



DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/ MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
CARANCHO PUMP STATION EXPANSION PROJECT
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

JULY 2, 2024

PREPARED FOR:
RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT
42135 WINCHESTER ROAD, TEMECULA, CA 92590



PREPARED BY:
ARDURRA GROUP



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Draft

For the proposed:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION	i
2.0 INTRODUCTION	iii
2.1 INTENDED USE OF THIS DOCUMENT	iii
Decision to Prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration	iv
Environmental Concerns	iv
2.2 DEFINITIONS	iv
Environmental Checklist Terminology	iv
Project-related Terminology	v
3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ix
BACKGROUND	ix
PURPOSE AND NEED	ix
PROJECT LOCATION	ix
ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING	x
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	xi
PROJECT CONSTRUCTION	xii
ABBREVIATIONS	xxiii
3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:	xxv
3.2 DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency):	xxv
4.0 INITIAL STUDY	xxvi
4.1 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:	xxvi
5.0 ISSUES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES	1
1. AESTHETICS	1
2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES	5
3. AIR QUALITY	9
4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	22
5. CULTURAL RESOURCES	42
6. ENERGY	46
7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS	49
8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	53
9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	57
10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY	65
11. LAND USE AND PLANNING	73
12. MINERAL RESOURCES	74
13. NOISE	76
14. POPULATION AND HOUSING	84
15. PUBLIC SERVICES	85
16. RECREATION	88
17. TRANSPORTATION	90
18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES	93
19. UTILITIES AND SERVICES	96
20. WILDFIRE	100
21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	105
6.0 REPORT PREPARATION	108
6.1 RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT	108
6.2 AGENCIES OF PERSONS CONTACTED	108
7.0 REFERENCES	109
8.0 APPENDICIES	115

FIGURES

Figure 1- Regional Location	xv
Figure 2- Local Vicinity Map	xvi
Figure 3- Photo Location Map	xvii
Figure 4- Site Photos.....	xviii
Figure 5- Site Plan	xxi
Figure 6- Zoning and Land Use Map.....	xxii
Figure 7- Williamson Act Farmland Adjacent to the Project Site.....	8
Figure 8- Existing Vegetation and Areas of Disturbance.....	27
Figure 9- Project Operational Noise Levels (Three Hp & Backup Generator)	82
Figure 9A- Operational Noise Levels (Three 350 Hp Pumps Only)	83

TABLES

TABLE 1: SURROUNDING ADJACENT LAND USES.....	i
TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF AGENCY APPROVALS	ii
TABLE 3: PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH RIVERSIDE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN AGRICULTURE POLICIES.....	6
TABLE 4: FEDERAL AND STATE POLLUTANT STANDARDS	9
TABLE 5: SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ATTAINMENT STATUS	10
TABLE 6: CONSTRUCTION RELATED REGIONAL POLLUTANT EMISSIONS.....	16
TABLE 7: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ACRES DISTURBED PER DAY	17
TABLE 8: LOCAL CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS AT THE NEAREST RECEPTORS.....	17
TABLE 9: REGIONAL OPERATIONAL POLLUTANT EMISSIONS	18
TABLE 10: POTENTIALLY OCCURRING SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	28
TABLE 11: WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP CONSISTENCY.....	39
TABLE 12: CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN ONE-HALF MILE OF THE PROJECT SITE	44
TABLE 13: PROJECT RELATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	54
TABLE 14: PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE CAP ENERGY REDUCTION MEASURES	55
TABLE 15: PAINT SAMPLES	61
TABLE 16: WATER RESOURCES AND THEIR BENEFICIAL USES	68
TABLE 17: PROJECT OPERATIONAL NOISE LEVELS	80
TABLE 18: CONSTRUCTION VIBRATION AT THE NEAREST RECEPTORS	81

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (Separate Document)

APPENDICIES

APPENDIX A: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impact Study/Energy (Ganddini 2024)

APPENDIX B: Biological Resources (ELMT 2024)

APPENDIX C: Cultural/Archaeological/Tribal/ Paleontological Resources Report (BCR Consulting 2024)

APPENDIX D: Soils and Geotechnical (Leighton, Inc., 2020)

APPENDIX E: Paint Sample Analysis (CSI Services, 2024)

APPENDIX F: Noise Study (Ganddini 2024)

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project Title: Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project

Public Comment Period: Public Review period will begin on July 2, 2024, and conclude on August 5, 2024.

Lead Agency: Rancho California Water District
42135 Winchester Road
Temecula, California 92590

Contact Person and Phone Number: Phillip Dauben, Principal Engineer
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General Plan Designation: Riverside County - Rural Foundation; Open Space Foundation

Zoning: Riverside County – Residential Agricultural (10 acres)

Specific Plan or Master Plan: Rancho California’s 5-Year Capital Improvement Project

Project Site: Carancho Pump Station; Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 933-050-036

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: The surrounding land uses are primarily rural, open-space areas. See *Table 1. Surrounding Adjacent Land Uses*.

TABLE 1: SURROUNDING ADJACENT LAND USES

	Land Use	General Plan	Zoning
Project Site	Carancho Pump Station; Public Utilities	Rural Mountains	R-A-20
North	Agriculture; Vacant; Carancho Tank 1 and 2	Rural Mountains; Open Space Foundation	R-A-20
South	Agriculture	Rural Foundation; Rural Mountains	R-A-5
East	Agriculture; Enchanted Creek Ranch	Rural Foundation; Rural Mountains	R-A-10; R-R; A-1-20
West	Agriculture; Vacant	Rural Foundation; Rural Mountains	R-A-5; A-1-10

Source: (1) Riverside County Land Use Element, 2021; (2) Riverside County Map My County, 2023

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, is there a plan for

State law and County of Riverside Guidelines identify Native American consultation and participation as an important aspect of the cultural resource evaluation. To identify potential Native American resources a Sacred Lands Search was conducted at the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). A current Sacred Lands File Search response from the NAHC was received on February 27, 2024 (See **Appendix C**). The results from the Sacred Lands Search were positive, indicating the area is sensitive for potential tribal cultural resources. Therefore, it was advised by the NAHC to contact the Pechanga Band of Indians along with other tribes within the area. The NHAC provided a list of Native American tribes that could assist in



consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

identifying potentially significant cultural resources due to these tribes' historic affiliation with the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the Project.

The Pechanga Band of Indians were contacted prior to the field survey and performed the field survey along with BCR Consulting. In addition, the District shall perform consultation with the affiliated tribes pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) to ensure unmitigated substantial adverse change in a significant tribal cultural resource does not occur.

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

This ISMND is intended to assist state and local agencies in carrying out their responsibilities for permit review or approval authority over various aspects of the Project. *Table 2: Summary of Agency Approvals*, outlines the following permits and approvals that are required for the proposed Project (see below):

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF AGENCY APPROVALS

Agency	Permit/ Review Required
South Coast Air Quality Management District	Permit to Operate (P/O) for backup generators
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water	Application For Domestic Water Supply Permit Amendment
Environmental Protection Agency	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Hazardous Waste Part A Permit Application



2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 INTENDED USE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is to evaluate and disclose to the public the level of significance of anticipated temporary and permanent physical changes in the environment from implementing proposed improvements to the existing RCWD-owned Carancho Pump Station within APN 933-050-036. Proposed improvements include replacement of pumps at the Project Site; upgrades to the existing surge tank appurtenances; the installation of a new surge tank located in the pump suction piping; installation of new electrical conduit; new transformer; one radio antenna up to 50 feet tall as measured from finished grade; new generator (1,250 kW) with a 2,470-gallon sub-base fuel tank with 5-gallon spill containment; and new Automated Transfer Switch (ATS); and removal of Carancho Tanks 1 and 2. Originally, a 1,500-kW generator was included in preliminary designs for the Project and was analyzed in the technical studies for the Project (See **Appendices A through F**). Design plans indicate a smaller 1,250 kW generator is adequate for proposed Carancho Pump Station operations and this is reflected in the IS/MND analysis. Proposed improvements to Carancho Pump Station are considered a Project under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because implementation requires discretionary review and approval for permit issuance. The Project does not meet the definition of an exemption under CEQA Statute and Guidelines (Public Resources Code 21000-21189 and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000-15387), because the Project is not a replacement in place or minor alteration of an existing facility involving negligible expansion. The Project is intended to expand the capacity of Carancho Pump Station for needed reliability and system redundancy identified in the Water Master Plan pursuant to RCWD guidelines.

This Initial Study (IS) evaluates the level of significance of reasonably anticipated temporary and permanent physical changes in the environment for the Project according to Rancho California Water District's (RCWD) Local Guidelines for implementing the CEQA Statutes and Guidelines. This document is written to inform decision makers and the public on the environmental impacts from all phases of the Project pursuant to CEQA. Levels of significance of environmental impacts are identified within Section 5.0 of this document according to the CEQA thresholds of significance that are found in the RCWD Local CEQA Guidelines. Rancho California Water District (RCWD, District) is the Lead Agency and will utilize information in this document during their evaluation of the Project for discretionary approvals and permits. This report is also intended for use by Trustee and Responsible Agencies for discretionary decisions on permits. This document was circulated for 30-day public review and copies were made available to the public to inform stakeholders and interested parties on the potential environmental impacts of the Project and the levels of significant impacts that may result from implementation of the Project.

