus (i.e., recharge basin area). The remainder of the Project area, including all of 4th Street and County Line Road, are paved and developed, with no geological exposures. The field survey found no notable changes in lithology and did not encounter any paleontological resources.

Because the field survey did not yield much useful information that would affect the determination of paleontological resource potential in the Project area, the results of the desktop studies that show the Project area underlain with Qoa1 deposits, which have the potential contain significant paleontological resources, suggest that the Project area has High A (“Ha”) Sensitivity. Based on the Ha Sensitivity mapping across the entire Project area, and the Project excavation to extend beyond artificial fill, there exists the potential for inadvertent impacts to unknown paleontological resources. Therefore, mitigation measure **MM PALEO 1** will require implementation of a Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP) by a qualified paleontologist for construction activities that extend below the depth of artificial fill and below road pavement. With implementation of existing regulations related to the discovery of paleontological resources and **MM PALEO 1**, impacts to a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature are **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Geology and Soils Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce impacts to geology and soils to less than significant.

MM PALEO-1: PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCE IMPACT MITIGATION PROGRAM

Construction activities that extend below the depth of artificial fill and below road pavement may impact significant paleontological resources throughout the Project area. Therefore, prior to the issuance of grading permits and consistent with Riverside County General Plan policies (i.e., Open Space Element Policy 19.6), a Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP) shall be prepared by a qualified professional paleontologist as defined by mitigation paleontology industry standards (Murphey et al., 2019) and/or the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP, 2010). The PRIMP will include a Worker’s Environmental Awareness Program training prepared prior to the start of Project-related ground disturbance and presented in person to all field personnel to describe the types of paleontological resources that may be found and the procedures to follow if any are encountered; the monitoring plan will indicate where construction monitoring should occur and the frequency of required monitoring (e.g., full-time, spot-checks, etc.); the monitoring plan will also provide details about fossil collection, analysis, and preparation for permanent curation at an approved repository; and lastly, the monitoring plan will describe the different reporting standards to be used, such as monitoring with negative findings versus monitoring resulting in fossil discoveries.

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

(Sources: Project Description, WEBB-A)

8.a Would the Project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

The focus of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) analysis is to evaluate the impacts of GHG. GHG, like carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and fluorinated gases are responsible for trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere, leading to global warming and climate change. For analysis purposes, emissions of CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O were evaluated because these gases are the primary contributors to GHG from development.

GHG are typically evaluated on an annual basis using the metric system and not presented in pounds per day (lbs/day) like criteria pollutants. Several agencies, at various levels, have proposed draft GHG significance thresholds for use in CEQA documents. SCAQMD has worked on GHG thresholds for development projects. In December 2008, the SCAQMD adopted a threshold of 10,000 metric tonnes per year of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO₂E/yr) for stationary source projects where SCAQMD is the lead agency. The most recent draft proposal was in September 2010 and included screening significance thresholds for residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects at 3,500, 1,400, and 3,000 MTCO₂E/yr, respectively. Alternatively, a lead agency has the option to use 3,000 MTCO₂E/yr as a threshold for all non-industrial projects. Although both options are recommended by SCAQMD, a lead agency is advised to use only one option and to use it consistently. The SCAQMD significance thresholds also recommend amortizing construction emission over an expected project life of 30 years. (WEBB-A, p. 6.)

Less than significant impact. The AQ/GHG Analysis prepared for the Project (WEBB-A) estimated GHG emissions from fuel usage by construction equipment and construction-related activities, such as construction worker trips. The results of the analysis for construction-related GHG emissions provide for carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), refrigerants (R), and carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂E) as shown in **Table F – Project Construction Equipment GHG Emissions**.

Table F – Project Construction Equipment GHG Emissions

Year	Metric Tonnes per year (MT/yr)				
	Total CO ₂	Total CH ₄	Total N ₂ O	Total R	Total CO ₂ E
2024	478.00	0.02	0.03	0.19	487.00
2025	99.20	0.00	0.00	0.03	100.00
Total	577.20	0.02	0.03	0.22	587.00
Amortized					19.57

Source: WEBB-A, Table 2

Note: Emissions reported as zero are rounded and not necessarily equal to zero.

Table F indicates that an estimated total of 19.57 MTCO₂E per year would occur from Project construction equipment over the course of the estimated 11-month construction period. The draft SCAQMD GHG threshold guidance document released in October 2008 recommends that construction emissions be amortized for a project lifetime of 30 years to ensure that GHG reduction measures address construction GHG emissions as part of the operational reduction strategies.

Long-term emissions, as discussed under the response to threshold 3.b, Air Quality, would primarily be in the form of mobile source emissions from infrequent maintenance. Therefore, GHG emissions from operations would be negligible.

The proposed Project does not fit into the categories provided (industrial, commercial, and residential) in the draft thresholds from SCAQMD. The Project's emissions were compared to the 3,000 MTCO₂E/yr threshold for non-industrial projects because it is more conservative. Since the draft SCAQMD GHG threshold Guidance document released in October 2008 recommends that construction emissions be amortized for a project lifetime of 30 years, the total GHG emissions from Project construction were amortized and found to be less than the lowest SCAQMD recommended screening level of 3,000 MTCO₂E/yr. Due to the lack of adopted emissions thresholds, the estimated amount of emissions from Project construction and negligible operational emissions from infrequent maintenance vehicles, the proposed Project would not generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment and impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

8.b Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No impact. Because the proposed Project involves non-potable raw water infrastructure, it is not considered a significant source of operational GHG emissions. The Project will not result in any changes to the existing land use patterns within the Project area and its construction does not generate significant amounts of GHG (refer to **Table F**); therefore, the Project will not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation for the reduction in GHG emissions. No impacts would occur and no mitigation is required.

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures

Greenhouse gas impacts resulting from the Project are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐

(Sources: Cal Fire, CCR; CFR; CGP, Cortese List; CFR Title 40, Chapter 1, Subchapter I, Part 261; Google Earth; Gov. Code 65962.5, Health and Safety Code, Project Description, SWRCB-A, SWRCB-B)

9.a Would the Project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Construction activities may include the transport and storage of hazardous materials, such as fuels for construction equipment. The transportation of hazardous materials can result in accidental spills, leaks, toxic releases, fire, or explosion. A number of federal and state agencies prescribe strict regulations for the safe transportation of hazardous materials. Hazardous material transport, storage and response to upsets or accidents are primarily subject to federal regulation by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety in accordance with Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). California regulations applicable to hazardous material transport, storage, and response to upsets or accidents are codified in Title 13 (Motor Vehicles), Title 8 (Cal/OSHA), Title 22 (Management of Hazardous Waste), Title 26 (Toxics) of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), and the Chapter 6.95 of the Health and Safety Code (Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory).

Less than significant impact. Construction of the Project elements (recharge basin, pipelines, turnout facility, and roadway improvements) may include the transport and storage of hazardous materials, such as fuels for the construction equipment. The transportation of hazardous materials can result in

accidental spills, leaks, toxic releases, fire, or explosion. However, Project construction is not expected to create the need for an excessive amount of hazardous materials being used on-site.

Compliance with applicable federal and state laws related to the transportation, use, storage, and response to upsets or accidents that may involve hazardous materials would reduce the likelihood and severity of upsets and accidents during transit and storage. Additionally, construction and operation of the Project is not expected to result in the use of large amounts of hazardous materials that would create a hazard to the public or environment. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

9.b Would the Project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Less than significant impact. The Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or to the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment, because the storage, handling, and disposal of any hazardous materials that could be used during construction would be done in accordance with applicable best management practices (BMPs) to manage clean-up of potential spills of hazardous materials. The operation of the Project does not include the use of hazardous materials. Through compliance with applicable regulations, impacts would be less than significant.

9.c Would the Project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Less than significant impact. The County Line Road pipeline component is located within one-quarter mile of Mesa Grande Academy Children's Center and Calimesa Elementary School. Construction and operation of the Project would not require atypical chemicals associated with construction methods and equipment. Fuels, lubricants, and solvents can be anticipated but would not create a route of hazardous exposure to students at nearby schools because construction activities would be limited to roadways and transient as they progress along the alignment. In addition, the construction of the Project would comply with state and federal regulations governing the use and transport of hazardous materials. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose nearby schools to hazardous materials, substances, or waste and impacts would be less than significant.

9.d Would the Project 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?

No impact. There are no sites on the list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 within the general area in which the Project components would be located or along or adjacent to pipeline alignments. There are no USTs within a quarter mile of the Project site. Therefore, there would be no impact.

9.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 for people residing or working in the project area?

No impact. There are no public airports, public use airports, or private airstrips in the City of Calimesa. The closest airport is the Redlands Municipal Airport, located approximately 10 miles north of the Project Site. As such, implementation of the Project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for hazard for people residing or working on the Project site. No impact would occur.

9.f Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The City of Calimesa identified the following evacuation routes in its General Plan: Interstate 10 and California Street for north-south movement of traffic; and County Line Road for east-west movement of traffic. Additional streets that can augment the routes include Calimesa Boulevard, 3rd Street and 5th Street for north-south traffic flow, as well as Avenue L and Singleton Road for east-west traffic movement (CGP, pp. 8.11 – 8.12).

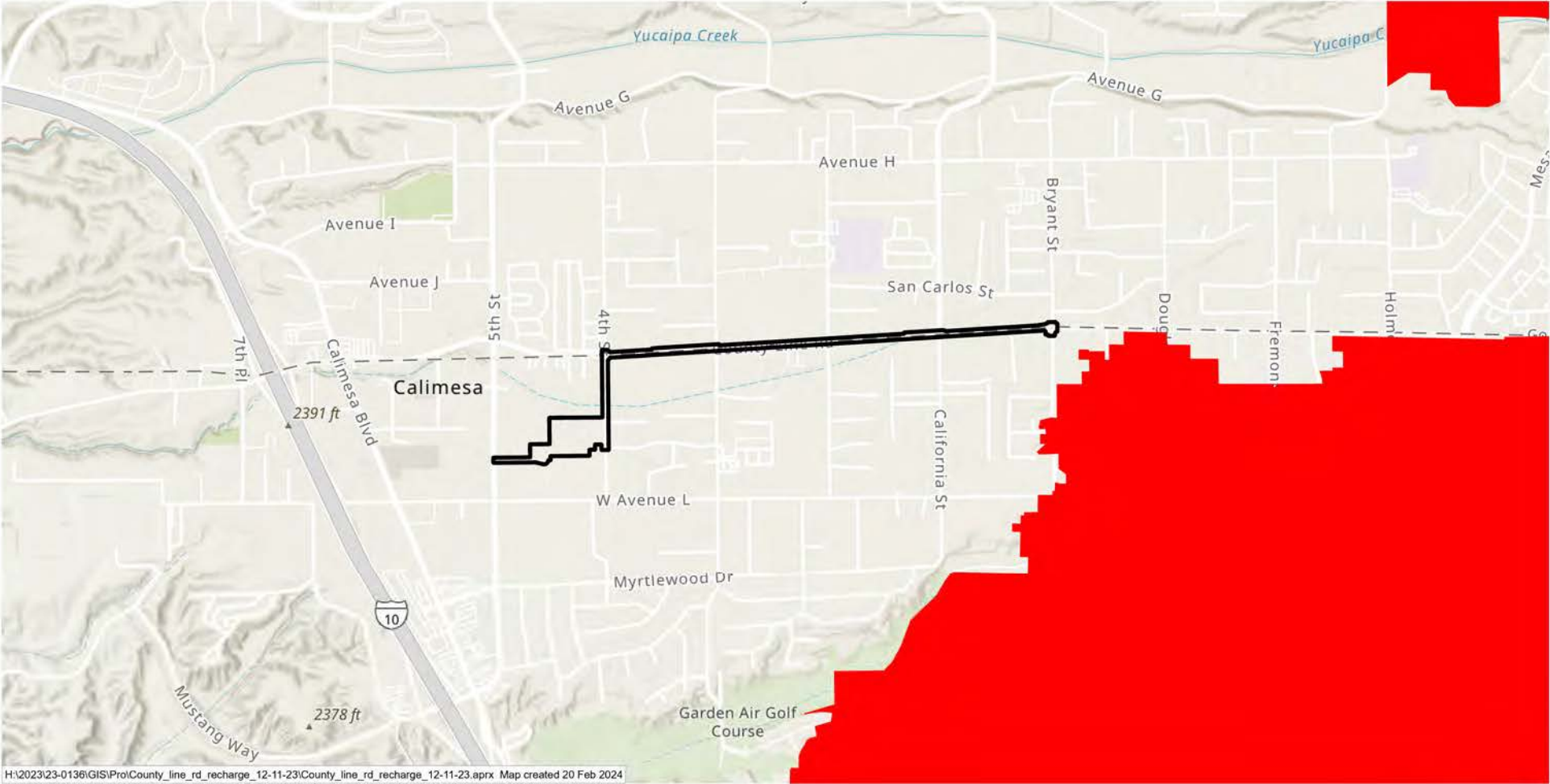
Less than significant impact. Construction of the Project components would cause traffic delays if lane closures are required, which may affect response times for emergency vehicles or travel time for evacuees. As part of the final design for the any Project component, traffic control plans shall be prepared and shall be approved for which a lane closure or encroachment permit is required. The traffic control plans shall provide adequate pass-by features for emergency vehicles. Through compliance with required traffic control plans and encroachment permits, the details of which would be dictated by the City of Calimesa, the ability of emergency vehicles to pass by the construction site(s) safely, efficiently, and quickly would not be limited. Therefore, impacts related to the interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan would be less than significant.