As the Lead Agency, the District will use the information in this document as a basis for findings supporting the appropriate next step for CEQA compliance. This document and the District's findings on the Project will provide an administrative record on CEQA compliance from an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Project. This document includes environmental analysis of all Project phases, including construction and long-term operations and maintenance, and is intended to fully disclose all reasonably anticipated impacts from the Project. This document is an IS/MND that analyzes environmental impacts of the most feasible design alternative for Project implementation involving a location and metrics that were not specifically evaluated for environmental impacts in the District's 2015 Water Facilities Master Plan.

This document is an IS/MND, that has been prepared to evaluate and fully disclose the reasons why the Project will have less than significant impacts with the incorporation of mitigation measures. As a first step in CEQA compliance, an Environmental Checklist Form was completed, and an Initial Study (IS) was prepared to describe all anticipated phases of the Project and identify impacts resulting from the Project implementation pursuant to Section 5.01 and 5.05 through 5.10 of the Local CEQA Guidelines. The IS utilizes the CEQA Environmental Checklist found in RCWD Local CEQA Guidelines (Resolution 2023-6-5) as the foundation for environmental analysis.

The County of Riverside General Plan (2005) and EIR (2003) have been incorporated by reference in this IS and were used to identify where no impacts and no further analysis is needed for Project compliance with CEQA. RCWD's Standards in addition to Local CEQA Guidelines have been incorporated in this document and identified where they are applicable as best management practices (BMPs) for reducing potentially significant impacts from the Project to



less than significant levels. The analysis in this report is based on studies prepared for the Project by technical experts on Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases, Energy, Noise, Cultural Resources, and Biological Resources. These studies have been appended to this IS/MND. This IS/MND proposes mitigation measures for each potentially significant Project impact and describes the effectiveness of mitigation measures in reducing potentially significant impacts to less than significance. Furthermore, the mitigation measures for the Project have been incorporated in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) pursuant to Public Resources Code, Section 21081.6. The MMRP identifies timing and responsible parties for implementation and will be used by the District and the Project Contractor during construction to track implementation of mitigation measures and BMPs that are identified as required to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significance.

The analysis in the IS concludes that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is the appropriate level of environmental review for CEQA compliance on the Project and that all potentially significant impacts will be mitigated to less than significance with the incorporation of BMPs, engineering standards, and mitigation measures listed in the MMRP.

Decision to Prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration

The Project involves improvements to Carancho Pump Station within the developed footprint of the existing facility and includes removal of Carancho Tanks 1 and 2. The Project will not result in cumulative or growth inducing impacts due to consistency with the District approved Water Facilities Master Plan (2015) and 5-Year CIP Projects (2023). The Project is ineligible for a CEQA exemption due to proposed upsizing of the pumps and potentially significant impacts requiring mitigation. Section 5 of this document identifies potentially significant impacts on Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Public Services, Transportation, Utilities and Services, Wildfire, which require implementation of Project-specific mitigation measures. Mitigation measures that have been proposed for the Project, to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels, will be implemented prior to and during Project construction; and as a result, this IS/MND indicates Project consistency with RCWD's Local CEQA Guidelines Sections 6.02 through 6.11, that a mitigated negative declaration is appropriate when:

- a. The Project Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects, but: Revisions to the Project plan were made that would avoid, or reduce the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and
- b. There is no substantial evidence that the Project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment.

Environmental Concerns

Environmental concerns related to Project implementation are limited to temporary and intermittent impacts from construction. Significant long-term, permanent, and cumulative impacts are not anticipated with Project implementation due to the scale of the Project as well as Project consistency with the original capacity within the 2550 pressure zone. The Project will not require modification of the existing maintenance and operation schedule for the Carancho Pump Station. Upon preliminary review of the Project, improvements may result in temporary and intermittent impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Transportation, and Wildfire. No significant short-term, permanent, or cumulative impacts will result from Project implementation with the enforcement of the MMRP for the Project

2.2 DEFINITIONS

Environmental Checklist Terminology

The Initial Study is based on the Environmental Checklist Form within Section 15063 (d) (3) of the State CEQA Guidelines (CEQA 2022) and the District's Local CEQA Guidelines. The responses to questions about the proposed Project, found in Section 5.0, indicate less than significant environmental impacts with mitigation are anticipated from Project implementation. The Form in Section 3 is used to evaluate impacts and includes an explanation for each answer within Section 5.0. The following terminology is used to describe the level of significance of Project-related impacts.

Area of Potential Effects (APE): The footprint of development (both horizontal and vertical) and the Local Vicinity where impacts from the Project will occur.



Automated Transfer Switch: is a self-acting, intelligent power switching device governed by dedicated control logic for the purposes of providing continuous electrical power from one of two power sources.

Critical Habitat: is designated at the time of listing of a species or within one year of listing; and Critical Habitat refers to specific areas within the geographical range of a species at the time it is listed that include the physical or biological features that are essential to the survival and eventual recovery of that species.

Impact: A physical change in the environment on a sensitive or regulated resource.

Lead Agency: a “public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project” pursuant to Section 15367 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Lead Agency must decide the appropriate format for CEQA compliance such as an ISMND. The Lead Agency must be a public agency pursuant to Public Resources Section Code (PRC) Section 21083; and guidelines pertaining to the necessary qualifications of a Lead Agency are outlined in PRC Section 21165.

Less Than Significant Impact: Level of changes in the environment from a project when there is potential for an impact based on the location of resources or the location or nature of the project; however, the extent of the change is not expected to exceed thresholds of significance identified in the Appendix G Checklist and other agency standards.

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: The level of changes in the environment with the implementation of a project, which includes application of mitigation measures or avoidance measures and regulations, intended to reduce changes in the environment from a project when a project has the potential to significantly change the environment, and impacts are reduced to below thresholds of significance of Appendix G and other agency standards.

Local Vicinity: The area and parcels surrounding a Project Site where direct or indirect impacts from Project implementation may occur.

Mitigation: Feasible measures that could be applied to project design and construction to minimize significant adverse impacts, which are tailored to specific circumstances of a particular project and place. Mitigation places requirements on a project beyond standard applicable ordinances and are intended to tailor a project and project activities to a particular location.

No Impact: Level of changes in the environment from a project when there are either no related resources that could be affected by a project or there are no project-related changes that could result in a change in the environment.

Potentially Significant Impacts: The level of substantive changes that will result from project implementation resulting in significant changes to the environment, and expected with a project, after avoidance and mitigation measures have been applied, exceeding thresholds of significance.

Project: An activity undertaken by an agency or private entity which requires discretionary approval leading either to a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment.

Project Site: The parcel (APN 933-050-036) which contains the existing Carancho Pump Station and Tanks 1 and 2.

Threshold of Significance: A guideline or standard established for public health, safety, welfare, protection of natural resources or stewardship of the environment.

Significant: Substantial or potentially substantial adverse change to any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the Project.

Project-related Terminology

A-Weighted Sound Level, dBA: The all-encompassing noise environment associated with a given environment, at a specified time, usually a composite of sound from many sources, at many directions, near and far, in which usually no particular sound is dominant.

CNEL: Community Noise Equivalent Level. CNEL is a weighted 24-hour noise level that is obtained by adding five decibels to sound levels in the evening (7:00 PM to 10:00 PM), and by adding ten decibels to sound levels at night (10:00 PM to 7:00 AM). This weighting accounts for the increased human sensitivity to noise during the evening and nighttime hours.



California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA): is a “professional member association that advances sustainable stormwater management protective of California Water Resources”; the CASQA Construction BMP Handbook provides “practical and industry leading resources to support the implementation of the Construction General Permit issued by State Water Resources Control Board” (CASQA, 2024).

Decibel, dB: A logarithmic unit of noise level measurement that relates the energy of a noise source to that of a constant reference level; the number of decibels is 10 times the logarithm (to the base 10) of this ratio.

DNL, Ldn: Day Night Level. The DNL, or Ldn is a weighted 24-hour noise level that is obtained by adding ten decibels to sound levels at night (10:00 PM to 7:00 AM). This weighting accounts for the increased human sensitivity to noise during the nighttime hours.

Equivalent Continuous Noise Level, Leq: A level of steady state sound that in a stated time period, and a stated location, has the same A-weighted sound energy as the time-varying sound.

Farmland of Statewide Importance is similar to Prime Farmland, but with minor shortcomings, such as steeper slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date (CA DOC).

Farmland of Local Importance includes all farmable land not meeting the definitions of “prime farmland,” “farmland of statewide importance,” and “unique farmland.” This includes land that is or has been used for irrigated pasture, dryland farming, confined livestock or dairy facilities, aquaculture, poultry facilities, and dry grazing. It also includes lands previously designated by soil characteristics as “prime farmland,” “farmland of statewide importance,” and “unique farmland” that has since become idle (CA DOC).

Forest Land (§12220 G); land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species including: hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, and other public benefits (CA Public Resources Code).