9.g Would the Project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

Less than significant impact. Based on the Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Areas map, the Project is not located in a Local Responsibility Zone (LRA) or a State Responsibility Zone (SRZ) as shown on **Figure 10 – Fire Hazard Severity Zones**. The eastern portion of the Project site is near a LRA Very High Fire Severity Zone. Project construction activities would require workers to be present at the Project; however, these workers would not be at significant risk to wildland fires since they would not be confined within structures, as the construction would be outside, mostly in ROW. The pipeline component of the Project would be located underground and as such would not expose people or structures to a significant level of risk from wildland fires. Therefore, the potential for impacts that would expose people or structures to a significant risk or loss, injury or death involving wildland fires is less than significant.

FIGURE 10

Fire Hazard Severity Zones



LEGEND

 Project Site

Local Responsibility Fire Hazard Severity Zones

 Very High



0 500 1,000 Feet

Sources: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Riverside West and San Bernardino South West, Nov, 2009; Esri (imagery), 2024.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☒	☐
i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

(Sources: Yucaipa SGMA, CMC, SWRCB-A, SWRCB-B, SWRCB-C, USEPA-A, USEPA-B, FEMA)

10.a Would the Project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

Water quality standards are the combination of water quality objectives (i.e., numeric, and narrative thresholds) that are established to protect the beneficial uses of downstream receiving waters. Waste discharge requirements are permitted discharges of waste.

Less than significant impact. The Project involves constructing a groundwater recharge basin with associated piping in order to recharge imported State Water Project (SWP) water. The Project is located within the regulatory jurisdiction of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Santa Ana Region (RWQCB) which is guided by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Plan (i.e., Basin Plan). The Basin Plan sets forth the water quality standards for each surface water and groundwater body in the Santa Ana River Watershed as well as the beneficial uses and the water quality objectives that have been established by the RWQCB. The Project area is tributary to Calimesa Creek. Calimesa Creek flows westerly to join with San Timoteo Creek, which outlets to the Santa Ana River and ultimately the Pacific Ocean. The Project is also within the Yucaipa Groundwater Basin. Both groundwater and surface water bodies have assigned beneficial uses and water quality objectives. Although Calimesa Creek and Wildwood Canyon Creek are not listed in the Basin Plan, water quality objectives still apply.

The segment of San Timoteo Creek that the Project discharges to (i.e., Reach 3) is listed by the RWQCB as an impaired waterbody for high concentrations of Indicator Bacteria (*Final California 2020 Integrated Report (303(d) List/305(b) Report*). As such, construction projects and new developments that are tributary to Reach 3 of San Timoteo Creek are expected to ensure no release of new sources of bacteria. The proposed Project only handles imported SWP water, which would be infiltrated to the groundwater, and is not expected to release sources of bacteria.

Construction of the facilities identified in the Project would involve actions that have the potential to degrade surface or groundwater quality. Construction of the Project facilities could result in degraded downstream water quality because of polluted stormwater runoff coming from the construction site. Construction-phase stormwater quality is regulated by a statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit with waste discharge requirements (the Construction General Permit, NPDES No. CAS000002) to minimize the discharge of construction stormwater to the maximum extent practicable. To achieve this, the Construction General Permit requires the development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) by a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) and implemented onsite by a Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP) for the duration of construction until disturbed ground areas are hardened or stabilized. SGPWA will be required to have a SWPPP in place during construction in order to prevent violating water quality standards.

Operation of the Project facilities would recharge imported SWP water to the local groundwater basin, known as the Calimesa Management Area of the Yucaipa Groundwater Basin (Basin No. 8-002.07). Imported SWP water originates from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta in Northern California and is considered non-potable for direct human consumption but does not present a source of pollutants to the groundwater basin. In addition, the process of infiltration through soil is highly effective in removing pollutants. Therefore, no additional treatment is required, and the infiltration provided by the proposed basin would be sufficient to address operational-phase sources of pollutants. The Project activities at the turnout facility and roadways will be underground and/or hardened after construction and operation of said facilities would not threaten downstream waterbodies. If discharges of SWP water should occur during operation of the Project as part of flushing or maintenance activities, then no degradation of downstream waterbodies would occur because of the relatively high, albeit non-potable, quality of SWP water. The Project includes relocating an existing 8-inch diameter potable water pipeline, which may require flushing during the reinstalling process. Releases originating from drinking water pipelines are regulated by Order No. R8-2015-0004 (NPDES No. CAG998001), General Waste Discharge Requirements for Insignificant Threat Discharges to Surface Waters and Order WQ 2014-0194-DWQ (NPDES No. CAG140001), Drinking Water System Discharges to Waters of the United States.

Through compliance with existing water quality regulations for surface and groundwaters including NPDES permits, the Project would not substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality during construction or operational phase activities. Impacts are considered less than significant.

10.b Would the Project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

No impact. The Project proposes several components including the construction and operation of water conveyance pipelines and a groundwater recharge basin for the purpose of increasing water supply reliability, improving groundwater conditions, and enhancing drought resiliency.

The Project would contribute water supplies for the purpose of groundwater recharge to Yucaipa Subbasin within the Calimesa Management Area and would therefore not decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with recharge. The Yucaipa SGMA includes eight local and regional member agencies: South Mesa Water Company, South Mountain Water Company, Western Heights Water Company, Yucaipa Valley Water District, City of Redlands, City of Yucaipa, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, and San Geronio Pass Water Agency. The Yucaipa SGMA manages the local groundwater resource in order to maintain sustainable and long-term beneficial use pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). The Yucaipa Subbasin is the principal alluvial aquifer that provides the majority of municipal water served to residents and businesses in portions of the cities of Yucaipa, Calimesa, and Redlands. Over the last decade, extreme drought conditions have impacted groundwater levels in the Yucaipa Subbasin. Although the region has a supplemental source of water by way of the SWP Contractors, the region lacks the facilities to utilize the supplemental supply. The SWP Contractors, SGPWA and San Bernardino Valley, will receive imported State Water Project supplies when available from DWR. This SWP water would be received through the turnout facility and ultimately directed to the recharge basin to improve the overall health of the Yucaipa Subbasin. The Yucaipa SGMA collaboratively prepared the Yucaipa Subbasin GSP, which identifies this project as an important/critical component project to support water supply reliability, healthy groundwater management and enhance regional drought resiliency. Because the Project represents a key implementing project of not only the GSP, but also the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) and IRWMP (Integrated Regional Water Management Plan) to increase groundwater supplies through groundwater recharge, no adverse impacts to groundwater are anticipated. Therefore, no adverse impacts are expected.

10.c.i. Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on-or-off-site?

Less than significant impact. The Project consists of constructing a groundwater recharge basin with associated piping to recharge imported SWP water. The Project does not include altering the course of a waterbody and will add a minimal area of new imperviousness of 25,530 square feet and will repave 16,495 square feet after installation of the pipelines within existing roadways. Calimesa Channel is a concrete, trapezoidal channel that bisects 4th Street. Because installation of the proposed pipe will go underneath Calimesa Creek Channel, its flows will not be altered by the Project. Also, the existing drainage pattern of the Project area would not be altered since the facilities are underground related to the turnout and pipelines. At the recharge basin site, the site is surrounded by existing roads or existing rural development, and therefore there is no pattern of a larger drainage that would be interrupted by constructing the recharge basin.

During construction there exists the potential for erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Therefore, the Project will comply with existing regulations for construction-phase stormwater pollution. Construction-phase stormwater quality is regulated by a statewide NPDES permit with waste discharge requirements (the Construction General Permit, NPDES No. CAS000002). The Construction General Permit requires the development of a SWPPP, for certain types of projects, by a certified Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) and implemented onsite by a Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP) for the duration of construction. Permit coverage under the statewide Construction General Permit from the State Water Resources

Control Board (SWRCB) and preparation of an effective SWPPP is required because the Project site and anticipated area of disturbance is greater than one-acre. Therefore, through implementation of existing regulations to address construction-phase potential for erosion or siltation, and operational activities that are belowground, impacts are less than significant.

10.c.ii. Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or-off-site?

Less than significant impact. The Project consists of constructing a groundwater recharge basin with associated piping to recharge imported SWP water. The existing storm drain system in the area would not be affected by the proposed Project. The Project pipelines would be underground and would not impact the storm drain system. The Project recharge basin has a capacity of 16.8-acre feet. In the unlikely event the recharge basin overflows, the Project has proposed an emergency overflow basin (i.e., elevation control basin) with the capacity of 1.7-acre feet. In the unlikely event the elevation control basin capacity is reached, flows would be directed down Buena Vista Court. Buena Vista Court will be improved by SGPWA as part of the Project to its design width with pavement, asphalt drainage berms, and crown to accommodate any overflow. Stormwater currently flows from Buena Vista Court to 5th street south to existing storm drain inlets at L Street. The maximum additional contribution from the Project if the Elevation Control Basin were to overflow would be limited to the rate coming through the Turnout Facility, which has a maximum turnout capacity of 10 cfs. This is considered a negligible contribution to the existing storm drain facilities. Therefore, impacts from flooding on- or off-site are less significant.

10.c.iii. Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Less than significant impact. The Project consists of constructing a groundwater recharge basin with associated piping in order to recharge imported SWP water. Within the Project area, there are existing storm drain inlets along County Line Road but none on 4th Street or Buena Vista Court. Runoff from Buena Vista Court sheet flows west onto 5th Street and then south to an inlet at L Avenue. Runoff from the Project's portion of 4th Street sheet flows partly to Calimesa Creek Channel and partly toward inlets on L Avenue to the south. Construction activities present the risk of pollutant discharges and are therefore handled by implementing an effective SWPPP, as described previously in threshold 10.c.i. Because the Project pipelines would be underground, and they would not result in an exceedance of the existing drainage system. Runoff generated on the recharge basin parcel will be directed to flow into the recharge basin and into the elevation control basin. The recharge basin has a capacity of 16.8-acre feet, and in the event the recharge basin overflows, the Project has proposed an emergency overflow basin (i.e., elevation control basin) with the capacity of 1.7-acre feet. In the unlikely event the elevation control basin capacity is reached, flows would be directed down Buena Vista Court. Buena Vista Court would be improved to its design width with pavement, asphalt drainage berms, and crown by SGPWA to accommodate any overflow during extreme weather events. The maximum flow coming out of the elevation control basin and out of Buena Vista Court out-letting into the storm drain system at the

northeast corner of 5th Street and L Avenue would be a maximum of 10 cfs, which is considered a negligible contribution to the area. Therefore, impacts from exceeding capacity of existing or planned drainages systems, or additional sources of polluted runoff on- or off-site are less significant.

10.c.iv. Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would create or contribute runoff water which would impede or redirect flood flows?

Less than significant impact. Construction of the Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the Project area because the Project does not include a vertical component that would redirect or impede flows. The Project would not alter the course of a stream or river. Regarding the potential for substantial erosion, siltation, and polluted runoff, refer to the response to threshold 10.a. Regarding the potential for flooding, refer to the response to threshold 10.d.

According to FEMA FIRM Maps, there are no flood hazard zones in the Project area except within the confines of the Calimesa Creek Channel, which is designated Zone AE, meaning the channel is a Regulatory Floodway⁴ and the 100-year storm event is contained within the channel. FEMA has designated the remainder of the Project components to be within Zone X, which is defined as areas of 0.2 percent annual chance flood (500-year storm event); areas of 1 percent annual chance flood (100-year storm event) with average depths of less than 1 foot or within drainage areas less than 1 square mile; and areas protected by levees and 1 percent annual chance flood. See Figure 11 – FEMA Flood Hazard Zone. The Project would install the proposed pipeline in 4th Street underneath Calimesa Channel using a trenchless method (i.e., jack and bore) and will not affect Calimesa Creek Channel's function of conveyance of flood flows.

Construction of the water conveyance pipelines would occur within paved road ROWs. Roadways and construction areas would be returned to their original line and grade. With implementation of the SWPPP and dewatering/de minimus permits, as well as Project design to avoid Calimesa Creek Channel, the Project would not result in substantial erosion or siltation. Therefore, impacts from impeding and redirecting flood flows would be less than significant.

10.d In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the Project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

The Project location is too far inland from the ocean to be subject to tsunamis and there are no seiche zones in the Project area. FEMA Flood Hazard Zones for the Project area are shown in **Figure 11 – FEMA Flood Hazard Zone**.

Less than significant impact. The Project would not result in the release of pollutants as the result of inundation since no chemicals or potential pollutants will be stored on the recharge basin site. The Project site is not within a FEMA Flood Hazard Zone or Dam Inundation Zone (CGP, p. 8-9.) Inundation

⁴ The floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodplain areas that must be kept free of encroachments so that the 1% annual chance flood (100-Year flood) can be carried without substantial increases in flood heights.

of any Project component facilities at these locations would pose limited risk of pollutant release because chemicals are not anticipated to be stored on site. The pipeline component of this Project is buried underground, the risk of pollutant release during inundation is less than significant. Therefore, through existing regulations and project design, impacts from release of pollutants during inundation would be less than significant.

10.e Would the Project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Less than significant impact. The Project is within the RWQCB Basin Plan for the Santa Ana River Watershed. The Basin Plan outlines the RWQCB's regulatory programs and priorities for regulating water quality of surface and ground water bodies. Because the Project will comply with the NPDES requirements related to construction activities and operational activities, the Project would not conflict or obstruct the implementation of the local Basin Plan.

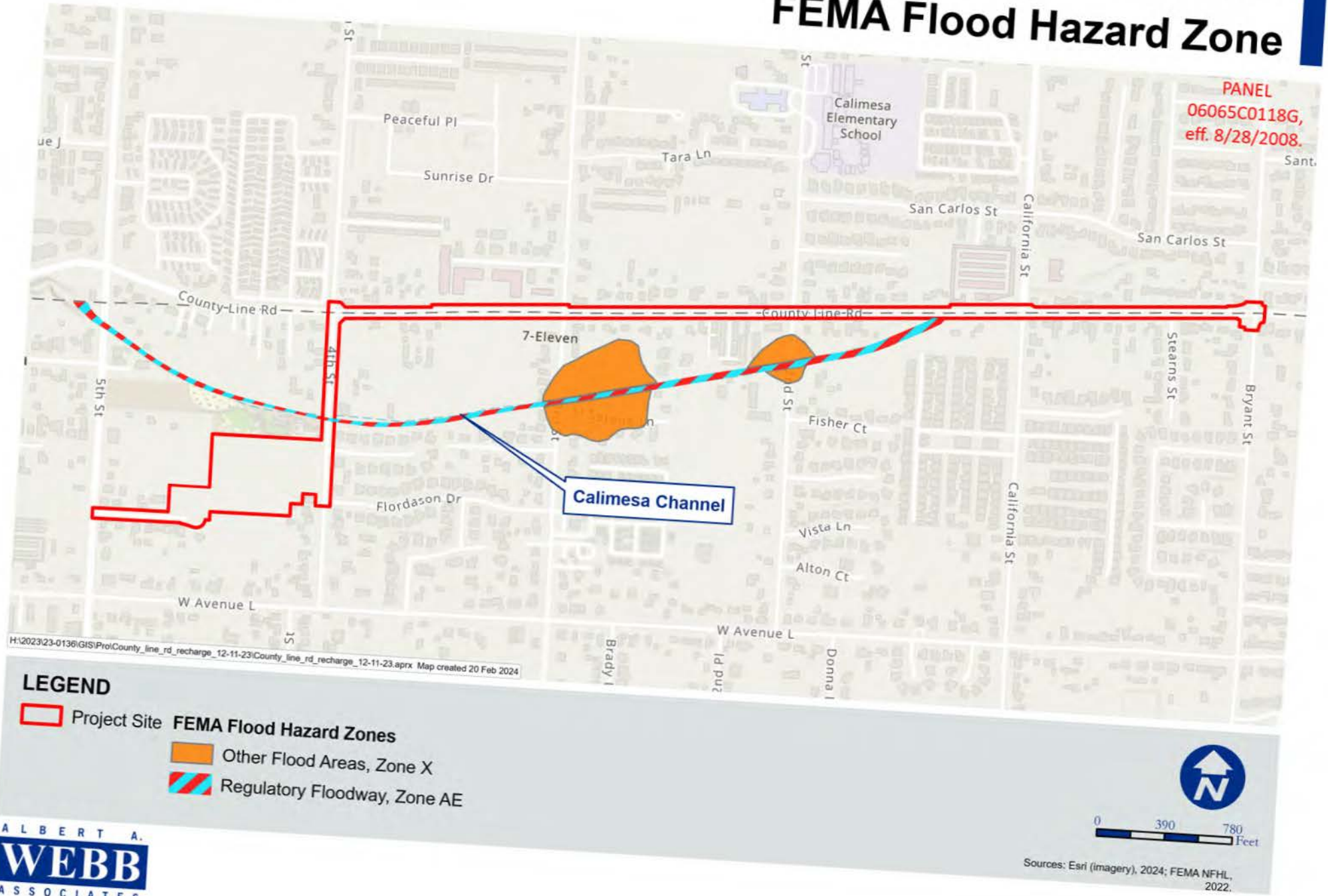
The Project will benefit users in multiple sectors by implementing a collaborative, cost-efficient, and multi-benefit water management solution to address water supply issues to meet the needs of many. The proposed Project would assist the region and Yucaipa SGMA in meeting their goals by improving the ability to better manage surface supplies when they are available for use as a more reliable and resilient water supply. Therefore, the Project is consistent with, and supported by the Yucaipa SGMA GSP. This Project would help prevent a net decline of groundwater levels by facilitating recharge of imported SWP water supplies when they are available to an area that previously did not have access to such supply. As a result of this Project, San Bernardino Valley and SGPWA as member agencies of the Yucaipa SGMA, will have infrastructure to store water and provide reliable source of water during drought emergencies, leaving the communities of Calimesa and Yucaipa less vulnerable to drought restrictions and the groundwater basin at less risk of future groundwater level declines as climate change progresses. The construction and operation of the Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan; therefore impacts would be less than significant.

Hydrology and Water Quality Mitigation Measures

Impacts regarding hydrology and water quality are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

FIGURE 11

County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project
FEMA Flood Hazard Zone



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
11. LAND USE PLANNING. Would the project				
a. Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

(Sources: Google Earth, Project Description, CGC, CGP, Opinion No. 94-902, Yucaipa SGMA)

11.a Would the Project physically divide an established community?

Less than significant impact. The physical division of an established community typically refers to the construction of a physical feature (such as a wall, interstate highway, or railroad tracks) or the removal of a means of access (such as a local road or bridge) that would impair mobility. Construction of the Project components such as the pipelines and recharge basin are not large enough to constitute a physical barrier. The pipelines and turnout facility are underground facilities and once construction is complete, any roads in which the pipelines were installed would be returned to their original condition and access restored. For these reasons impacts regarding physically dividing an established community would be less than significant.

11.b Would the Project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No impact. The Project is located fully within the City of Calimesa, which has local land use authority. SGPWA does not have land use authority but is a public agency organized by the State Legislature in 1961 by the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Law (Stats.1961, c. 1435, p. 3239) and has jurisdiction over the Project. San Bernardino Valley and SGPWA will acquire the encroachment permits needed from DWR and the City in order to implement the Project. SGPWA owns the recharge basin parcel, which has a land use and zoning designation of Residential Low Medium (R-L-M, 4-7 units per acre) (**Table A** and Figures 6a and 7). Pursuant to San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Law, SGPWA will develop the parcel for purposes of supporting its purpose and mission.

The Project is an effort planned by the Yucaipa SGMA to support the implementation of infrastructure to store water and provide a reliable source of drinking water during drought emergencies in order for the communities of Calimesa and Yucaipa to be less vulnerable to drought restrictions. The Yucaipa GSP describes the Project and others, which has been approved by DWR. Therefore, with regards to conflicts with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation, no impacts are anticipated.

Land Use Planning Mitigation Measures

There are no impacts to land use planning; therefore, no mitigation is required.

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

(Sources: CGP DEIR, CGP, DOC-C)

12.a Would the Project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

Mineral resources are naturally occurring chemicals, elements, or compounds formed by inorganic processes or organic substances. These resources include bituminous rock, gold, sand, gravel, clay, crushed stone, limestone, diatomite, salt, borate, potash, geothermal, petroleum, and natural gas resources. Construction aggregate, another mineral resource, refers to sand and gravel (natural aggregates) and crushed stone (rock) that are used as Portland cement-concrete (PCC) aggregate, asphaltic-concrete aggregate, road base, railroad ballast, riprap, fill, and the production of other construction materials.

No impact. The Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state, because there are no known valuable mineral resources in City of Calimesa, including the Project area. Given the level of existing development in the Project area, it is highly unlikely that any surface mining or mineral recovery operation could feasibly take place on the Project site. Therefore, there is no impact related to the loss of a mineral resource.

12.b Would the Project result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No impact. As discussed in threshold 12.a above, the Project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan, because no mining operations or other resource recovery sites exist on or near the Project area. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mineral Resources Mitigation Measures

There are no impacts to mineral resources; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
13. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

(Sources: CGP DEIR, CMC, FHWA, FTA, CLTC Addendum)

13.a Would the Project result in the 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?

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. Temporary increases to ambient noise levels would occur during Project construction. Noise would derive from the use of various types of construction equipment such as compactors, pavers, excavators, generators, drills, and from a worker-related increase in traffic in the vicinity of Project components. Maximum noise levels (Lmax) associated with the construction equipment expected to be used, ranges from 80 dBA Lmax at 50 feet to 85 dBA Lmax at 50 feet. The pipelines and turnout components will not generate noise once construction is complete because they are underground. Operational noise may come from equipment used at the recharge basin site such as gas-powered leaf blowers, weed whackers, generators, ripper attachment for a tractor, and traffic associated with maintenance. All the Project components are within or adjacent to residential neighborhoods and commercial developments. Receptors within the vicinity of the various Project components are the residences along the pipeline alignment, turnout facility, and basin site, as well as the public park adjacent to the location of the recharge basin as shown in **Figure 12 – Sensitive Noise Receptors**.

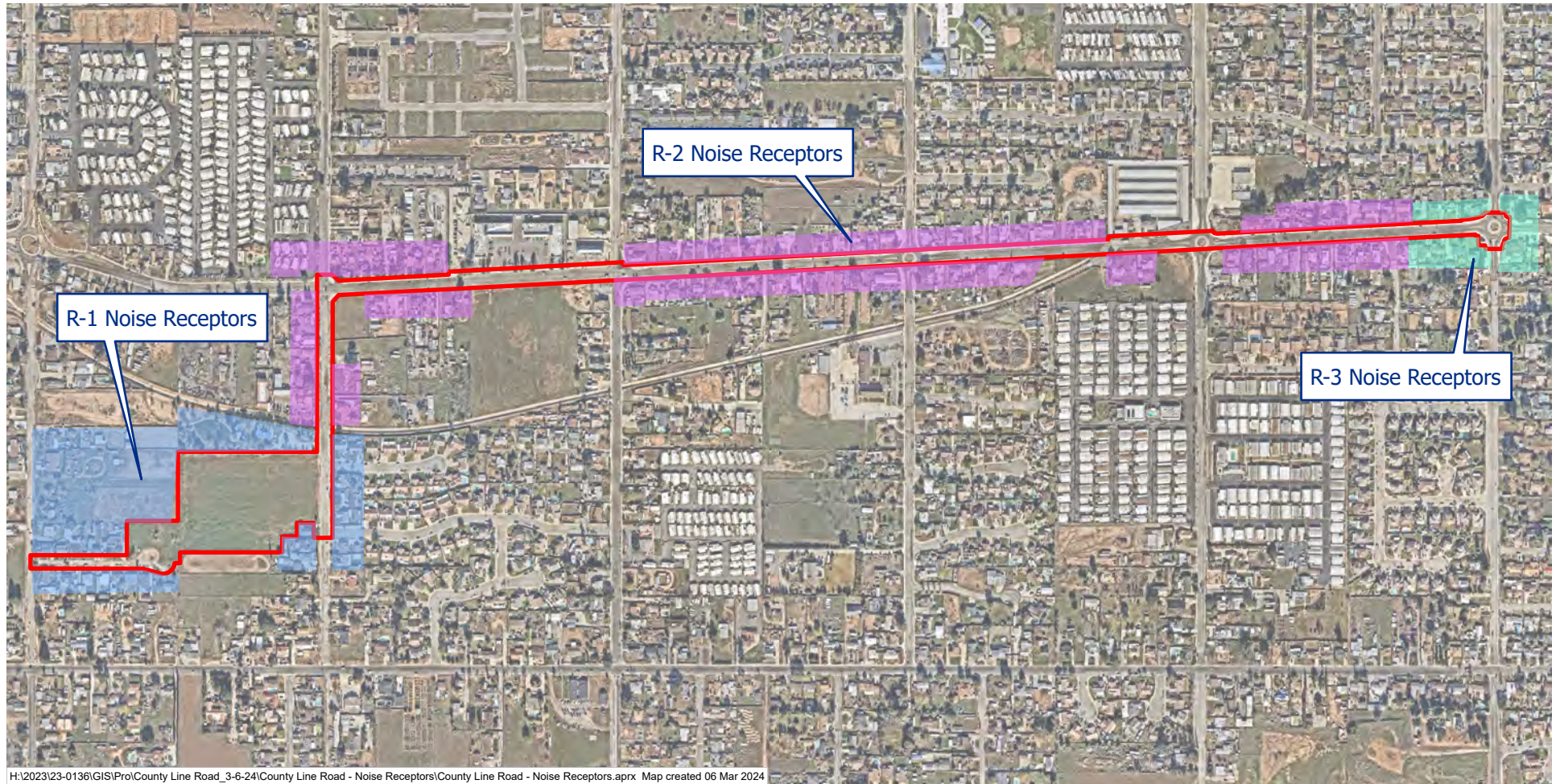
The Project components will be constructed within Calimesa. Noise standards for Calimesa are summarized below:

City of Calimesa Municipal Code Noise Abatement and Control Regulations Chapter

8.15.080 Construction Equipment: Construction equipment can operate Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Saturday and Sundays from 10:00 am to 5:00pm, and holidays, as set forth in section 8.15.080(A). No equipment, or a combination of equipment regardless of age or date of acquisition, shall be operated so as to cause noise at a level in excess of 75 decibels for more than eight hours during any 24-hour period when measured at or within the property lines of any property which is developed and used either in part or in whole for residential purposes. Should the Project exceed the standards of the Municipal Code, it is under the jurisdiction of Code Enforcement to respond to any complaints regarding noise from the Project construction (CMC.)

FIGURE 12

Sensitive Noise Receptors



LEGEND

 Project Site



0 445 890 Feet

Sources: Nearmap, 2024

Construction noise will vary in conjunction with the type of construction activity and equipment used. Although construction may be continuous throughout an 8-hour workday, construction equipment is not operated consistently for the entire workday. That is, there are times when the equipment is not in use and is powered down. Sensitive receptors, in the form of residences, are located adjacent to the roadways where construction activities will take place. Attenuation of construction noise would be provided to interior receptors by the structural elements (i.e., walls, doors, closed windows) of the building in which they reside. Typical building construction provides a minimum 12 dBA (12 dBA Lmin⁵) interior noise reduction with windows open and 20 dBA Lmin interior noise reduction with windows closed. (CLTC Addendum, **Appendix G**)

Construction of the turnout facility will use equipment including dozers, pavers, rollers, tractors, backhoes, and excavators. The noisiest pieces of equipment are the dozer, paver, roller, and excavator that will generate maximum noise levels of approximately 85 dBA Lmax at 50 feet. The nearest sensitive receptor is a private residence in the R3 – Noise Receptor Zone shown on **Figure 12**. The turnout facility is located approximately 10 feet from the residence's fence. Construction of the turnout component is expected to generate noise levels of approximately 99 dBA Lmax at the fence. The use of mufflers as required by **MM Noise 1** would reduce the exterior noise level at the fence by approximately 15 dBA Lmax which would result in a exterior noise level of 84 dBA Lmax. Applying the 20 dBA Lmin attenuation from building construction for the windows and doors closed scenario, the interior noise level is expected to be 64 dBA Lmax. Assuming a window and doors open scenario, applying the 12 dBA Lmin attenuation from building construction results in an expected interior noise level of 72 dBA.