Hazardous Materials Site (§ 65962.5): hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action pursuant to Section 25187.5 of the Health and Safety Code, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) shall compile and update as appropriate, but at least annually, and submit to the Secretary for Environmental Protection (CA Public Resources Code).

L_{max}, L_{min}: L_{max} is the RMS (root mean squared) maximum level of a noise source or environment measured on a sound level meter, during a designated time interval, using fast meter response. L_{min} is the minimum level.

Transit Priority Area (TPA) (§ 21099): an area within one-half mile of a major transit stop that is existing or planned, if the planned stop is scheduled to be completed within the planned horizon including a Transportation Improvement Program or applicable regional transportation plan (CA Public Resources Code).

Timber Land (§ 4526): land, other than land owned by the Federal government and land designative by the Board as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable or growing a crop of trees of any commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. Commercial species shall be determined by the Board on a District basis after consultation with the District committees and others (CA Public Resources Code).

Timber Land Production Zone (§51104 G): areas which have been zoned and is devoted to uses for growing and harvesting timber, or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses (CA Public Resources Code).

Prime Farmland has the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term agricultural production. Prime Farmland has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Land must have been used for irrigated agriculture production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date (CA DOC).

Unique Farmland consists of lesser quality soils used for the production of the State’s leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but may include non-irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been farmed at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date (CA DOC).



Urban and Built-Up Land is occupied by structures with a building density of at least one unit per 1.5 acres, or approximately six structures to a 10-acre parcel. Common examples include residential structures, industrial structures, commercial structures, institutional facilities, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment structures, and water control structures (CA DOC).



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3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

The Carancho Pump Station was originally built in 1978 with a total of two (2) 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm) design capacity pumps and two (2) empty pump cans. Although one pump is intended as the primary pump with the other as backup, both pumps are often operating together to meet requirements of high-water demand periods. Rancho California Water District (RCWD, District) identified the need to upsize the Carancho Pump Station in their 5-year CIP Plan to maintain efficiency of the District's 2550 Pressure Zone, which is also served by the Tenaja and Baldaray Pump Stations. Carancho Pump Station supplies water to the Tenja Pump Station, by sending water from the 2,260 Pressure Zone into the 2,550 Pressure Zone; however, due to lack of capacity, Carancho Pump Station has been a bottleneck in the overall conveyance to the 2,550 zone. As a result of the existing configuration, the Tenaja Pump Station cannot provide multiple, maximum day redundancy for the Baldaray Pump Station until the Carancho Pump Station is improved.

The improvements that were originally proposed within RCWD's 5-year CIP for the Carancho Pump Station consisted of the following as shown in **Figure 5: Site Plan**:

- Upsize the Carancho Pump Station capacity from 1,450 gpm to 7,875 gpm, including: demolition of two existing inactive steel tanks;
- Replace two existing pumps (350 Hp) and add two new pumps for a total of four new pumps and motors (3 duty pumps, 350 HP; 1 standby pump, 350 HP), two surge tanks, an electrical transformer, and 1,250 kW emergency power generation installed with the Project;
- Install approximately 600 linear feet of 24-inch diameter potable water pipeline, Install ancillary site upgrades consisting of pavement, lighting, and communication equipment;
- Remove or abandon approximately 600 linear feet of 12-inch potable water pipeline in place.

The District has identified an alternative design for the Carancho Pump Station that can be implemented immediately and is aligned with the objectives of the current CIP. The "Project" being analyzed for CEQA compliance includes upsizing the Carancho Pump Station capacity from 1,450 gpm to 4,400 gpm, which will maintain the District's operating goals for the system and can be implemented with the installation of a 1,250-kW generator instead of a 1,500-kW generator. The use of the smaller generator can reduce impacts, such as fuel consumption up to approximately 20 percent, and a 1,250-kW generator is identified in the current plans for the Project. Therefore, this IS/MND references Project operations with a 1,250-kW generator even though a 1,500-kW generator was analyzed in the technical studies for the Project. The use of a 1,250-kW generator will not result in impacts exceeding what was identified in the IS/MND analysis and technical analysis found in the Appendices.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Project will provide system redundancy and ensure operations are maintained in the District's 2550 Pressure Zone during an emergency event. In addition, the Project will allow the District to relocate the Baldaray Pump Station within the 2550 Pressure Zone from its existing site once the Carancho Pump Station capacity has been increased and can adequately supply the Tenaja Pump Station/2550 PZ during high use summer months. This upgrade will provide the pumping facility with emergency back-up power, thereby improving the reliability of this pump station.

PROJECT LOCATION

Regionally, the Project is within the southwestern portion of Riverside County in unincorporated Riverside County, approximately 12 miles northeast from the San Diego County border. Vehicular access in this area is via paved two-lane backroads consisting of Carancho Road, Camaron Road and De Luz Road. Prominent features within southwestern Riverside County are the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Preserve, consisting of approximately 8,200-acres, located east of the Santa Ana Mountains and approximately 2 miles north of the Project Site; Cleveland National Forest, approximately 10 miles north; the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve, located approximately 7.4 miles southeast from the Project Site; and Temecula Valley Vineyards, Wineries, and Citrus Groves adjacent to the Project Site and within the City of Temecula to the east. The closest regional transportation routes consist of Interstates 15



(I-15) and 215 (I-215), located approximately 8.1 and 8.5 miles east of the Project Site. Surrounding cities include Wildomar, Murrietta, and Temecula to the east (See **Figure 1: Regional Location Map**).

The Project is centrally located on developed portions of parcel APN 933-050-036 consisting of 6.56-acres of land currently developed with two water tanks (Carancho Tanks 1 and 2) and a pump station. Access to the site is via one driveway from El Calamar Road. APN 933-050-036 is the Project Site and includes mostly impervious surfaces and natural landscape setbacks/buffers; developed portions of the site consist of paved driveways, tanks, and ground-mounted equipment (see **Figure 2. Local Vicinity Map**). The Carancho Pump Station is located approximately 2.3 miles west of the Cross Creek Golf Course; and approximately 3 miles southeast from Tenaja Pump Station; and approximately 7.7 miles south from Baldary Pump Station. The existing pump station is located on elevated terrain approximately 1,580 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) in a high valley formed by the Santa Rosa Plateau. The Project Site overlooks the Murrieta Valley floor to the east. Specifically, Carancho Pump Station is located at Latitude 33.494125/ Longitude -117.273933 within a non-sectioned area of Township 8 South, Range 4 West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, in Riverside County within the USGS *Fallbrook, California* (1988) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Carancho Pump Station Site is referred to as the Project Site and consists of a 6.56-acre fenced and gated parcel owned by the District. Terracing at the Project Site consists of an upper pad that is developed with two inactive tanks (Carancho Tanks 1 and 2) and a lower pad developed with pumps, above-grade piping and valves, a surge tank, disinfection equipment located in a utility shed, and electrical equipment. The Project Site is located approximately 0.3 miles north of the unsignalized intersection of El Calamar Road and Carancho Road, within unincorporated Riverside County. Carancho Tanks 1 and 2 are highly visible from public vantage points looking west and south from the driveway at El Calamar Road and from Carancho Road looking north. Heights of existing components at the pump station are 50-feet above grade, since Carancho Tank 1 contains a 15-foot radio antenna on top of the 35-foot tank. The Project Site currently consists of mostly impervious surfaces that slope toward El Calamar Road to the east and toward vacant land to the south. The Project Site has been in use as a pump station facility and for water storage for over 30 years. The two existing tanks have been out of service since the 1990's. The Carancho Pump Station is located within a rural ranch setting known as De Luz Heights that is served by two-lane roads and is located south of the Santa Rosa Plateau within unincorporated Riverside County, California. (See **Figure 1: Regional Location Map and Figure 2: Local Vicinity Map**)

Surrounding parcels generally consist of minimum five-acre parcels with considerable undulating terrain. Maps of the area indicate creeks downstream from the Project which are tributary to the Santa Margarita River. Due to the Project Site's existing elevations, drainage is generally towards the south and southeast, eventually collecting into the "blue-line streams"¹ located to the west and east of the Project Site, which eventually flow into the Santa Margarita River. Surrounding land use in outlying areas includes ranch, agriculture, open space, recreational open space, and hiking trails. Existing access to the Project Site is from a concrete paved, approximately 12-foot-wide, gated driveway which slopes up from the south bound lane of El Calamar Road, toward the upper tank pad to the southwest from the road. Developed portions of the Project Site are buffered from adjacent land use with a margin of disturbed vegetation along developed portions of the site and natural vegetation extending between these disturbed areas and the parcel boundaries for the Project Site. This buffer consists of natural vegetation that is not irrigated. The existing pump station and tank pads include pavement and ground mounted equipment. The upper pad contains the out of service Carancho Tanks 1 and 2 and can be accessed directly from the existing gated driveway at El Calamar Road. The existing pump station and electrical cabinets are on the lower pad, southwest of the tank pad, which can be accessed via the paved internal driveway.