Construction of the basin will use equipment including excavators, graders, and backhoes. The excavator and grader produce noise levels of 85 dBA Lmax at 50 feet. The nearest sensitive receptors are located south of the basin at a distance of approximately 10 feet (R-1 – Noise Receptors, **Figure 12**). The construction of the basin will generate exterior noise levels of approximately 99 dBA Lmax at the fence. The use of mufflers as required by **MM Noise 1** would reduce the exterior noise level at the fence by approximately 15 dBA Lmax which would result in a exterior noise level of 84 dBA Lmax. Applying the 20 dBA Lmin attenuation from building construction for the windows and doors closed scenario, the interior noise level is expected to be 64 dBA Lmax. Assuming a window and doors open scenario, applying the 12 dBA Lmin attenuation from building construction results in an expected interior noise level of 72 dBA.

Street improvements within Buena Vista Court will require the use of grading equipment. The grader produces noise levels of 85 dBA Lmax at 50 feet. The nearest sensitive receptors are located within this street on both the north and south sides at varying distances. The residence on the corner of Buena Vista Court and 5th Street is the closest sensitive receptor at a distance of approximately 10 feet. The street improvements in Buena Vista Court will generate exterior noise levels of approximately 99 dBA Lmax at the fence. The use of mufflers as required by **MM Noise 1** would reduce the exterior noise level at the fence by approximately 15 dBA Lmax which would result in a exterior noise level of 84 dBA Lmax. Applying the 20 dBA Lmin attenuation from building construction for the windows and doors closed scenario, the interior noise level is expected to be 64 dBA Lmax. Assuming a window and doors open scenario, applying the 12 dBA Lmin attenuation from building construction results in an expected interior noise level of 72 dBA.

⁵ Lmin is defined as the minimum sound level, during a measurement period or a noise event.

Construction of the 4th Street pipeline alignment will also produce noise levels of 85 dBA Lmax at 50 feet. The nearest sensitive receptor is located east of the basin at a distance of approximately 10 feet. The construction of the pipeline alignment will generate noise levels of approximately 99 dBA Lmax at the fence. The use of mufflers as required by **MM Noise 1** would reduce the exterior noise level at the fence by approximately 15 dBA Lmax which would result in a exterior noise level of 84 dBA Lmax. Applying the 20 dBA Lmin attenuation from building construction for the windows and doors closed scenario, the interior noise level is expected to be 64 dBA Lmax. Assuming a window and doors open scenario, applying the 12 dBA Lmin attenuation from building construction results in an expected interior noise level of 72 dBA.

Sensitive receptors for pipeline construction are shown on **Figure 12** as R-2 – Noise Receptors. In compliance with **MM Noise 1**, all construction equipment shall operate with mandated noise control equipment which would reduce the exterior noise levels associated with construction.

Pipeline construction within 4th Street will require crossing Calimesa Channel through trenchless methods. Noise from trenchless construction operations is similar to cut-and-cover pipeline construction; however, rather than the noise progressing linearly, it would be confined to entry and exit locations. Thus, noise impacts could last for several weeks rather than a few days in the areas adjacent to tunnel access points. Underground pipelines do not generate noise above ground. In addition, noise would not be emitted from the above-ground structures (i.e., pressure relief valves/blow-offs) that are needed for the pipelines.

Operational noise from the basin involves landscaping maintenance which will occur periodically and within noise level standards identified by the City of Calimesa. In order to maintain the effectiveness of the recharge basin ripping by a tractor of the basin may be required approximately every 4 months. This will only occur if needed and will not be a regular occurrence. Noise levels produced from the tractor are 84 dBA Lmax at 50 feet. The nearest sensitive receptors are west of the basin at a distance of approximately 10 feet. The operational maintenance of the basin will generate exterior noise levels of approximately 98 dBA Lmax at the fence. Applying the 20 dBA Lmin attenuation from building construction for the windows and doors closed scenario, the interior noise level is expected to be 78 dBA Lmax. Assuming a window and doors open scenario, applying the 12 dBA Lmin attenuation from building construction results in an expected interior noise level of 86 dBA. Operational equipment will be used within an 8-hour period per day and therefore, will not operate in excess of the City of Calimesa's Noise Ordinance.

Although, construction equipment will produce exterior noise levels of approximately 99 dBA Lmax to sensitive receptors, and interior noise levels between 79 and 87 dBA Lmax, construction will occur within an 8-hour day and will not be continuous. Therefore, no sensitive receptor would be exposed to continuous construction noise for more than 8 hours during any 24-hour period. Through compliance with Calimesa's noise standards for construction which limits the hours of construction to daytime and implementation of **MM Noise 1** the proposed Project would not expose people to, or generate noise levels in excess of, standards established in the local noise ordinance and potential impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

13.b Would the Project result in the generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Construction projects can generate ground-borne vibration. Construction equipment such as vibratory compactors or rollers, pile drivers and pavement breakers can generate perceptible vibration during construction activities.

Typically, ground-borne vibration generated by man-made activities attenuates rapidly with distance from the source of vibration. Man-made vibration issues are therefore, usually confined to short distances (i.e., 500 feet or less) from the source. Sensitive receptors for vibration include structures (especially older masonry structures), people (especially residents, the elderly, and the sick), and vibration sensitive equipment. Ground vibrations from construction activities do not often reach the levels that can damage structures, but they can achieve the audible and feelable ranges in buildings very close to the site.

Various types of construction equipment have been measured under a wide variety of construction activities with an average of source levels reported in terms of velocity as shown in **Table G – Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment**. Although the table gives one level for each piece of equipment, it should be noted that there is a considerable variation in reported ground vibration levels from construction activities. The data provide a reasonable estimate for a wide range of soil conditions.

Table G – Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment ^a	PPV at 25 feet (inches/second)	RMS ^b at 25 feet
Large Bulldozer	0.089	87
Loaded Truck	0.076	86
Small Bulldozer	0.003	58
Vibratory Roller	0.21	94

Notes: PPV = Peak Particle Velocity;

^a Federal Transit Administration, *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*, September 2018 Table 7-4

^b Root mean square (RMS) velocity in vibration decibels (VdB) re 1 micro-inch/second.

Regarding impacts from ground-borne vibration, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has published guidance in their document titled *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*. According to the FTA, although the perceptibility threshold for humans is approximately 65 VdB, human response to vibration is not usually significant unless the vibration exceeds 70 VdB. If the vibration level of a residence reaches 85 VdB, most people would be strongly annoyed by the vibration.

Table H– Typical Human Reaction and Effect on Buildings Due to Groundborne Vibration, displays some of the common human reactions to various levels of groundborne vibration (expressed in PPV) and its effect on buildings.

Table H – Typical Human Reaction and Effect on Buildings Due to Groundborne Vibration

Vibration Level (PPV ^b) (inches/second)	Human Reaction ^a	Effect on Buildings
0.006-0.019	Threshold of perception	Vibrations unlikely to cause damage of any type
0.08	Vibration readily perceptible	Recommended upper level of vibration to which ruins ancient monuments should be subjected
0.10	Level at which continuous vibration begins to annoy people	Virtually no risk of “architectural” (i.e., not structural) damage to normal buildings
0.20	Vibrations annoying to people in buildings	Threshold at which there is a risk to “architectural” damage to normal dwelling – houses with plastered walls and ceilings
0.4-0.6	Vibrations considered unpleasant by people subjected to continuous vibrations and unacceptable to some people walking on bridges	Vibrations at a greater level than normally expected from traffic, but would cause “architectural” damage and possibly minor structural damage

Notes:

^a Source: California Department of Transportation, Compiled from Table 5 (p. 22) and Table 12 (p. 24).

^b PPV = Peak Particle Velocity.

Less than significant impact. Construction of the Project would require standard construction equipment and methods that could produce ground-borne vibrations as shown in **Table H** above. Operation of the Project components is not anticipated to result in ground-borne vibrations or ground-borne noise. A majority of the pipeline alignment, turnout facility and recharge basin is located in a developed, urban area. Based on the information in **Tables G and H**, above, if it is assumed that the distance construction to the nearest sensitive receptor is approximately 10 feet, ground-borne vibration generated during construction may be perceptible but would not reach the threshold of annoyance. The vibratory roller will be used for paving and will generate vibration levels based on the speed and frequency chosen. The vibratory roller will not operate continuously for longer than 8-hour periods within a 24-hour day as dictated by CMC. Because Project construction and operation would be consistent with Calimesa’s noise ordinances, and construction methods are not anticipated to generate any significant sources of ground-borne vibration above those that would normally be associated with construction, impacts regarding the exposure and generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels would be less than significant.

13.c 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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No impact. As discussed in response to Threshold 9.e, The Project is not located in the vicinity of a public airport or public use airport land use plan. Additionally, the Project does not propose any habitable structures that would expose people, whether working or residing, in the Project area to excessive noise levels. Therefore, regarding the exposure of people to excessive noise levels sourced from airports, no impacts are anticipated.

Noise Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce impacts to noise to less than significant.

MM NOISE 1: PROPER MUFFLERS & STATIONARY EQUIPMENT

During all Project-related construction, construction contractors shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers consistent with manufacturer's standards. The construction contractor shall place all stationary construction equipment so that emitted noise is directed away from the noise sensitive receptors nearest the Project site.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
14. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

(Source: Yucaipa SGMA, CGP, Project Description)

14.a Would the Project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

Less than significant impact. The proposed Project does not include new residential or commercial development which would create population growth. The purpose of the Project is to implement a project of the Yucaipa SGMA GSP which will provide stable water supplies to existing disadvantaged communities of Calimesa and Yucaipa. No land use changes are proposed as a result of this Project. The Project does not create indirect pathways for population growth because it is supporting existing land uses, and also provides sustainable storage in the groundwater basin for drought when SWP water is available in wet years for recharge. For these reasons, impacts are considered less than significant regarding inducing substantial unplanned population growth within the SGPWA service area.

14.b. Would the Project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No impact. Construction and operation of the Project facilities and pipelines would not necessitate the demolition or relocation of existing housing units. The turnout facility located on Bryant Street in the front and side yards of a private residence will not displace existing housing. Construction activities in this area total approximately 1,230 square feet, all of which will be returned to prior condition. Since no housing would be displaced, no people would be displaced because of Project construction and no impacts would occur.

Population and Housing Mitigation Measures

There are no impacts to population and housing; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
15. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:				
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:				
a. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

(Sources: Project Description, CGP)

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:

15.a Fire Protection?

15.b Police Protection?

Less than significant impact. Once construction is complete, the pipeline components would be underground and would not affect fire or police protection services. Construction of the proposed pipelines may cause traffic delays if lane closures are required, which may affect response times for emergency vehicles. The construction of the recharge basin and elevation control basin would be at surface level on a vacant lot. The recharge basin and elevation control basin are fire breaks and would not physically impact government facilities or the need for an increase in fire or police protection services. As part of the final design for the Project, traffic control plans shall be prepared and shall be approved by the City of Calimesa. The traffic control plans shall provide adequate pass-by features for emergency vehicles. Through compliance with required traffic control plans and encroachment permits, the details of which would be dictated by City of Calimesa, impacts would be less than significant.

15.c Schools?

15.d Parks?

15.e Other Public Facilities?

No impact. As discussed in response to threshold 14.a, the Project is implementing the Yucaipa GSP to serve the surrounding communities with SWP water, when available, to improve drought resiliency. The Project is not an extension of water services to individual customers. Thus, the Project in and of itself would not result in population increases that would require additional schools, parks, or other

public facilities. The Project does not propose new schools, parks, or other public facilities other than the components described in the Project Description. As such the proposed Project would not result in or contribute to the need for new or physically altered schools, parks, or other public facilities and there would be no impact in this regard.

Public Services Mitigation Measures

Impacts to public services are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
16. RECREATION.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

(Source: Project Description)

16.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?

No impact. The proposed Project consists of constructing a groundwater recharge basin and associated piping. The recharge basin property will be fenced and closed to the public. The construction of the Project components would not cause an increase in the population. Therefore, the proposed Project would not 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. No impact would occur in this regard.

16.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?

No impact. The Project does not include new public recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact in this regard.

Recreation Mitigation Measures

There are no impacts to parks or recreational facilities; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
17. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

(Sources: *Project Description*)

17.a Would the Project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

Less than significant impact. The Project pipeline alignments pass through existing paved rights-of-way in Calimesa. Construction of certain Project components may require lane closures. Construction will take place during daytime hours. Traffic may be temporarily increased along the roadways used to access a specific Project component as a result of construction personnel, supply trucks, and hauling of heavy-duty equipment. However, this congestion would be short-term and relatively minor. The Project would not conflict with an established circulation performance measure because the work would be temporary in nature and would be in compliance with encroachment permits. Additionally, as part of the final design of any Project component that would require a lane closure, a traffic control plan shall be prepared and approved by the City of Calimesa. For these reasons, impacts to transit system plans, ordinances, or policies would be less than significant.

17.b Would the Project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(a) describes specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts and states "Generally, vehicle miles traveled is the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts." As stated in CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(b)(2), "projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact."