¹According to Riverside County, a blue-line stream "is any stream shown as a solid or broken blue line on 7.5 Minute Series quadrangle maps prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey (USGS). A blue-line stream is a body of concentrated flowing water in a natural low are or natural channel on the land surface and may be any creek, stream or other flowing water feature, perennial or ephemeral, indicated on USGS quadrangle maps, with the exception of man-made watercourses."



The closest structures to the Project Site include a single-family residence, approximately 500 feet north; a winery approximately 1,800 feet east; and a single-family residence, approximately 500 feet southeast. These structures are privately-owned residences on land used for agriculture, consisting of citrus groves and wineries. See *Table 1: Surrounding Adjacent Land Uses* above and **Figure 6: Zoning and Land Use Map**.

Existing utilities serving the pump station consist of a 36-inch suction pipeline within the southern portion of the property and a 12-inch potable water discharge pipeline within the main driveway. Overhead electrical lines are located on the western perimeter of El Calamar Road and connect to the pump station via overhead electrical lines traversing in a westerly direction through the southeastern corner of APN 933-050-036.

The existing Carancho Pump Station pad is the lower pad located approximately 35 feet southwest of Carancho Tanks 1 and 2; Carancho Tank 1 is a 100-ft diameter, welded steel tank, and Carancho Tank 2 is a 120-ft diameter, bolted steel tank. The pump station pad has a finished elevation that is approximately 15 feet lower than the pad for the tanks. The tank (upper) pad is carved into the hillside resulting in a 1.5:1 on-site slope at the northern perimeter of the tank pad. The existing transformer is located southeast of Carancho Tank 1, outside of the limits for the upper pad but within disturbed areas of the facility on its own foundation, intercepting electrical lines from the east. The new transformer will be located approximately 10 feet southwest from the existing transformer within disturbed areas of the Project Site; and be constructed prior to the shutdown of the existing transformer to limit system shutdowns for residents. The pump station's existing mechanical elements and operations consist of two (2) installed and operational pumps (350 horsepower (HP); pump pedestals (4-ft by 4-ft); 20-inch diameter pump cans approximately 13 feet deep; 20-inch suction header; 8-inch suction lines; 20-inch discharge header; 8-inch discharger lines; and a 500 cubic foot surge tank. The pump station's relatively high discharge pressure (~300 psi) required special attention for pipe, valve, and appurtenance selection and design.

Existing conditions of the Project Site and surrounding area are shown in **Figure 3: Photo Location Key Map & Figure 4: Site Photos**.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project involves the demolition of both existing Carancho Nos. 1 and 2 Tanks, relocation of existing radio and antenna, abandonment of existing Southern California Edison (SCE) transformer, permanent stabilization of the tank pad, remove and replace existing pipeline, replacement of two existing pumps (350 Hp) and addition of two new pumps (350 Hp) for a total of 4 new pumps within the existing pump station on the pump station (lower) pad. Project implementation will result in 3 duty pumps, 350 HP; 1 standby pump, 350 HP to meet the desired capacity of 4,400 gpm; installation of two new surge tanks; installation of new electrical conduits; a 50-foot antenna on the southwestern portion of the upper pad; new transformer; and new 1,250 kW emergency power generation with automatic transfer switch that meets Tier 2 emission standards² and enclosure (300 ft by 92.5 ft); and the installation of approximately 600 linear feet of 24-inch diameter potable water pipeline from the eastern end of the main driveway of Carancho Pump Station to the proposed location of the pump station improvements on the lower pad along with the proposed potable water pipeline will be installed on areas of previous disturbance within APN 933-050-036 southwest of the Carancho Tanks.

The existing pump station contains space for four pumps and was initially intended to provide 6,000 gpm (with all four pumps running), thus the upgrades planned for the Project fall within the scope and configuration of the original pump station. Project components, as discussed above are shown within **Figure 5: Site Plan**. The Project does not propose to increase the amount of impervious surfaces.

² Tier 2 emission standards are established by the U.S. EPA for Stationary Emergency Use Only and apply to nonroad diesel engines. Engines of various sizes need to meet preestablished thresholds for smoke (PM); and Nitrous Oxide (NOx) (US EPA, 2022).



PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Project construction is anticipated to begin in late 2024 and conclude in mid- 2026 with a duration of approximately eighteen months. Construction activities will occur between 7:30AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday; weekend and night work is not proposed, however may occur.

Construction activities will involve approximately 4 to 8 crew members³ at any one time and up to two inspectors and construction staff for a total not exceeding 10 people working on the job daily during active construction. Crew members will get to the construction site utilizing personal vehicles, parking onsite and accessing the construction site via local roadways (Carancho Road, Camaron Road and De Luz Road, etc.) or most direct route to either State Route 79 (SR-79) or the 15 (I-15) Freeway. Personal vehicles will be parked at the Project Site. Water for construction and potable water during construction activities will be supplied by an RCWD-owned water meter.

Construction will include implementation of relevant District standards and guidelines as well as mitigation measures tailored to the Project. The analysis in this document supports findings of less than significant impacts with mitigation for CEQA compliance based on recommendations for implementing mitigation measures to reduce temporary and intermittent impacts from construction and permanent impacts from installation of the new pumps and generator as discussed in the Environmental Checklist.

Construction will occur in one phase with five distinct sets of activities – 1) Mobilization, 2) Demolition, 3) Site Preparation, 4) Construction and 5) Final Site Work and the following activities are proposed:

- **Pre-Construction:** Review material submittals and order equipment (two to twelve months)
- **Mobilization:** Install construction trailer (one week).
- **Demolition:** Remove two existing steel tanks, concrete foundations, and remove miscellaneous piping, valves, and portions of existing pavement (two months).
- **Site Preparation & Pipeline Installation:** Perform grading for a small retaining wall and minor grading to maintain existing drainage patterns and join new surfaces to match existing grades and elevations, install 24-inch diameter pipeline in existing driveway and remove approximately 250 cubic yards of materials (three months).
- **Pump Station Construction:** Concrete work, reconstruct access, and appurtenances, install new equipment (nine months).
- **Final Site Work:** Paving, clean up, and site restoration (one month).

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

The following types and quantities of equipment will be in use at the Project Site during portions of the construction activities listed above:

- **Mobilization:** Field office trailer, backhoe for potholing, two service trucks (one week)
- **Demolition:** Cat 235 Excavator with demolition hammer attachment, Front End Loader, two 15 cubic-yard dump trucks, two service trucks, crane, two chain saws, two scrapers, one tractor. There will be no more than 65 total truck trips during demolition which includes removal of the tank, and the tanks pipe and appurtenances. This estimate is based on 1,000 tons of steel from the tanks, removed in 40-ton capacity trucks (approximately two months duration).
- **Site Preparation:** Pug Mill Mixer, Bulldozer, one Front End Loader and one Cat 235 Excavator, two service trucks and haulers. Material handling equipment. Four pumps and two skid steer loaders, this phase will include up to 24 truck trips using haulers to import 350 tons of base material for soils stabilization at 40 tons per truck (approximately three months).
- **Pump Station Construction:** One Crane, Cat 235 Excavator, paving equipment, up to 13 Trucks per day maximum over an approximate 9- month duration, two service trucks.

³ The number of construction crew members is an assumption based on the scale of the proposed Project and type of infrastructure being implemented.



STAGING

Staging areas will be located within the Project Site in a designated laydown yard.

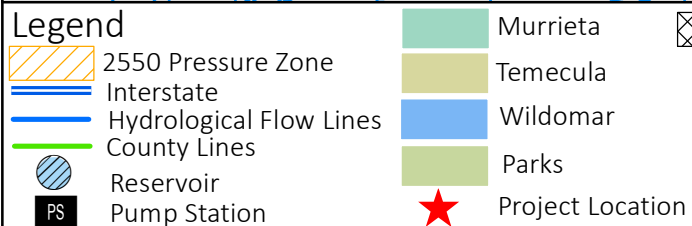
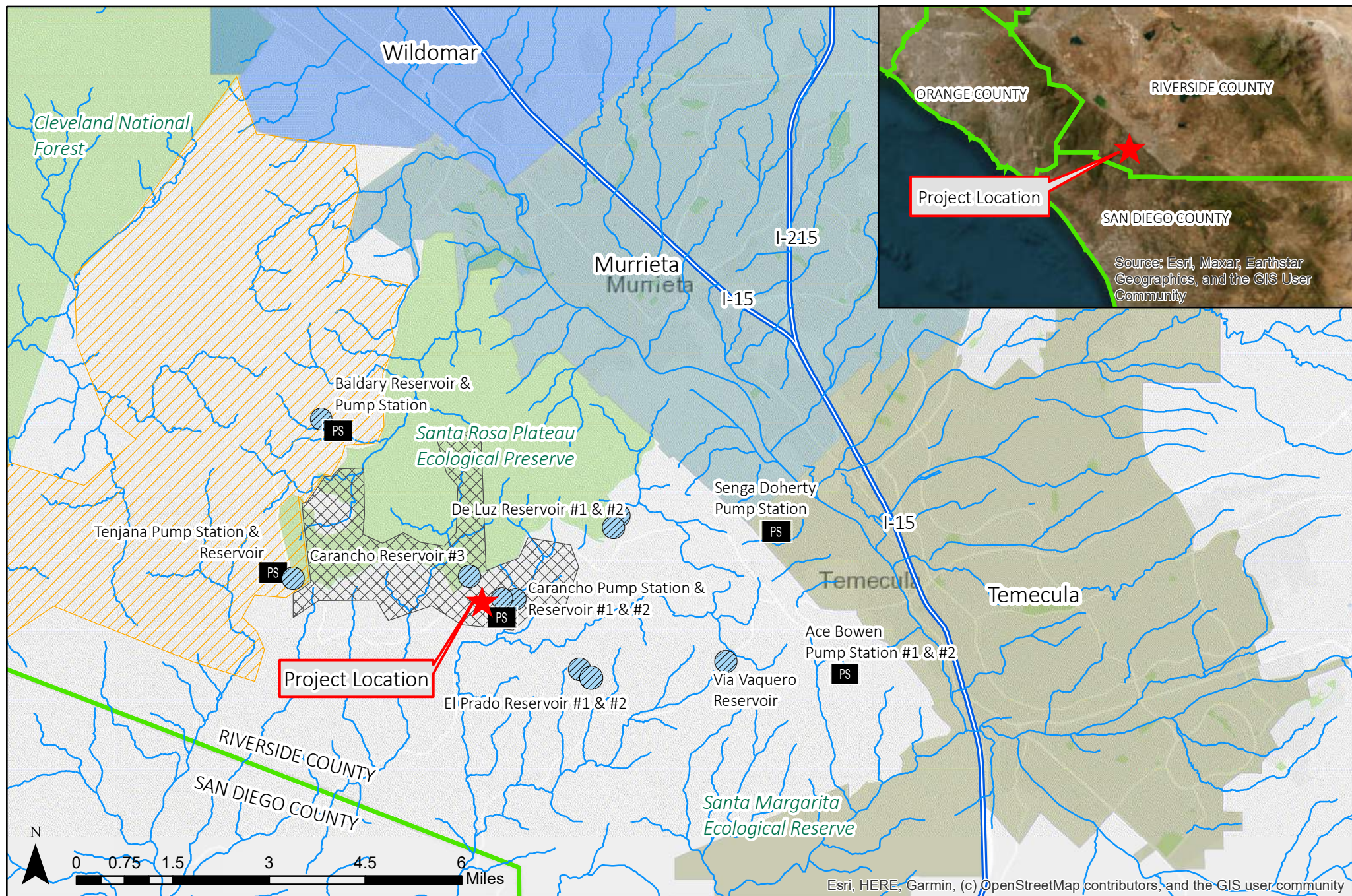
LONG-TERM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The Project is anticipated to be operational for a minimum of 30 years from completion of construction. The District will operate and manage the Project similarly with existing conditions since the Project will require the expansion of the pump station within the site's existing footprint. Therefore, the District does not anticipate additional staffing needs for long-term operation and maintenance of the proposed Project. Weekly and Monthly worker trips over the lifetime of the Project will be required to conduct routine inspections and ensure proper maintenance. Long-term maintenance does not anticipate deviating from existing operations or contribute to additional worker trips upon the completion of Project construction.



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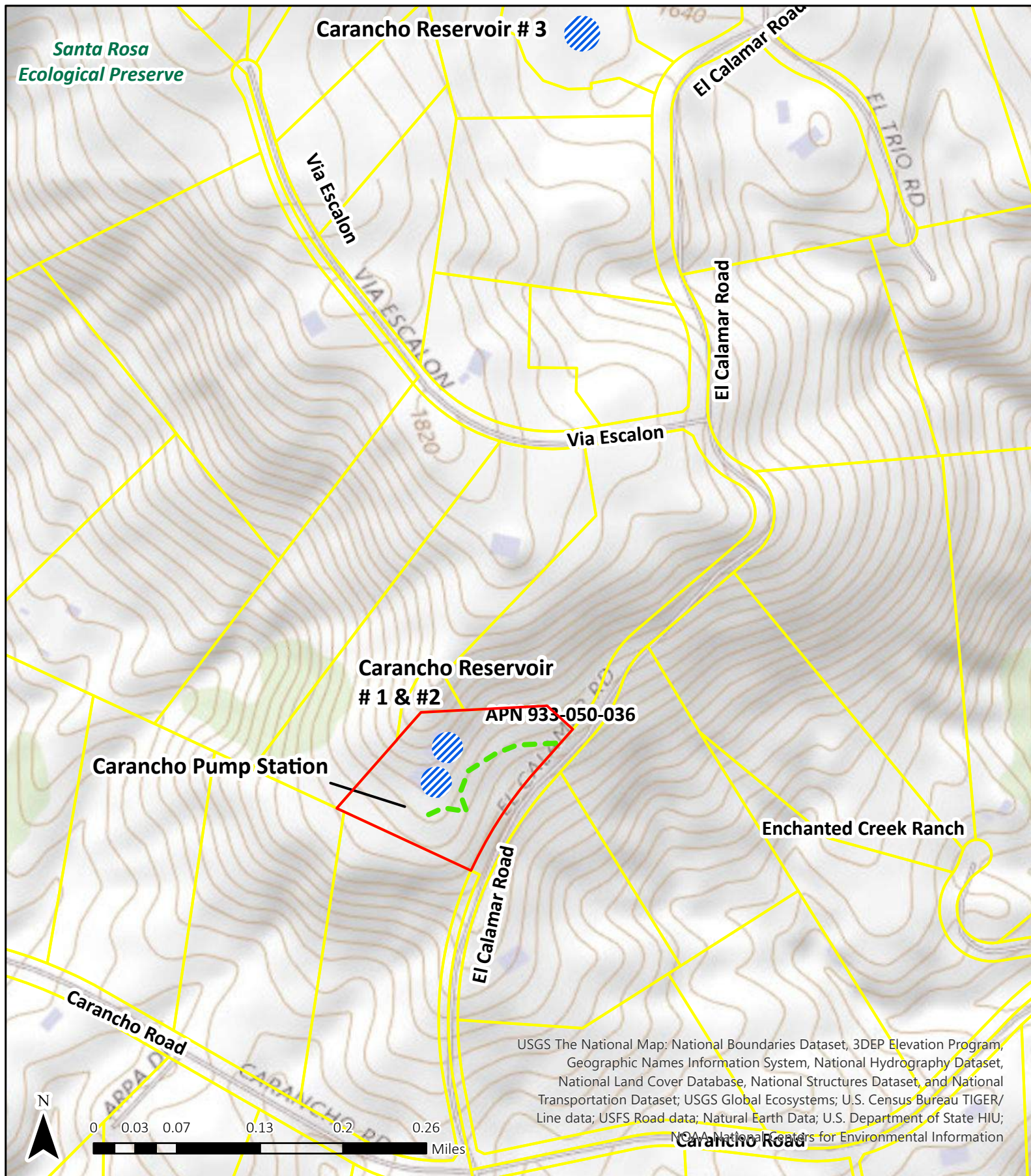




Rancho California Water District
Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project