No impact. Construction of the Project components would not change land uses or create the need for more vehicle trips in the Project area. Since water facilities are not trip generators, there would be no net increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMTs). Therefore, Project implementation would not conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3. subdivision (b) and no impacts related to VMT are expected.

17.c Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No impact. The proposed Project would not change roadway design configurations. All pipeline construction would be within existing roadways and surfaces would be replaced in kind after construction is completed, except for Buena Vista Court which will be repaved and improved to full width and asphalt drainage berms. There would be no impact in this regard.

17.d Result in inadequate emergency access?

Less than significant impact. The proposed Project would not reconfigure current roadways. Through compliance with the conditions of the required encroachment permits and traffic control plans, access would be maintained throughout the construction period and impacts would be less than significant. Also refer to the response to threshold 9.f.

Transportation Mitigation Measures

Transportation impacts are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
18. 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:				
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), or	☐	☒	☐	☐
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 Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

(Sources: AB 52 Consultation Process, AE-A)

18.a Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?

18.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 Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. SGPWA provided written notice of tribal consultation opportunity via U.S. Postal Service mail on February 28, 2024, pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) to the Tribes that have previously requested such a notice from SGPWA and others who have been noticed in the past. AB 52 notification letters were sent to five Tribes: Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pechanga Band of Indians, Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. As of April 25, 2024, two of the five Tribes had responded and both requested formal AB 52 government-to-government consultation: Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) and Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (YSMN).

SGPWA and AE provided MBMI Cultural Resource Specialist Laura Chatterton project plans, geotechnical report, project shapefile, and records search results on March 28, 2024. The cultural resources report was provided to MBMI on May 10, 2024 and no subsequent communication from MBMI has been received. Likewise, SGPWA provided YSMN Tribal Archaeologist Kristen Tuosto the project plans and geotechnical report on March 12, 2024. The cultural resources report was provided to YSMN on May 10, 2024 and AE provided the records search results and project shapefile on May 13, 2024.

In response on May 15, 2024, the YSMN provided SGPWA four mitigation measures regarding a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, Archaeological Monitoring, Treatment of Cultural Resources During

Project Implementation, and Inadvertent Discoveries of Human Remains. All four measures have been incorporated herein; three in Cultural Resources Section (**MM CR-1**, **MM CR-2**, and **MM CR-3**) and one in Tribal Cultural Resources Section (**MM TCR-1**).

An AB 52 Tribal Consultation meeting was held between Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (Kristen Tuosto, Tribal Archaeologist), SGPWA (Lance Eckhart, General Manager and Emmett Campbell, Senior Water Resources Planner), and its consulting archaeologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Joan George, Principal Archaeologist) on June 13, 2024. The meeting resulted in slight modification to the mitigation measures requested by the tribe, which has been incorporated herein. The modification focuses archaeological monitoring to “undisturbed native soils.”

Morongo Band of Mission Indians (Laura Chatterton, Cultural Resource Specialist) notified SGPWA on July 9, 2024 that the Tribal Historic Preservation Office completed review of the cultural resource documents provided to them. In response, the tribe requests tribal participation (a.k.a. tribal monitors) during all ground disturbing activities and requested eight mitigation measures added to this IS/MND. The mitigation measures for cultural resources and tribal cultural resources in this IS/MND have been revised accordingly.

As a result of the AB 52 consultation process, in addition to mitigation measures **MM CR-1**, **MM CR-2**, and **MM CR-3** (refer to threshold 5, Cultural Resources), mitigation measure **MM TCR-1** shall be implemented. Therefore, through implementation of these mitigation measures, impacts with regard to tribal cultural resources would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce impacts to tribal cultural resources to less than significant.

MM TCR-1: TREATMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency shall enter into a Tribal Monitoring Agreement with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) prior to the start of ground disturbance activities. The agreement shall include MBMI attendance at the Cultural Resource Sensitivity Training to occur at the pre-grade/kick-off meeting.

If a pre-contact cultural resource (i.e., those that predate Native American contact with Europeans) is discovered during project construction, then ground-disturbing activities shall be suspended for a distance of 60 feet around the resource(s), and an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) physical demarcation/barrier constructed. The Project Archaeologist that is retained by San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency per MM CR-1 will evaluate the resource. Representatives from the Consulting Tribes (Morongo Band of Mission Indians [MBMI] and Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation [YSMN]), the Project Archaeologist, and the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency shall confer regarding the research design, as well as any testing efforts needed to delineate the resource boundary. Following the completion of evaluation efforts, all parties shall confer regarding the resource's archaeological significance, its potential as a Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR), and avoidance (or other appropriate treatment) of the discovered resource. Removal of

any cultural resource(s) shall be conducted with the presence of Tribal monitor(s) representing the Consulting Tribes (unless a Consulting Tribe opts otherwise). All plans for analysis shall be reviewed and approved by the San Geronio Pass Water Agency and the Consulting Tribes prior to implementation, and all removed material shall be temporarily curated on-site.

It is the preference of MBMI that significant cultural resources are fully avoided and if full avoidance is not feasible, then preservation in-place. It is the preference of YSMN that removed cultural material be reburied as close to the original find location as possible. However, should reburial within/near the original find location during project implementation not be feasible, then a reburial location for future reburial shall be decided upon by the Consulting Tribes and the San Geronio Pass Water Agency, and all finds shall be reburied within this location. Additionally, in this case, reburial shall not occur until all ground-disturbing activities associated with the project have been completed, all monitoring has ceased, all cataloguing and basic recordation of cultural resources have been completed, and a final monitoring report has been issued to San Geronio Pass Water Agency, California Historical Resource Information System (CHRIS) Center, and the Consulting Tribes. All reburials are subject to a reburial agreement that shall be developed between the San Geronio Pass Water Agency and the Consulting Tribes outlining the determined reburial process/location and shall include measures and provisions to protect the reburial area from any future impacts.

Should it occur that avoidance, preservation in place, and on-site reburial are not an option for treatment, the San Geronio Pass Water Agency shall relinquish all ownership and rights to this material and confer with the Consulting Tribes to identify an American Association of Museums (AAM)-accredited facility within the County that can accession the materials into their permanent collections and provide for the proper care of these objects in accordance with the 1993 CA Curation Guidelines and Federal Curation Standards (CFR 79.1). A curation agreement with an appropriately qualified repository shall be developed between the San Geronio Pass Water Agency and museum that legally and physically transfers the collections and associated records to the facility. This agreement shall stipulate the payment of fees necessary for permanent curation of the collections and associated records and the obligation of the Project developer/applicant to pay for those fees.

All draft records and reports containing the significance and treatment findings and data recovery results shall be prepared by the Project Archaeologist and submitted to San Geronio Pass Water Agency and the Consulting Tribes for their review and comment. After approval from all parties, the final reports and site/isolate records are to be submitted to the local CHRIS Center, the San Geronio Pass Water Agency, and the Consulting Tribes.

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

(Sources: AB 939, SGPWA UWMP; Project Description, San Timoteo Landfill)

19.a Would the Project require or result in the construction of new water or expanded wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities or the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Less than significant impact. The Project includes the construction of infrastructure needed to bring SWP water to a new groundwater recharge basin to provide sustainable storage for the local groundwater basin. The Project does not include new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities. The Project does not include storm water drainage facilities, electrical, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. The impacts of constructing the facilities needed to bring the water to the recharge basin has been evaluated throughout this document. Impacts related to new or expanded utilities are considered less than significant.

19.b Would the Project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?

Less than significant impact. The Project does not, in and of itself, consume water supplies and does not have a water demand like other land uses. The Project facilitates infiltration of SWP water when it is available to the local groundwater basin for beneficial use by groundwater pumpers. The Project is being conducted consistent with the Yucaipa SGMA GSP to increase groundwater replenishment with the goal of preventing net decline of groundwater levels. The Project will leave the communities of Calimesa and Yucaipa less vulnerable to drought restrictions. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

- 19.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?**

Less than significant impact. There is no Project component that would produce wastewater (sewage). The conveyance of water to the recharge basin will infiltrate to the underlying groundwater basin and will not require treatment prior to infiltrating to the ground. The pipeline components will not generate wastewater. For these reasons the impact would be less than significant.

- 19.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?**

Less than significant impact. Some construction waste would be generated during construction of the Project components, some of which may be recycled. Standard conditions in SGPWA's construction specifications require the contractors to dispose of construction waste in facilities licensed to accept such waste. It is estimated 72,000 cubic feet of soil export will occur for the recharge basin and elevation control basin. The closest landfill to the Project site is about 11 miles away at the San Timoteo Landfill.

Construction waste generated in connection with the Project components would entail the removal of pavement, which must be disposed of at a legal landfill and may entail demolition of other structures. Construction-generated solid waste would be delivered via private haulers to an MRF or licensed landfill. Given the number of landfills in proximity to SGPWA's service areas and estimated closure dates in excess of 20 years, sufficient capacity is expected for the temporary increase of solid waste to be disposed of at nearby landfills. Impacts would be less than significant.

- 19.e Would the Project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulation related to solid waste?**

No impact. Given that the Project entails construction of water pipelines and a groundwater recharge basin, no solid waste would be generated by the operation of the Project. Solid waste would be generated by the contractors during construction. The collection and disposal of solid waste would conform to applicable federal, state, and local plans and regulations, including AB 939 (Integrated Waste Management Act) that require local jurisdictions divert at least 50 percent of all solid waste. The proposed Project would adhere to all federal, state, and local regulations related to solid waste during construction and operation. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact in terms of complying with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Utilities and Service Systems Mitigation Measures

Impacts to utilities and service systems are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
20. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

(Sources: Cal Fire, CGP DEIR, Figure SAF-6 CGP, Map My County, Project Description)

20.a. Would the Project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than significant impact. Construction of the Project would not substantially impair adopted emergency response or evacuation plans. There are no State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) or Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs) within areas in which the Project components would be constructed. There is an LRA near the Project area categorized as Very High Fire Hazard Severity. According to Cal Fire, **(Figure 10 – Fire Hazard Severity Zones)** there are no zones of severity within the Project area. The City of Calimesa has designated County Line Road as one of the evacuation routes. Because construction of the Project would entail work within designated evacuation routes, a ministerial encroachment permit would be required from Calimesa for ROW access. As part of the design process for the Project components, traffic control plans would be prepared to provide adequate pass-by features for emergency and other vehicles. Through compliance with required traffic control plans and encroachment permits, the details of which would be dictated Calimesa, temporary construction impacts would be reduced to less than significant.

20.b Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, would the Project exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

Less than significant impact. The Project is located within a flat, urban area that has very low susceptibility to landslides and is not within a Fire Hazard Severity (SRA or LRA) designated zone. Therefore, construction and operations at these sites would not change the current level of fire risk that exists within the area or exacerbate landslides. The Project pipelines would be installed underground within paved roadways. Additionally, the recharge basin, elevation control basin, and turnout facility are not occupied structures and would not entail grading that would create new or change existing slopes or otherwise change the current level of fire risk that exists within the area. Therefore, impacts regarding

the exposure of Project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire would be less than significant.

20.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?

Less than significant impact. The Project is proposed to be a groundwater replenishment and conveyance mechanism consistent with the Yucaipa GSP, in order to recharge the high-priority Yucaipa Subbasin and the critical Calimesa Management Area while aiding the underserved and disadvantaged communities who rely on this water supply. The Project does not include roads, fire breaks, power lines, or installation of new utilities that would exacerbate fire risk. As discussed in response to threshold 20.b, implementation of the Project would not change the current level of fire risk that exists within the area. Impacts would be less than significant.

20.d Would the Project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

No impact. The proposed Project does not include habitable structures, nor would it substantially alter existing drainage patterns. Therefore, there would be no impacts with regard to exposing people or structures to significant wildfire risks.

Wildfire Mitigation Measures

Impacts to state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or an endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

(Source: Above Initial Study, BLUE, AE-A)

21.a Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or an endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. This Initial Study provides a project-level analysis of the potential environmental impacts that would result with implementation of County Line Road Recharge Basin Project.

Potential to Degrade the Quality of Environment: As indicated in the foregoing analysis, the Project with implementation of the mitigation measures identified herein, does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment.

Potential to Impact Biological Resources: As discussed in Threshold 4, Biological Resources, implementation of the proposed Project would not:

- substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species;
- cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; or
- threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community.

The results of the *Biological Assessment Report* and the analysis in Threshold 4.a, indicate that through implementation of existing regulations, and implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO-1** for Nesting Bird Survey, impacts to biological resources would be less than significant.

Potential to Eliminate Important Examples of the Major Periods of California History or Prehistory:

As discussed in threshold 5, Cultural Resources, no known historic or archaeological resources are located within the Project area based on pedestrian surveys and desktop research (**Table E**). Regarding archaeological resources, responses from Tribes that were consulted during preparation of the Cultural Resources Investigation report (**Appendix D.1**) suggest there is potential for buried resources to be uncovered. Therefore, mitigation measures **MM CR-1** for a Monitoring and Treatment Plan and **MM CR-2** for an archaeological monitor would be implemented. Consistent with state law, mitigation measure **MM CR-3** requires a buffer around any uncovered human remains or funerary items. Regarding Tribal Cultural Resources, based on the outcome of AB 52 consultation, mitigation measures **MM TCR-1** would be implemented for the handling of uncovered precontact items. As discussed in Threshold 5, Cultural Resources, which is based on the Cultural Resources Investigation in **Appendix D.1**, implementation of the Project would not eliminate important historical or prehistorical resources through implementation of existing regulations as well as mitigation measures **MM CR-1**, **MM CR-2**, and **MM CR-3**. Furthermore, as discussed in Threshold 18, Tribal Cultural Resources, which is based on the AB 52 Consultation conducted for the Project, the Project would not eliminate important Tribal Cultural Resources through implementation of mitigation measure **MM TCR-1**.