Figure 1. Regional Location Map



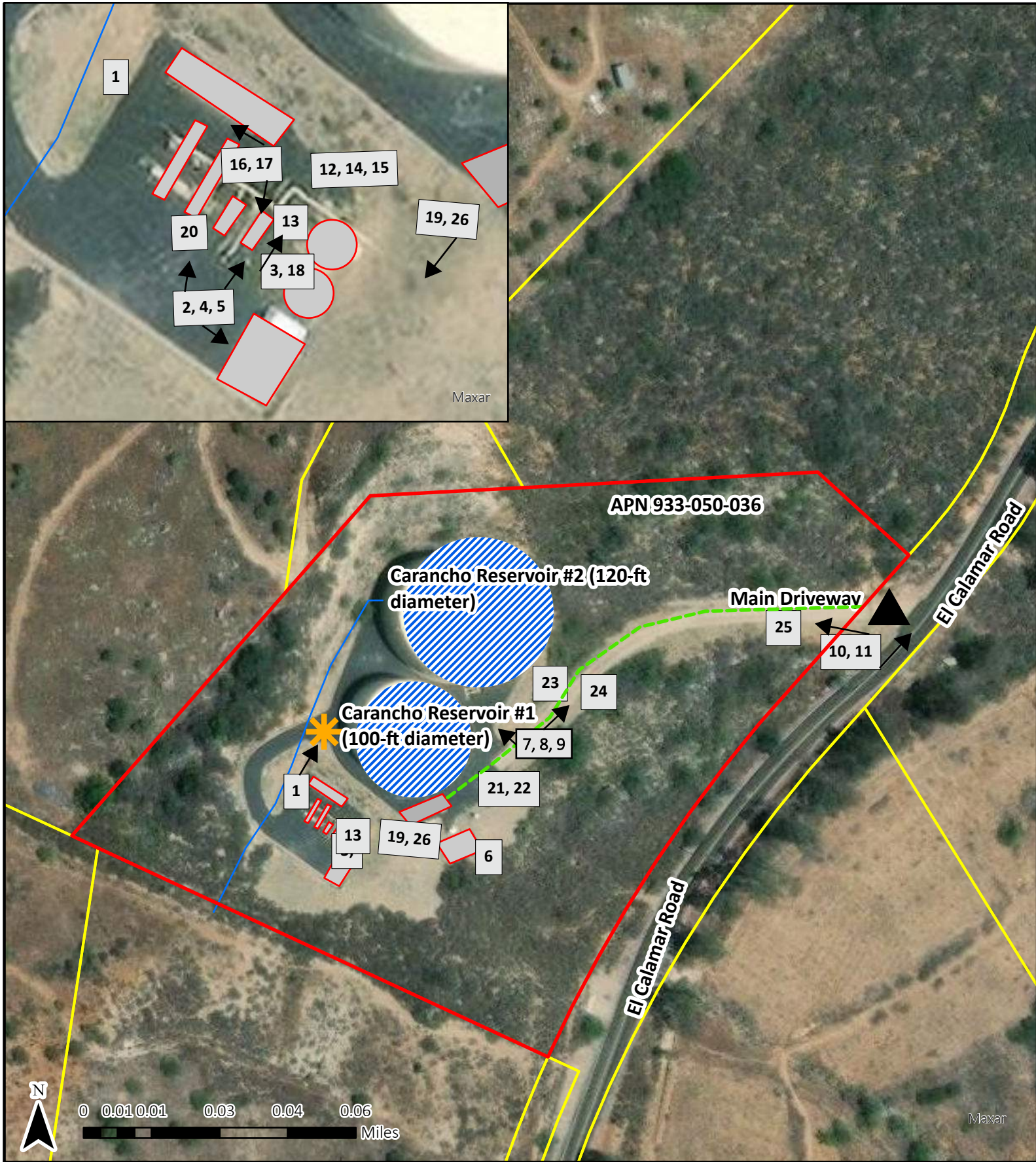


Legend

- Existing Reservoir
- Project Site
- Parcel Lines
- Proposed Potable Water Pipeline

Rancho California Water District
Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project

Figure 2. Local Vicinity Map



Legend

- ▨ Existing Reservoir
- ▲ Existing Ingress/ Egress from Public ROW
- Parcel Lines
- Project Site
- ✱ Internal vehicular access
- Project Components
- Proposed Pipeline

Rancho California Water District
 Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project

Figure 3. Photo Location Key Map





Photo 1: Looking North toward the Electrical Gears from the lower pad.



Photo 2: Looking Northwest towards the existing pumps from the lower pad.



Photo 3: Looking North toward the existing surge tank.



Photo 4: Looking East toward existing OSG unit.



Photo 5: Looking North toward Carancho Reservoir #1.



Photo 6: Looking East toward the existing SCE transformer.



Photo 7: Looking Northeast at the main driveway.



Photo 8: Looking Northwest toward Carancho Reservoir #1 & #2.



Photo 9: Looking Northwest toward Carancho Reservoir #2.



Photo 10: Looking Northeast along El Calamar Road.



Photo 11: Looking Southwest toward the Main Driveway access.



Photo 12: Looking West toward vegetated slopes adjacent to the lower pad.



Photo 13: Looking Northeast towards vegetated slopes adjacent to the lower pad.



Photo 14: Looking North at the existing surge tank.



Photo 15: Looking West behind the existing electrical gears.



Photo 16: Looking Northwest toward the electrical gears at the lower pad.



Photo 17: Looking Southeast at the existing pumps and cans.



Photo 18: Looking at the external piping at the Carancho Pump Station.



Photo 19: Looking Southeast at the existing pumps adjacent to SCE transformer.



Photo 20: Damage at the existing pump.



Photo 21: Looking North at the existing telecommunications pole onsite.



Photo 22: Looking West at Carancho Reservoir #1.



Photo 23: Looking North at the main driveway toward El Calamar Road.



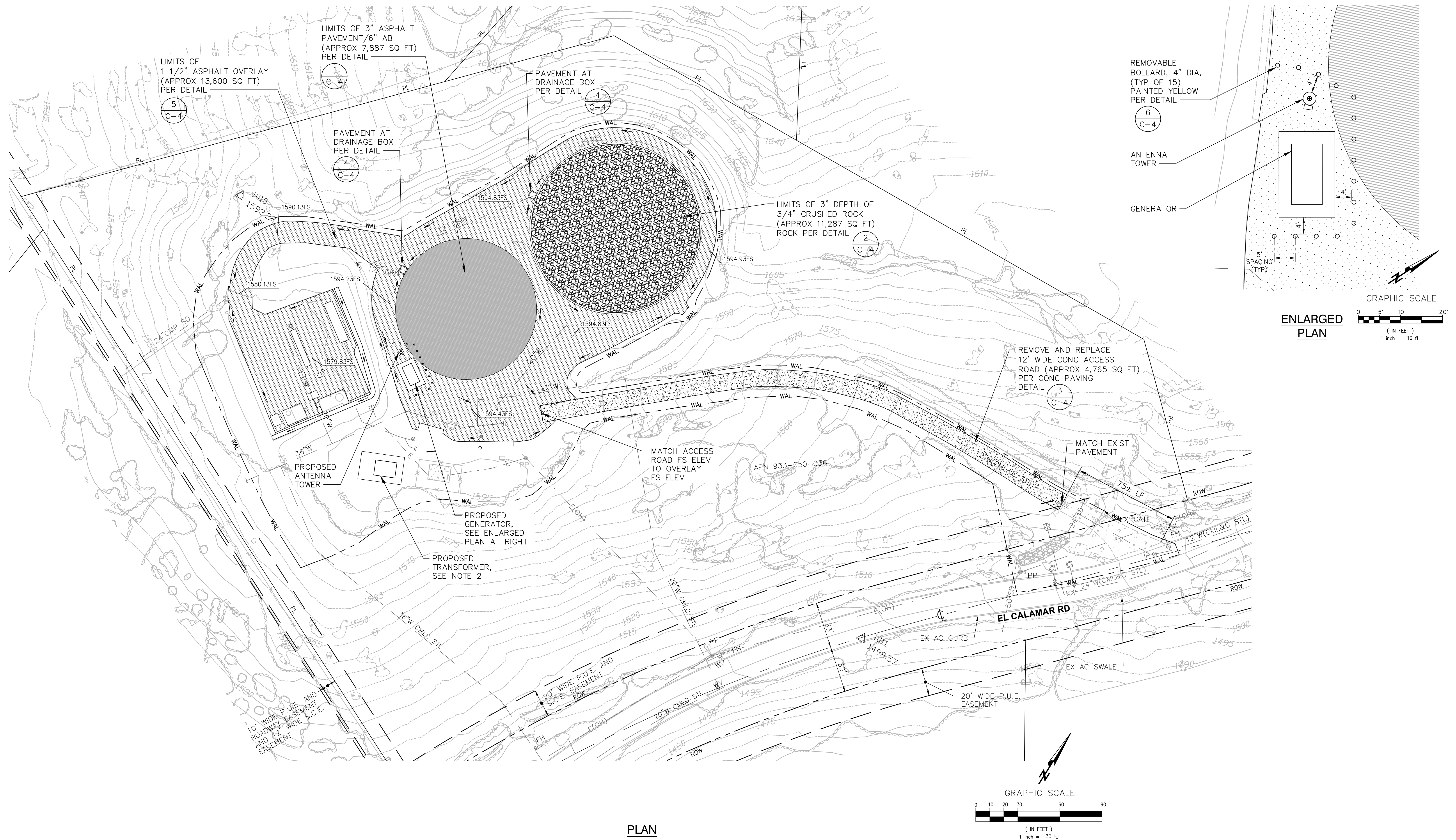
Photo 24: Looking North at the main driveway toward El Calamar Road.



Photo 25: Looking South toward El Calamar Road.



Photo 26: Looking South at the lower pad.



PLAN

IMPROVEMENT NOTES:

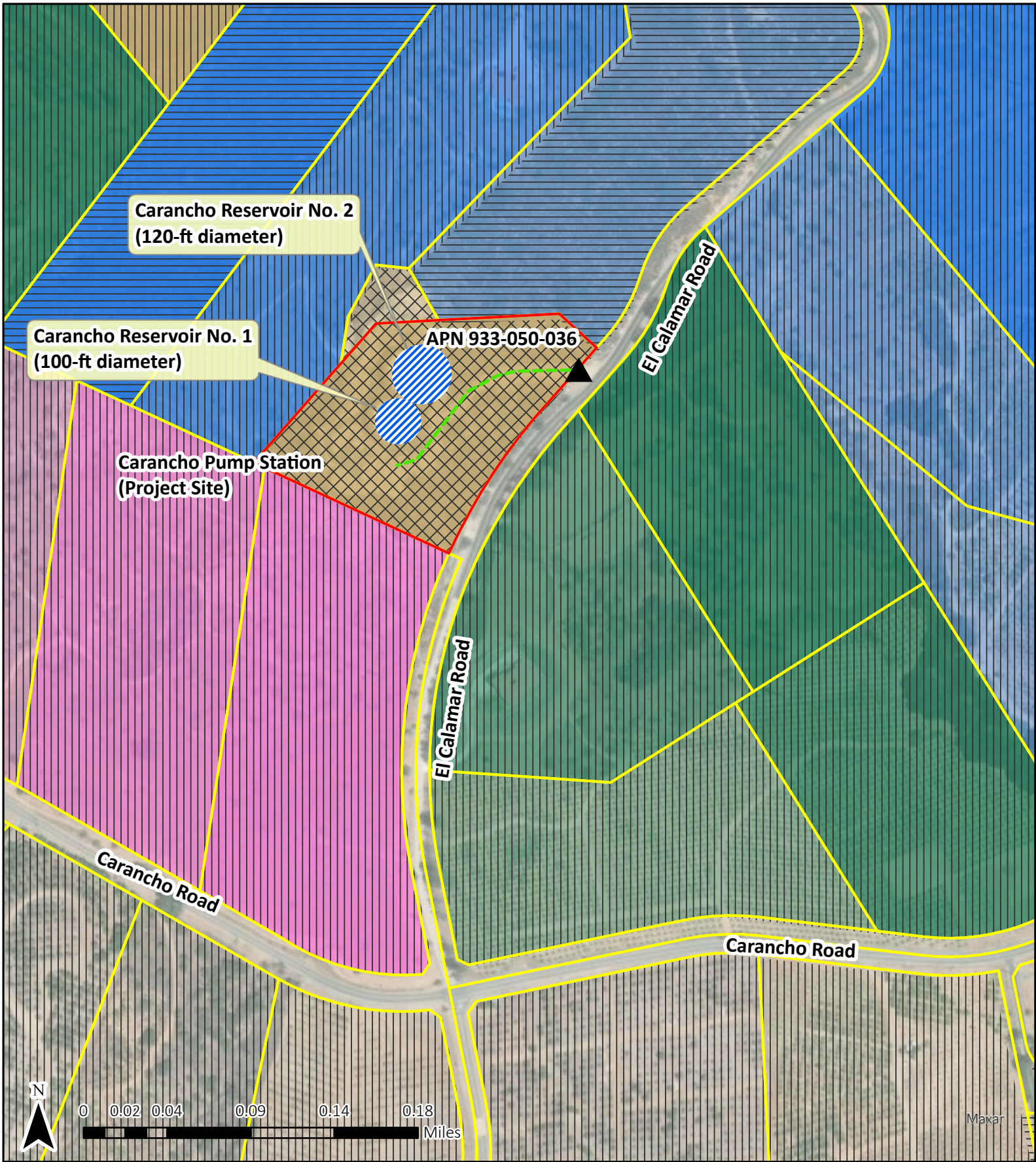
1. MATCH ALL EXISTING GRADES AND ELEVATIONS.
2. INSTALL NEW TRANSFORMER (PAD/DELETE PAD) BEFORE DEMO OF EXISTING FACILITIES TO MINIMIZE SITE SHUTDOWN. SEE SHEET E-5 FOR DUCTBANK PATHING.

Rancho California Water District
Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project

Figure 5: Site Plan

Source: Ardurra (05.13.24)





- Legend**
- Existing Reservoir
 - Existing Footprint of Carancho Pump Station (Project Site)
 - Proposed Potable Water Pipeline
 - Parcel Lines
 - Existing Ingress/ Egress from Public ROW
- Riverside County Land Use**
- Public Utilities
 - Vacant
 - Agriculture

- Riverside County Zoning Code**
- R-A-10 (Residential Agricultural (10 AC))
 - R-A-20 (Residential Agricultural (20 AC))
 - Light Agriculture Zone (20 AC)
 - Light Agriculture Zone (20 AC)

Rancho California Water District
 Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project
 Figure 6. Zoning and Land Use Map



ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Assembly Bill
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
ARB	California Air Resources Board
AAQS	Ambient Air Quality Standards
BMP	Best Management Practice
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CalFIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalGREEN	California Green Building Standards Code
CalTrans	California Department of Transportation
CASQA	California Stormwater Quality Association
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂ e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	Decibel
dBA or dB(A)	Decibel "A-Weighted"
dBA Leq	Average Noise Level over a Period of Time
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act (federal)
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
GAMAQI	Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
Gpm	Gallons per minute
IS/MND	Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration
Ldn	Day-Night Average Sound Level
LID	Low Impact Development
LOS	Level of Service
Mgd	Million gallons per day
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
NESHAP	National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NOx	Nitrogen Oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OPR	California Governor's Office of Planning and Research
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter 10 micrometers or less in diameter
PM _{2.5}	Particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter
ROG	Reactive organic gases
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCADA	Supervisory control and data acquisition
SR	State Route
SWMP	Storm Water Management Program



SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Toxic air contaminant
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled



3.1 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 & Forestry Resources | ☒ Air Quality |
| ☒ Biological Resources | ☒ Cultural Resources | ☐ Energy |
| ☐ 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 | ☒ Wildfire | ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance |

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

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. 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" 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, nothing further is required.

Signature

Dan Ruiz

Printed Name

Date

Rancho California Water District

For



4.0 INITIAL STUDY

4.1 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 is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) 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 another CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analyses Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 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.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources. A source list should be attached, and other sources used, or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.



5.0 ISSUES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES

1. AESTHETICS

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, 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 nonurbanized 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 publicly accessible vantage point). If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☒	☐	☐

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

California Scenic Highway Program

In 1963, the State's Legislature passed the California's Scenic Highway Program to protect scenic highway corridors from changes that would impact the visual aesthetics of lands surrounding highways. The program is managed by California's Department of Transportation (Caltrans), who have taken "responsibility for the protection and enhancement of California's natural scenic beauty by identifying those portions of the State highway system which, together with adjacent scenic corridors, require special conservation treatment" (CA DOT 2022). Caltrans coordinates with local government agencies, communities, and citizens to comply with the California Scenic Highway Program and preserve the State's scenic resources.

DISCUSSION

Public Resources Code §21099 pertains to very high-density transit-oriented infill development and is not applicable to the proposed Project or Local Vicinity. The Project consists of planned improvements to an existing water utility (pump station and tank site). The Project is located within a rural area, surrounded by low-density residential development. The closest transit station is the South Perris Metrolink Station located in Perris, California, approximately 30 miles northeast of the Project. The roadways serving the Project Site are local two-lane roadways that are not integrated with transit. Additionally, according to the Riverside County's General Plan, there are no designated scenic vistas or state scenic highways adjacent to or within view of the Project Site. The closest designated scenic highway is I-15, located approximately 8.1 miles west of the Project Site.

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

RESPONSE:

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. In addition to visual resources regulated under the California Scenic Highway Program, the Riverside County 2015 General Plan, provides goals and objectives for preserving scenic resources. According to the County's General Plan, a scenic vista is defined as "a view of an area that is visually aesthetically pleasing and is generally associated with rural open spaces." This includes views of water bodies, ridgelines, mountain tops, skylines, and other natural features. Scenic and visual resources are generally defined to include the smaller-scale features, such as individual trees or boulders, as well as components of the built environment, such as windmills and similar features in rural areas. Views also include, though are not limited to, land formations (natural or cultural modification), rock outcroppings, undisturbed natural areas (e.g., riparian areas, oak woodlands, etc.), open space, view corridors associated with designated scenic routes, points of historic or cultural significance, agricultural areas (e.g., vineyards, citrus groves) and other human-made features. (County of Riverside GP Public Review Draft 2015).



Existing Views in the Local Vicinity consist of rural land uses, agricultural fields, and open spaces associated with the Santa Rosa Ecological Reserve in the north, distant mountains ranges surrounding the Project Site from the eastern most boundaries of Cleveland National Forest in the west, and Santa Margarita Preserve to the south. The topography of the Local Vicinity, within Western Riverside County, contains scenic hillsides, valleys, and mountain ranges that are locally significant aesthetic resources pursuant to the General Plan definition of Scenic Resources.

The Project Site is currently developed as a water utility and in this regard is institutional and not scenic in nature. The Project Site includes engineered slopes on the perimeter and a central topographic high point that is visible from several vantage points along Carancho Road and El Calamar Road. The Project Site has been developed into two flat pads with above and below-grade water infrastructure installed: A ground-mounted pump station and electrical cabinets are installed on the lower pad and are not visible from the nearest streets. The upper pad is developed with two tanks that are highly visible from local streets. Perimeter slopes are comprised of low-lying natural vegetation, with gradients down to adjacent parcels and streets. Views associated with site from off-site vantage points are mainly of the perimeter fencing and 16-foot-wide decorative gate, main driveway, upper portions of the tanks and appurtenant equipment mounted to the tanks.