21.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)?

Less than significant impact. The Project would construct a groundwater recharge basin and associated piping in order to facilitate the recharge of SWP water when it is available. An existing connection to SWP does not currently exist in this groundwater basin, although there are many similar turnouts and recharge facilities throughout the state all along the SWP. San Bernardino Valley and SGPWA are developing this connection and recharge basin well within the rights and authorities they possess as State Water Contractors to put SWP water to beneficial use, especially when there is water available for recharge purposes. The Project is consistent with the goals of the GSP for the Yucaipa Subbasin, which was recently approved by DWR. The Project is consistent with local and regional plans, and the Project’s air quality emissions do not exceed established thresholds of significance. The Project adheres to all other land use plans and policies with jurisdiction in the Project area and would not increase VMTs within the Project area. The Project is not considered growth-inducing as defined by *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15126.2(d) and would not induce, either directly or indirectly, population and/or housing growth beyond what is envisioned by the Calimesa General Plan. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

21.c Does the Project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Effects on human beings were evaluated as part of the aesthetics, air quality, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, population and housing, and transportation thresholds sections of this initial study and found to be less than significant for each of the above sections with implementation of mitigation measure **MM NOISE-1**. Based on the analyses and conclusions in this initial study, the proposed Project will not cause substantial adverse effects directly or indirectly to human beings. Therefore, potential

direct and indirect impacts on human beings that result from the proposed Project are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

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VIII. CEQA PLUS ANALYSIS

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program

Evaluation for Environmental Review and Federal Coordination

1. Potential Co-Funding Sources

Will the project potentially be co-funded by any other federal agencies?

☐ No – No other federal agencies will provide funding for the project.

☒ Yes – The project will potentially receive funding from other federal agency(s). Please list the agency(ies) and explain the funding status.

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding through Riverside County is anticipated though contracts have not been finalized.

2. United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Other Federal Land

Is any portion of the proposed project site located on United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), or any other federally managed land?

☒ No – The proposed project will not be located on USFS, BLM, or any other federally managed land.

☐ Yes – The proposed project will be located on USFS, BLM, or other federally managed land. Please explain or indicate where more information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.), and attach a colored map identifying the project location with respect to the USFS, BLM, or other federal land. Attach a copy of the appropriate authorization/permit for the use of federal land (e.g., USFS Special-Use Authorization, BLM Land Use Permit) or indicate the status of the authorization/permit below.

3. Environmental Alternative Analysis

The SRF Programs require an environmental alternative analysis for projects that have a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report. Please attach a copy of the environmental alternative analysis or indicate where it can be found (e.g., Project Technical Report/Engineering Report):

The Yucaipa Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency (“Yucaipa SGMA”) evaluated two potential sites to develop surface water spreading basins for recharging the Calimesa Management Area. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Yucaipa Integrated Hydrologic Model (YIHM) tool⁶ was used by the

⁶ Cromwell, G., and Alzraiee, A., eds., 2022, Hydrology of the Yucaipa groundwater subbasin: Characterization and integrated numerical model, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, California: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2021–5118, 4 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20215118>.

member agencies to evaluate the feasibility of operating spreading basins at the two proposed sites. Feasibility studies evaluated the beneficial impact of recharging the aquifer at these two potential locations. (GSP, p. 4-20)

The Project's recharge basin property was selected for several reasons including its location at the middle of the Calimesa Management Area, its proximity to the existing EBX pipeline in Bryant Street, and because of its proximity to SMWC's pipeline in County Line Road that is to be abandoned/reused. By reutilizing this existing infrastructure, the project's overall footprint is greatly reduced. A siting study was conducted where percolation rates were tested at various points in the basin (TODD-A). The study had fairly comprehensive percolation tests across the entire Yucaipa Subbasin, including one site in the Calimesa Management Area (that was not the Project site). Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (Flood Control) conducted a comprehensive percolation test on a parcel along County Line Road near the Project, which had promising results as well as the other site in the Calimesa Management Area. The 4th St property ultimately became the preferred site for this Project for the reasons noted previously and its proximity to the Flood Control property.

Please briefly summarize the direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with each project alternative considered, including a "no project/no action" alternative, and the environmental considerations behind the selected project alternative. Also, include any mitigation measures to reduce potential environmental impacts:

The Project's Initial Study evaluates the proposed Project's impacts on the environment. Impacts that were found to be significant can be reduced to less than significant levels with implementation of mitigation measures; thus, there is no environmentally superior alternative. A no project/no action alternative would result in no environmental impacts; however, it would not achieve the Project's intent of developing a groundwater recharge project that will benefit SGPWA and other members of the Yucaipa Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency (Yucaipa SGMA) by increasing groundwater supply, enhancing water supply resiliency, and promoting sustainability. In addition to compliance with existing regulations, the Project will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce impacts to less than significant:

MM BIO-1: NESTING BIRD SURVEY

A preconstruction survey for nesting birds shall be conducted no more than 72 hours prior to commencement of project activities, including project staging. The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist with prior experience conducting nesting bird surveys for construction projects. The study area should include the affected area and suitable habitat within a 500-foot buffer, or a buffer size determined by the qualified biologist based on level of proposed disturbance and access. Results of the survey shall be provided to SGPWA. If no active nests are found, no additional measures are required. If active nests are found, then the biologist will map the location and document the species and nesting stage for SGPWA. A no-work buffer will be established around the active nest as determined by the qualified biologist and based on the species sensitivity to disturbance and the type and duration of the disturbance. No construction activities shall occur within the no-work buffer until the biologist has determined the nest is no longer active.

MM CR-1: MONITORING AND TREATMENT PLAN

Prior to the pre-grade/kickoff meeting, the San Geronio Pass Water Agency shall retain a qualified project archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior Standards. A

Monitoring and Treatment Plan that is reflective of the project mitigation measures (“Cultural Resources” and “Tribal Cultural Resources”) shall be completed by the Project archaeologist and submitted to the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency for dissemination to the Consulting Tribes (Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI), and Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Management Department (YSMN, also known as San Manuel Band of Mission Indians)). Once all parties review and approve the plan, it shall be adopted by San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency – the plan must be adopted prior to the start of ground disturbing activities for the project. Any and all findings will be subject to the protocol detailed within the Monitoring and Treatment Plan. This Plan shall allow for monitors to be present that represent the Consulting Tribes for the remainder of the project construction, should the Tribe(s) elect to place a monitor on-site.

The final report(s) created as a part of the project (e.g., monitoring and treatment plan, isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be submitted to the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency and the Consulting Tribes for review and comment. After approval of all parties, the final reports are to be submitted to the Eastern Information Center, and the Consulting Tribes.

MM CR-2: ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Due to the heightened cultural sensitivity of the undisturbed native soil in the proposed project area, the Project archaeologist or designated archaeological monitor with at least 3 years of regional experience in archaeology that is retained by San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency to conduct a Cultural Resource Sensitivity Training at the pre-grade/kick-off meeting. The purpose of the training is to explain and coordinate the requirements of the monitoring plan (see MM CR-1). The archaeologist shall also be present for all ground-disturbing activities that occur within the proposed project area of undisturbed native soil (which includes, but is not limited to, tree/shrub removal and planting, clearing/grubbing, grading, excavation, trenching, compaction, fence/gate removal and installation, drainage and irrigation removal and installation, hardscape installation [benches, signage, boulders, walls, seat walls, fountains, etc.], and archaeological work). A sufficient number of archaeological monitors shall be present each work day to ensure that simultaneously occurring ground disturbing activities receive thorough levels of monitoring coverage.

MM CR-3: INADVERTENT DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted immediately pursuant to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and that code enforced for the duration of the project. No photographs are to be taken by anyone other than the coroner, except with written approval by the Consulting Tribes. The area shall be protected; project personnel/observers will be restricted. The County Coroner has 48 hours to make his/her determination pursuant to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If the County Coroner contacts the Native American Heritage Commission pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 7050.5(c), then the procedures in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98 for the discovery of human remains shall be implemented.

MM PALEO-1: PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCE IMPACT MITIGATION PROGRAM

Construction activities that extend below the depth of artificial fill and below road pavement may impact significant paleontological resources throughout the Project area. Therefore, prior to the issuance of grading permits and consistent with Riverside County General Plan policies (i.e., Open Space Element Policy 19.6), a Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP) shall be prepared by a qualified professional paleontologist as defined by mitigation paleontology industry standards (Murphey et al., 2019) and/or the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP, 2010). The PRIMP will include a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program training prepared prior to the start of Project-related ground disturbance and presented in person to all field personnel to describe the types of paleontological resources that may be found and the procedures to follow if any are encountered; the monitoring plan will indicate where construction monitoring should occur and the frequency of required monitoring (e.g., full-time, spot-checks, etc.); the monitoring plan will also provide details about fossil collection, analysis, and preparation for permanent curation at an approved repository; and lastly, the monitoring plan will describe the different reporting standards to be used, such as monitoring with negative findings versus monitoring resulting in fossil discoveries.

MM NOISE 1: PROPER MUFFLERS

During all Project-related construction, construction contractors shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers consistent with manufacturer's standards. The construction contractor shall place all stationary construction equipment so that emitted noise is directed away from the noise sensitive receptors nearest the Project site.

MM TCR-1: TREATMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

San Geronio Pass Water Agency shall enter into a Tribal Monitoring Agreement with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) prior to the start of ground disturbance activities. The agreement shall include MBMI attendance at the Cultural Resource Sensitivity Training to occur at the pre-grade/kick-off meeting.

If a pre-contact cultural resource (i.e., those that predate Native American contact with Europeans) is discovered during project construction, then ground-disturbing activities shall be suspended for a distance of 60 feet around the resource(s), and an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) physical demarcation/barrier constructed. The Project Archaeologist that is retained by San Geronio Pass Water Agency per MM CR-1 will evaluate the resource. Representatives from the Consulting Tribes (Morongo Band of Mission Indians [MBMI] and Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation [YSMN]), the Project Archaeologist, and the San Geronio Pass Water Agency shall confer regarding the research design, as well as any testing efforts needed to delineate the resource boundary. Following the completion of evaluation efforts, all parties shall confer regarding the resource's archaeological significance, its potential as a Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR), and avoidance (or other appropriate treatment) of the discovered resource. Removal of any cultural resource(s) shall be conducted with the presence of Tribal monitor(s) representing the Consulting Tribes (unless a Consulting Tribe opts otherwise). All plans for analysis shall be reviewed and approved by the San Geronio Pass Water Agency and the Consulting Tribes prior to implementation, and all removed material shall be temporarily curated on-site.

It is the preference of MBMI that significant cultural resources are fully avoided and if full avoidance is not feasible, then preservation in-place. It is the preference of YSMN that removed cultural material be reburied as close to the original find location as possible. However, should reburial within/near the original find location during project implementation not be feasible, then a reburial location for future reburial shall be decided upon by the Consulting Tribes and the San Geronio Pass Water Agency, and all finds shall be reburied within this location. Additionally, in this case, reburial shall not occur until all ground-disturbing activities associated with the project have been completed, all monitoring has ceased, all cataloguing and basic recordation of cultural resources have been completed, and a final monitoring report has been issued to San Geronio Pass Water Agency, California Historical Resource Information System (CHRIS) Center, and the Consulting Tribes. All reburials are subject to a reburial agreement that shall be developed between the San Geronio Pass Water Agency and the Consulting Tribes outlining the determined reburial process/location and shall include measures and provisions to protect the reburial area from any future impacts.

Should it occur that avoidance, preservation in place, and on-site reburial are not an option for treatment, the San Geronio Pass Water Agency shall relinquish all ownership and rights to this material and confer with the Consulting Tribes to identify an American Association of Museums (AAM)-accredited facility within the County that can accession the materials into their permanent collections and provide for the proper care of these objects in accordance with the 1993 CA Curation Guidelines and Federal Curation Standards (CFR 79.1). A curation agreement with an appropriately qualified repository shall be developed between the San Geronio Pass Water Agency and museum that legally and physically transfers the collections and associated records to the facility. This agreement shall stipulate the payment of fees necessary for permanent curation of the collections and associated records and the obligation of the Project developer/applicant to pay for those fees.

All draft records and reports containing the significance and treatment findings and data recovery results shall be prepared by the Project Archaeologist and submitted to San Geronio Pass Water Agency and the Consulting Tribes for their review and comment. After approval from all parties, the final reports and site/isolate records are to be submitted to the local CHRIS Center, the San Geronio Pass Water Agency, and the Consulting Tribes..

4. Archaeological and National Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (AHPA)

Will the project cause the irreparable loss or damage to a significant archaeological or historic resource or data through alteration of the terrain resulting from dam or reservoir construction (i.e., flooding, building of access roads, or construction of a reservoir) and require compliance under the AHPA?

☒ *No – The project construction will not cause an irreparable loss or damage of significant archaeological or historic resources or data through alteration of the terrain resulting from dam or reservoir construction. The project does not require compliance with the AHPA. Please explain or indicate where this information can be found.*

Impacts to archaeological and historic resources were evaluated in the *Cultural Resources Assessment for the County Line Recharge Basin and Turnout Project, City of Calimesa, Riverside and San Bernardino*

Counties, California, prepared by Applied Earthworks, Inc. dated April 2024, which is included as Appendix D.1 to this Initial Study.

☐ Yes – The project construction will cause an irreparable loss or damage of a significant archaeological or historic resource or data through alteration of the terrain resulting from dam or reservoir construction. The project requires compliance with the AHPA. Please explain or indicate where this information can be found.

5. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (<https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-andregulations/laws-legislations/bald-and-golden-eagle-protection-act.php>)

The purpose of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act is to not agitate the bald and golden eagle to the extent of not 1) Abusing an eagle, 2) Interfering with its substantial lifestyle, including shelter, breeding, feeding, or 3) Nest abandonment.

Will the project conflict with the intent of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act?

☒ No – The project does not conflict with the intent of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

☐ Yes – The project may not conflict with the intent of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

Explain: Suitable nesting habitat for eagles is not present within the Project area.

6. Clean Air Act

Name of Air Basin: South Coast Air Basin

Local Air District: South Coast Air Quality Management District

Complete the following table:

Pollutant	Federal Status (Attainment, Nonattainment, Maintenance, or Unclassified) ¹	Nonattainment Rates (i.e., marginal, moderate, serious, severe, or extreme) ¹	Threshold of Significance for Project Air Basin (if applicable – contact Local Air District) ²	Estimated Construction Emissions (Tons/Year)	Estimated Operation Emissions (Tons/Year)
Ozone (O ₃)	Nonattainment	Extreme	10 tons/year	N/A	N/A
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Maintenance	N/A	100 tons/year	1.80	N/A
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x)	N/A	N/A	10 tons/year	2.02	N/A
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) or Volatile Organic	N/A	N/A	10 tons/year	0.19	N/A

Pollutant	Federal Status (Attainment, Nonattainment, Maintenance, or Unclassified) ¹	Nonattainment Rates (i.e., marginal, moderate, serious, severe, or extreme) ¹	Threshold of Significance for Project Air Basin (if applicable – contact Local Air District)) ²	Estimated Construction Emissions (Tons/Year)	Estimated Operation Emissions (Tons/Year)
Compounds (VOC)					
Lead (Pb)	Attainment	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM _{2.5})	Nonattainment	Serious	70 tons/year	0.16	N/A
Particulate Matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM ₁₀)	Maintenance	N/A	100 tons/year	0.29	N/A
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Unclassified	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A

Notes: ¹ Federal criteria pollutant status and nonattainment rate, if applicable, per EPA Green Book. Available at <https://www.epa.gov/green-book>.

² Federal *de minimis* thresholds per Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, part 93.153. Available at https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=2f19c374f01438b8787cf80e8c4cea43&mc=true&node=pt40.20.93&rgn=div5#se40.22.93_1153.

Is the project subject to a General Conformity determination?

☒ *No. The project is in an attainment or unclassified area for all federal criteria pollutants, and/or the project emissions are below the federal *de minimis* levels. The project is not subject to General Conformity determination. Please include supporting documents utilized to compile the data, and any air quality studies/models (e.g., CalEEMod report) that have been completed for the project. Indicate where more information can be found (e.g., CEQA document, etc.):*

An air quality assessment was prepared using the California Emissions Estimator Model® (CalEEMod) program to quantify Project-related emissions from the Project. This assessment is provided in Appendix B of this Initial Study.

As shown in the above table, maximum construction-related emissions per year are estimated to be below the federal *de minimis* levels for all constituents. Moreover, operational emissions for the Project will be negligible. Therefore, the Project is not subject to General Conformity determination.

☐ *Yes. The project is in a nonattainment area or maintenance area subject to maintenance plans for a federal criteria pollutant and project emissions are above the federal *de minimis* levels. The project is subject to General Conformity determination. Please include supporting documents utilized to compile the data, and any air quality studies/models (e.g., CalEEMod report) that have been completed for the project. Indicate where more information can be found (e.g., CEQA document, etc.).*

7. Coastal Barriers Resources Act:

Will the project impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters? (Note that since there are currently no Coastal Barrier Resources System in California, projects located in California are not expected to impact the Coastal Barrier Resources System. If there is a special circumstance in which the project may impact a Coastal Barrier Resource System, indicate your reasoning below.)

☒ No – The project will not impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters,

☐ Yes – The project will impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters. Describe the project location with respect to the Coastal Barrier Resources System or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.). Please provide the status of any consultation with the appropriate Coastal Zone management agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):

The Project is not located near a Coastal Barrier Resources System as there are none in the State of California or anywhere along the western coast of the United States. Further, the Project will not involve a special circumstance in which a Coastal Barrier Resource System would be affected.⁷

8. Coastal Zone Management Act:

Is any portion of the project site located within the coastal zone? [NOTE: California's coastal zone generally extends 1,000 yards inland from the mean high tide line but may extend further if the area is located in significant coastal estuarine, habitat, and/or recreational areas, or to a lesser extent if the area is located in a developed urban area or within a coastal zone of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.] (To help determine if the project is located within a coastal zone, please visit <https://coastal.ca.gov/maps/> and/or <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/media/StateCZBoundaries.pdf>, or contact your local California Coastal Commission office or the city or county in which the project is located.)

☒ No – The project is not within the coastal zone.

☐ Yes – The project is located within the coastal zone. Attach a copy of the coastal zone permit or coastal exemption or indicate the status of the coastal zone permit below (http://www.coastal.ca.gov/enforcement/cdp_pamphlet.pdf). Describe the project location with respect to coastal areas or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., CEQA document, biological report/assessment, etc.).

9. Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Required documents: Attach a project-level biological report/assessment prepared by a qualified professional biologist that includes an up-to-date field survey and species list information (from the USFWS, the NMFS, the California Natural Diversity Database, and the California Native Plant Society)

⁷ Source: <http://www.fws.gov/ecological-services/habitat-conservation/Coastal.html>

analyzing the project's direct and indirect impacts on special status species in the project area. An official species list is required from the USFWS and NMFS. Refer to the USFWS Midwest Region website for guidance on preparing a biological report/assessment that meets ESA, Section 7 requirements: <https://www.fws.gov/Midwest/endangered/section7/index.html>. Refer to the following resources for information regarding possible biological impacts and to obtain official and unofficial species lists for analysis: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>, <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>, <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/consultation/>, and/or <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB>.

The biological assessment report prepared for the Project is included in Appendix C. The field reconnaissance survey of the Project site took place on April 6, 2023.

Does the project involve any direct or indirect impacts from construction or operation activities that may affect federally listed threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat, that are known, or have a potential, to occur on-site, in the surrounding area, or in the service area?

☒ No – The project will not have an impact on any federally listed species or their critical habitat. Please explain or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc).

Impacts to biological resources for the Project site were evaluated in the *Biological Assessment Report*, which is included as Appendix C to this Initial Study.

There is no critical habitat within the biological study area.

Mitigation measures for biological resources are listed in the response to item 3, Environmental Alternatives above.

Please refer to Appendix C this Initial Study for the *Biological Assessment Report*, prepared for the Project.

No consultations with any state or federal biological agencies have been conducted.

☐ Yes – The project will have an impact on one or more federally listed species or their critical habitat. Please provide information on the federally listed species that could potentially be affected by the project any proposed avoidance and conservation measures. Please indicate below where more information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.) If any consultations with state or federal agencies have been conducted for the project, please discuss the consultation efforts.

10. Environmental Justice

Does the project involve an activity that is likely to be of particular interest to or have particular impact upon minority, low-income, or indigenous populations?

☐ No – The project is not likely to be of any particular interest to or have an impact on certain minority, low-income, or indigenous populations. Please explain or indicate where this information can be found.

☒ Yes – The project is likely to be of particular interest to or have an impact on certain minority, low-income, or indigenous populations.

Check the appropriate box(es):

- ☐ The project is likely to affect the health of these populations.
- ☐ The project is likely to affect the environmental conditions of these populations.
- ☐ The project is likely to present an opportunity to address an existing disproportionate impact of these populations.
- ☐ The project is likely to result in the collection of information or data that could be used to assess potential impacts on the health or environmental conditions of these populations.
- ☐ The project is likely to affect the availability of information to these populations.
- ☒ Other reasons (please describe):

A SLF search was conducted with the California NAHC with negative results. Five tribes were contacted for the opportunity to consult pursuant to AB 52 and two responded. As part of the AB 52 consultation process, the Yuhaaviatam San Manuel Nation (aka San Manuel Band of Mission Indians) requested four mitigation measures and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians requested eight mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures are incorporated as **MM CR-1, MM CR-2, MM CR-3, and MM TCR-1**. The Project is also located in a disadvantaged community and provides groundwater recharge to underserved and disadvantaged communities, including the Cities of Calimesa and Yucaipa.

11. Farmland Protection Policy Act

Is any portion of the project located on prime, unique, or important farmland? (Please refer to the following resources regarding important farmland: <http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/ciff/ciff.html>, and or <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>)

☒ No – The project is not located on and will not impact prime, unique, or important farmland. Please explain or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., farmland conversion assessment, CEQA document, etc.).

According to the California Department of Conservation, the location of the Project is located on areas designated as Urban and Built Up Land.

Refer to the discussion under threshold 2, Agricultural and Forestry Resources in this Initial Study.

☐ Yes – The project is located on and/or will impact prime, unique, or important farmland. Attach documents/assessments evaluating the conversion of prime/unique farmland and farmland of statewide/local importance to non-agricultural uses, as well as any consultation(s) conducted with relevant agencies. Include information on the acreage that would be converted from important farmland to other uses. Indicate if any portion of the project boundaries is under a Williamson Act Contract and specify the amount of acreage affected. Include this information here or indicate it can be found (e.g., farmland conversion assessment, CEQA document, etc.).

12. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA)

(<https://www.fws.gov/ecological-services/es-library/pdfs/fwca.pdf>)

Will the project impact any bodies of water by impounding, diverting, deepening a channel, or otherwise controlling/modifying flow (including navigation and drainage)?

☒ No – The project will not impact any bodies of water and will not require compliance with the FWCA.

☐ Yes – The project will impact a body of water and will require compliance with the FWCA. Consultation with the USFWS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be required. Please discuss the potential project impacts to the water body or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.).

13. Flood Plain Management: Executive Orders 11988, 12148 and 13690

(<https://www.fema.gov/executive-order-11988-floodplain-management>, Executive, <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12148.html>, and <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/30/executive-order-establishing-federal-flood-risk-management-standard-and->)

- *Required documents: Attach an official floodplain map that includes the project area. Please refer to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center for official floodplain maps: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>. If the project area is unmapped by the FEMA, please explain below.*

Is any portion of the project located within a 100-year floodplain as depicted on a floodplain map or otherwise designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency?

☒ No – The project is not located within a 100-year floodplain.

☐ Yes – The project or a portion of the project is located within a 100-year floodplain. Attach any reports (floodplains/hydrological assessment) completed for the project and provide information of any consultations completed with relevant agencies. Describe the floodplain and any proposed measures that will be implemented to minimize or avoid redirection of the flood flow by the project or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., floodplains/hydrological assessment, CEQA document, etc.).

The Project will install a non-potable raw water pipeline underneath concrete-lined Calimesa Creek Channel in 4th Street, which is shown on Figure 11 of this IS/MND as a FEMA Regulatory Floodway and the 1% annual event is fully contained within the channel. No other areas of the Project intersect with FEMA flood hazard areas. Because the pipeline will be installed under the channel, the form and functionality of the channel to contain the 1% annual event will not be impacted. A map showing the FEMA Flood Zones is included as **Figure 11** in this Initial Study.

14. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act:

Does the project involve any direct or indirect impacts from construction or operational activities or changes in water quality/quantity that may impact Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)? (Please refer to the NMFS

Mapper to help determine the project's proximity and potential direct/indirect impacts to EFH, and to obtain a NMFS species list for the project location: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/maps_data/california_species_list_tools.html.)

☒ No – The project will not impact EFH. Please explain or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, EFH impact assessment/evaluation, CEQA document, etc.).

As discussed in the *Biological Assessment Report* prepared for the Project (Appendix C of the Initial Study), no fish species were identified with a potential for occurrence in the literature search.

☐ Yes – The project may adversely impact EFH and consultation with the NMFS will be required. Describe how EFH could potentially be impacted by this project and any proposed avoidance and conservation measures or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, EFH impact assessment/evaluation, CEQA document, etc.). Please attach an official NMFS species list, obtained through the NMFS Mapper link above, and explain any previous consultations/coordination conducted with the NMFS for the project:

15. Marine Mammal Protection Act:

Does the project involve any direct or indirect impacts from construction or operational activities or changes in water quality/quantity that may impact marine mammals?

☒ No – The project will not impact Marine Mammals.

☐ Yes – The project may adversely impact marine mammals and consultation with the NMFS and/or the USFWS will be required. Describe how marine mammals could potentially be impacted by this project and any proposed avoidance and conservation measures or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, marine mammals impact assessment/evaluation, CEQA document, etc.). Please attach an official copy of the USFWS/NMFS species list(s) and explain any previous consultations/coordination conducted with the USFWS/NMFS for the project.

16. Migratory Bird Treaty Act:

Will the project impact protected migratory birds that are known or have a potential to occur on the project site, or the surrounding area? (Please refer to the USFWS' iPaC tool to request an official list of "birds of conservation concern" with the potential to occur in the project area: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>)

☒ No – The project will not impact protected migratory birds. Please explain or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.).

☐ Yes – The project may impact protected migratory birds. Attach documentation (e.g., biological report/assessment) that includes an official USFWS iPaC list of all the "birds of conservation concern" that could occur where the project is located. Discuss the project's direct and indirect impacts (such as noise, vibration impacts, or modification of habitat) to migratory birds, and the mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce or eliminate these impacts. Please indicate where more information can be found [e.g., page number(s) of the biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.].

The USFWS' IPaC tool was used for the Project area to generate the following table, which identifies birds of conservation concern with the potential to occur in the Project area.

Bird Species	Protective Status (F=Federal; C=California)	Habitat	BSA Occurrence Probability
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher	F: Threatened S: None MSHCP: C Global rank: G4G5T2Q State rank: S2 Other: MBTA	Inhabits sage scrub in low-lying foothills and valleys, and sparse chaparral habitats.	Nesting: Absent No suitable habitat (sage scrub in low-lying foothills and valleys, sparse chaparral) is present within the project alignment. Foraging: Absent Same as above
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	F: Endangered S: Endangered Global rank: G5T2 State rank: S2 Other: MBTA	Inhabits riparian forests and willow thickets. Nests from central California to northern Baja California and winters in southern Baja California.	Nesting: Absent No suitable habitat (riparian forests and willow thickets) is present within the project alignment. Foraging: Absent Same as above
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> southwestern willow flycatcher	F: Endangered S: Endangered Global rank: G5T2 State rank: S2 Other: MBTA	For nesting, requires dense riparian habitats (cottonwood/willow and tamarisk vegetation).	Nesting: Absent No suitable habitat (riparian forests and willow thickets) is present within the project alignment. Foraging: Absent Same as above

KEY TO ABOVE TABLE

Definitions of occurrence probability:

Occurs: Observed on the site by biologists or recorded on-site by other qualified biologists.

High: Observed in similar habitat in region by qualified biologists, or habitat on the site is a type often utilized by the species and the site is within the known range of the species.

Moderate: Reported sightings in surrounding region, or site is within the known range of the species and habitat on the site is a type occasionally used by the species.

Low: Site is within the known range of the species but habitat on the site is rarely occupied by the species.

Absent: A focused study failed to detect the species, or, no suitable habitat is present.

Unknown: Distribution and habitat use has not been clearly determined.

Federal designations: (F = federal Endangered Species Act or federal agency designations)

ND: No designation

State designations: (C = California Endangered Species Act or CDFG designations)

CDFW state rankings are a reflection of the overall condition of an element throughout its California range. The number after the decimal point represents a threat designation attached to the rank:

S1 = Critically Imperiled. Less than (<) 6 Element Occurrences (EOs) OR < 1,000 individuals OR < 2,000 acres

S1.1 = very threatened

S1.2 = threatened

S1.3 = no current threats known

S2 = Imperiled. 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres

S2.1 = very threatened

- S2.2** = threatened
S2.3 = no current threats known
S3 = Vulnerable. 21-80 EOs OR 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres
S3.1 = very threatened
S3.2 = threatened
S3.3 = no current threats known
S4 = Apparently Secure. Uncommon but not rare in the state; some cause for long-term concern.
S5 = Secure. Common, widespread, and abundant in the state.
SH = All known California sites are historical, not extant.

17. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Required documents: A Historic Properties Identification Report (HPIR) written by a cultural resources professional who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards in Archaeology or Architectural History (www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm), as appropriate. The report must include a current records search (not older than five years) from the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068) extending to a half-mile beyond the Project's area of potential effects (APE), maps showing all recorded resources and surveys in relation to the APE, records of Native American outreach (<http://nahc.ca.gov>), and resource records from the CHRIS search and newly identified resources. Please contact State Water Board staff to receive additional details. Refer to the OHP website (under the Section 106 Submission Checklists header) for guidance regarding the information required to consult under Section 106: http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1071/files/106Checklist_Details.pdf.

If the project is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, a HPIR is not necessary. Contact the State Water Board to discuss this. This decision is based on the type of activities, not on the presence or absence of historic properties.

Note: Please do not upload confidential documents to the FAAST system. Contact the Project Manager or Division of Financial Assistance Environmental Review Staff for guidance regarding submission of confidential documents.

Identify the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 finding of effect contained in the cultural resources report:

- ☒ No Historic Properties Affected
☐ No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties
☐ Adverse Effect to Historic Properties

Provide a brief explanation for the above identified determination, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., HPIR cultural report):

As indicated in the *Cultural Resource Assessment for the County Line Recharge Basin and Turnout Project, City of Calimesa, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California* (Appendix D.1 of the Initial Study). For the purposes of the study, the Project area (CEQA terminology) encompasses the Area of Potential Effects (APE; NHPA terminology). No cultural resources were identified in the Project APE (AE-A, p. 16). The Cultural Resources Assessment recommends a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected under Section 106 of NHPA** (AE-A, p. 21).

18. Protection of Wetlands:

Will any portion of the project be located in or potentially affect a wetland?

☒ *No – The project will not be located in and/or will not potentially affect a wetland. Please explain, or indicate this information can be found (e.g., wetland assessment/delineation report, biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.).*

Refer to the Biological Assessment Report included as Appendix C of this Initial Study.

☐ *Yes – The project will involve the construction of structures and/or one or more of the listed regulated activities in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States, and will require a Section 10 permit. Please provide a copy of the permit obtained from the USACE, or the current status of the permit. Indicate below where more information on the project's construction and regulated activities can be found (e.g., Project Technical Report/Engineering Report, CEQA document, etc.).*

19. Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10

Will the project involve the construction of structures or any other regulated activities in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States? (NOTE: Regulated activities include the placement/removal of structures, work involving dredging, disposal of dredged material, filling, excavation, or any other disturbance of soils/sediments or modification of a navigable waterway.)

☒ *No – The project is not located in or near navigable waters of the United States. There will be no construction of structures, modification of existing structures, or any other regulated activity work in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States.*

☐ *Yes – The project will involve the construction of structures and/or one or more of the listed regulated activities in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States, and will require a Section 10 permit. Please provide a copy of the permit obtained from the USACE, or the current status of the permit. Indicate below where more information on the project's construction and regulated activities can be found (e.g., Project Technical Report/Engineering Report, CEQA document, etc.).*

20. Safe Drinking Water Act, Sole Source Aquifer Protection:

Is the project located in an area designated by the USEPA, Region 9, as a Sole Source Aquifer?

☒ *No – The project is not within the boundaries of a sole source aquifer.⁸*

The Project is within the boundary of the Yucaipa Subbasin of the Upper Santa Ana Valley Groundwater Basin, which are not Sole Source Aquifers. The nearest Sole Source Aquifer is Campo-Cottonwood Creek Aquifer located due east of San Diego along the U.S./Mexico Border.

☐ *Yes – The project is located in and/or will impact the below-marked Sole Source Aquifer:*

⁸ Source: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/groundwater/ssa.html>.

- ☐ Fresno County Aquifer (Recharge Area or Streamflow Source Zone)
- ☐ Santa Margarita Aquifer, Scotts Valley
- ☐ Campo/Cottonwood Creek Aquifer
- ☐ Ocotillo-Coyote Wells Aquifer

Provide the necessary information, including an alternative project location and/or adequate mitigation measures, for the State Water Board to initiate consultation with the USEPA, Region 9, Ground Water Office, or indicate where this information may be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.)

21. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

Identify the watershed within the project location: Santa Ana River Watershed

Will the project affect a wild and scenic river?

☒ *No – The project will not impact any of the wild and scenic rivers listed above. Please explain or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.).*

The nearest river to the Project is the Santa Ana River, which is not designated as wild and scenic.⁹

☐ *Yes - The project will impact the below-marked wild and scenic river. Attach a map of the impacted wild and scenic river and identify the relative project location.*

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| ☐ Amargosa River | ☐ Cottonwood Creek | ☐ Klamath River | ☐ Sespe Creek |
| ☐ American River (Lower) | ☐ Eel River | ☐ Merced River | ☐ Sisquoc River |
| ☐ American River (North Fork) | ☐ Feather River | ☐ Owens River Headwaters | ☐ Smith River |
| ☐ Bautista Creek | ☐ Fuller Mill River | ☐ Palm Canyon Creek | ☐ Trinity River |
| ☐ Big Sur River | ☐ Kern River | ☐ Piru Creek | ☐ Tuolumne River |
| ☐ Black Butte River | ☐ Kings River | ☐ San Jacinto River (North Fork) | |

Explain how the project will impact the wild and scenic river, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.):

22. Wilderness Act (www.justice.gov/enrd/wilderness-act-1964)

Except as specifically provided for in this Wilderness Act (Act), and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or

⁹ Source: <http://www.rivers.gov/california.php>.

motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such areas. Is the project located in an area designated as wilderness?

☒ *No - The project is not within the boundaries of a Wilderness Area.*

☐ *Yes – The project is located in and/or will impact a Wilderness Area: Provide the necessary information, including an alternative project location and/or adequate mitigation measures, for the Division of Financial Assistance Environmental Review Staff to coordinate with the USEPA to complete the consultation with the National Park Service and indicate where this information may be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.). Provide the necessary information, including an alternative project location and/or adequate mitigation measures, for the Division of Financial Assistance Environmental Review Staff to coordinate with the USEPA to complete the consultation with the National Park Service and indicate where this information may be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.).*

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IX. REFERENCES

The following documents were referred to as information sources during preparation of this document. They are available for public review at the locations abbreviated after each listing and spelled out at the end of this section.

AB 939	CalRecycle, California Integrated Waste Management Act AB 939. (Available at https://calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Enforcement/ , accessed February 2024.)
AE-A	Applied Earthworks, Inc. <i>Cultural Resource Assessment for the County Line Recharge Basin and Turnout Project, City of Calimesa, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California</i> . April 2024 (Appendix D.1)
AE-B	Applied Earthworks, Inc. <i>Paleontological Resource Assessment for the County Line Recharge Basin and Turnout Project, City of Calimesa, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California</i> . April 2024 (Appendix D.2)
BLUE-A	BLUE Consulting Group, <i>Biological Assessment Report for the County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project</i> . June 10, 2023, updated July 31, 2024 (Appendix C)
Cal Fire	Cal Fire, Fire Resources Assessment Program, FHSZ View. (Available at https://calfire-forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=988d431a42b242b29d89597ab693d008 , accessed November 2023.)
Caltrans Scenic Highways	Caltrans, <i>Scenic Highway Systems List</i> , (Available at https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways , accessed November 2023.)
CARB 2005	California Air Resources Board. <i>Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective</i> , April 2005. (Available at https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/Land%20Use%20Handbook_0.pdf accessed March 5, 2024.)
CARB 2022	California Air Resources Board, <i>State and Federal Standard Area Designations</i> , webpage, 2022. (Available at https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/maps-state-and-federal-area-designations , accessed February 22, 2024.)
CBSC	California Building Standards Commission, <i>California Building Standards Code Title 24</i> . 2019. (Available at https://www.dgs.ca.gov/bsc , accessed November 2023.)
CCR	Office of Administrative Law, <i>California Code of Regulations</i> . (Available at https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Index?transitionType=Default&contextData=%28sc.Default%29 , accessed February 2024.)
CFR	Office of the Federal Register, <i>Code of Federal Regulations Title 49</i> . (Available at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2020-title49-vol2/pdf/CFR-2020-title49-vol2.pdf , accessed November 2024.)
CGC	California Legislative Information, California Government Code Section 53091 (d). amended January 1, 2003. (Available at https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&sectionNum=53091 , accessed November 2023.)
CHSC	State of California. California Health and Safety Code. (Available at https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codesTOCSelected.xhtml?tocCode=HSC , accessed November 2023.)
CGP	City of Calimesa, <i>2014 General Plan</i> , August 4, 2014. (Available at https://www.cityofcalimesa.net/172/Planning , accessed November 2023.)

CGP DEIR	City of Calimesa, <i>Draft Environmental Impact Report General Plan Update 2013</i> , July 2013. (Available at the City of Calimesa Planning Department)
CLTC Addendum	City of Calimesa, <i>County Line Transportation Corridor Addendum to ISMND</i> , August 2022. (Appendix G)
CMC	City of Calimesa, <i>Calimesa Municipal Code</i> . November 23, 2022. (Available at https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Calimesa/ , accessed November 2023)
Cortese List	California Department of Toxic Substances Control, <i>Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List</i> . Available at https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search.asp?PAGE=7&CMD=search&ocieerp=&business_name=&main_street_number=&main_street_name=&city=&zip=&county=&branch=&status=ACT%2CBKLG%2CCOM&site_type=CSITES%2COPEN%2CFUDS%2CCLOSE&cleanup_type=&npl=&funding=&reporttype=CORTESE&reporttitle=HAZARDOUS+WASTE+AND+SUBSTANCES+SITE+LIST&federal_superfund=&state_response=&voluntary_cleanup=&school_cleanup=&operating=&post_closure=&non_operating=&corrective_action=&tiered_permit=&evaluation=&spec_prog=&national_priority_list=&senate=&congress=&assembly=&critical_pol=&business_type=&case_type=&display_results=&school_district=&pub=&hwm_p=False&permitted=&pc_permitted=&inspections=&inspectionsother=&complaints=&censustract=&cesdecile=&ORDERBY=county&next=Next+50 , accessed November 2023.)
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DOC-A	California Department of Conservation “ <i>California Important Farmland Finder</i> ” 2023. (Available at https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/ , accessed November 2023.)
DOC-B	State of California Department of Conservation, <i>EQ Zapp: California Earthquake Hazards Zone Application</i> website. (Available at https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/geohazards/eq-zapp , accessed November 2023.
DOC-C	State of California Department of Conservation, <i>CGS Information Warehouse: Regulatory Maps</i> . 2015. (Available at https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/ , accessed November 2023.)
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FHWA	Federal Highway Administration, <i>Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM)</i> , January 2006, Table 1 (Available at https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/rcnm/ , accessed February 2024.)
FTA	Federal Transit Administration, <i>Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual</i> , September 2018, Table 7-4 (Available at https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/research-innovation/118131/transit-noise-and-vibration-impact-assessment-manual-fta-report-no-0123_0.pdf , accessed February 2024.)

LOR-A	LOR Geotechnical Group, Inc., <i>Infiltration/Percolation Feasibility Investigation Proposed Recharge Basin, Calimesa, California</i> , February 21, 2022. (Included as Appendix F.1.)
LOR-B	LOR Geotechnical Group, Inc., <i>Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation Proposed Reservoir No. 3A APN 411-150-027, Parcel B, Calimesa, California</i> , June 1, 2023 (Included as Appendix F.2.)
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