The proposed Project will replace ground-mounted pumps and electrical instruments within the existing structures, abandon and remove the existing transformer for the installation of a new transformer, install below grade water mains, install a ground-mounted generator, relocate the ground-mounted transformer, as well as demolish and remove existing above ground circular tanks and existing radio antenna within developed portions of APN 933-050-036. Changes to the Project Site resulting from these proposed installations would not exceed existing development heights of a maximum of 50 feet above ground surface for the antenna. Therefore, the Project would not create significant aesthetic impacts with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure **MM AES-01: Setbacks for Project Equipment**. The proposed antenna tower will not exceed the height of the existing antenna at the Project Site, approximately 50 feet above ground surface; Carancho Tanks with existing radio antenna are approximately 50-feet above grade (35-feet from the Carancho Tanks; 15-feet from the existing antenna). Installation of an antenna tower on the southwestern portion of the upper pad will require only minor surface contouring within the existing pad areas for installation and will be ground mounted. According to Project plans, the Carancho Tanks are proposed for demolition, and the antenna tower is not anticipated to be seen from outlying parcels due to variation in the natural topography. In addition, the height of the antenna will not exceed building height limits for the designated zone pursuant to *Chapter 17.32- R-A Residential Agricultural Zone, Section 17.32.030* of the Riverside County Municipal Code. The County's allowable heights in Residential Agricultural Zones are 50-feet. However, since the antenna height will exceed existing conditions, Mitigation Measure **MM AES-01: Setbacks for Project Equipment** will be implemented and require that site section included in the Project plans confirms the placement of the generator, antenna, and other equipment will be set back from edge of the perimeter slope to reduce visibility and line of site between this structure and Carancho and El Calamar Roads. Therefore, the Project would not have substantial adverse impacts to scenic resources including scenic vistas as defined in the County's General Plan; and the Project will remain consistent with existing infrastructure.

For the reasons above, impacts on existing scenic vistas are less than significant with mitigation.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

RESPONSE:

No Impact. See Response 1, a) above. As mentioned above, the closest scenic highway to the Project is I-15, approximately 8.1 miles east; the Project Site and existing tanks are not visible from I-15. Plans for the Project indicate that proposed improvements are low profile and will be installed at ground level, within existing structures or will consist of new structures installed within existing developed areas of the site (new generator and enclosure) that are significantly lower than the tops of the existing tanks. Therefore, the Project will not be visible from the closest state scenic highway due to topography, location of improvements, proposed structure heights, and distance from the scenic highway. There will be no impacts on scenic resources associated with a state scenic highway. No additional Mitigation Measures are needed.



- c) In nonurbanized 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 publicly accessible vantage point). If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project is in an area with undulating terrain in all directions, meeting the County's definition of a scenic resource. Public views from the rural roads within the Local Vicinity include the upper portions of Carancho Tanks 1 and 2 and a mixture of agriculture, rural development, and open space. Although visually prominent from many vantage points along El Calamar Road, from the main driveway at the gate, and along Carancho Road, the tanks are not considered an important visual resource that substantially contribute to the visual character and quality of public views within the Local Vicinity. The tanks consist of a typical tank design on a localized high point, surrounded by adjacent roadways at lower elevations and the significantly lower terrain to the southwest, south, and southeast in the Local Vicinity.

Project plans indicate no significant impacts from modified public views with Project implementation and proposed Mitigation Measure **MM AES-01: Setbacks for Project Equipment**, because the Project involves installation of ground-mounted, low-profile equipment (generator and enclosure) and the removal of Carancho Tanks 1 and 2. A new generator and enclosure (300 ft by 92.5 ft), would be installed with the Project and will be set back from the edge of the slope pursuant to **MM AES-01: Setbacks for Project Equipment**, so that it will not be visible from either El Calamar Road or Carancho Road.

Short-term construction impacts related to various equipment onsite, stockpiling, and materials storage would be temporary and intermittent accordant with construction activities. Upon Project completion, construction-related activities would cease and return to pre-Project conditions throughout long-term operation of the Carancho Pump Station.

As a result, less than significant impacts are anticipated to occur on visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings, with the incorporation of **MM AES-01: Setbacks for Project Equipment**.

- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. See Response 1, a) and b). Construction will create new sources of temporary light or glare that could be visible in some area views from adjacent streets and properties due to equipment and materials. The Project will also install permanent new lighting with proposed equipment installations that would be maintained with the Project and potentially visible from surrounding vantage points. Implementation of the RCWD Standards and Specifications for utility lighting would reduce potentially significant impacts from permanent lighting. Project implementation is not expected to result in significant changes from existing conditions during day-time construction hours due to the rural nature of the Local Vicinity including ongoing agricultural activities and the regular use of agricultural equipment, trucks and materials in this area. Additionally, light or glare associated with nighttime construction, and long-term with the Project, will be subject to plan check, final plan approval, inspections, and maintenance inspections for consistency with the District's standard specifications, incorporating District standards for safety and lighting, which are designed to reduce nuisance and increase safety.

Construction will occur during daytime hours (7:30AM- 5PM) on weekdays and may include some weekend or night work. Due to the potential for nighttime construction, Mitigation Measure **MM AES-02: Construction Lighting** is proposed to require that the District engineers and inspectors verify during plan check and inspections, that temporary construction lighting is focused down on active areas of construction as well as downlit/shielded to reduce spillover onto the Project Site and away from adjacent properties. The Contractor is responsible for implementation and proper use of approved lighting throughout construction.

Therefore, less than significant impacts are anticipated with the implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM AES-02: Construction Lighting** for less than significant impacts during construction activities.

MITIGATION MEASURES

MM AES-01: Setbacks for Project Equipment. During plan check and prior to the final approval of the site plan, RCWD shall verify that Project plans show a site section for the placement of the generator; and proposed antenna. The generator and



enclosure, and the antenna will be set back from edge of the perimeter slope to reduce visibility and line of site between this structure and Carancho and El Calamar Roads.

MM AES-02: Construction Lighting. If nighttime construction is planned to occur, RCWD shall verify during plan check and inspections that temporary construction lighting minimization measures are shown on plans and implemented during nighttime construction:

- A. All temporary construction lighting shall not be visible past the construction site and must be downlit to avoid reflection into homes or off site by directing lighting sources away from residential properties and structures that may be occupied on a 24-hour basis;
- B. No uplighting at the Project Site shall occur;
- C. Lighting sources must be fitted with covered bulbs, shields, dimmers, and temporary boundary fencing around each active area of construction throughout the duration of nighttime construction.



2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
AGRICULTURE 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 Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the Project:				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

The California Land Conservation Act or Williamson Act

The California Land Conservation Act or Williamson Act was established after World War II in response to increasing conservation pressures on agricultural lands. The Act allows local agencies to contract with private landowners, allowing reduced property tax in exchange for restricting use of land for agriculture or open space only. In 1965, Assembly Bill 1227 was enacted to establish a contract process to manage the rate of conservation of agricultural lands to urban uses (Riverside County GP EIR, 2015). In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation. County of Riverside Ordinance No. 509 establishes uniform rules which apply to agricultural preserves.

DISCUSSION

- 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?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. The Riverside County General Plan indicates that there are approximately 91 square miles of designated farmland in Western Riverside County Area Plans (Riverside County GP, 2021). The County defines agricultural land use as land established for grow crops, nurseries, citrus groves, vineyards, dairies, ranches, poultry, hog farms, and other agricultural related uses (Riverside County GP, 2021). At the Project Site, there is no land that is designated as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Farmland of Local Importance. According to California Resource Agency, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program's California Important Farmland Finder



Website, the Project Site is located on Unique Farmland⁴ (See CA DOC Important Farmland Finder, 2022). However, the Project Site is an existing RCWD-owned parcel (APN 933-050-036) that has been developed and operated as a water utility since the late 1970s.

The Project does not propose to disturb land outside of the existing Carancho Pump Station parcel boundaries, for APN 933-050-036 and involves only modifications to equipment and removal of unused tanks. Therefore, the Project would not directly convert land from agricultural uses to developed, non-agricultural, land uses. While the Project is located adjacent to agricultural land uses, it will be implemented within the existing developed portions of a parcel that has been operating for decades as a component of the RCWD's 2550 Pressure Zone, as a public utility.

Additionally, The Project is a planned CIP that was identified in the 2015 Water Facilities Master Plan as a required improvement to support proper functioning of the District's water system within the 2550 Pressure Zone; it is required to support existing land uses as well as the planned buildout of the approved land use map of the County's General Plan; therefore, Project is not considered growth inducing and will not result in significant indirect conversion of Farmland. The Project is consistent with the County's General Plan, General Plan DEIR, Zoning Code, and County Ordinances (see *Table 3: Project Consistency with Riverside County General Plan Agriculture Policies*).

For these reasons, Project impacts on Farmland are less than significant and Project implementation will not result in conversion of agricultural land.

TABLE 3: PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH RIVERSIDE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN AGRICULTURE POLICIES

Riverside County General Plan Policies	Project Consistency
<i>LU 20.1: Encourage retaining agriculturally designated lands where agricultural activity can be sustained at an operational scale, where it accommodates lifestyle choice, and in locations where impacts to and from potentially incompatible uses, such as residential uses, are minimized, through incentives such as tax credits.</i>	The Project is proposed to support existing and proposed land use in the Local Vicinity per the General Plan Land Use Map. The Project will increase pump station capacity to better serve the District's 2550 Pressure Zone located in Western Riverside County. This will support existing and planned surrounding land uses, including the existing agricultural production and operations within the Local Vicinity throughout the summer months by improving reliability in the dry season.
<i>LU 20.2: Protect agricultural uses, including those with industrial characteristics (dairies, poultry, hog farms, etc.) by discouraging inappropriate land division in the immediate proximity and allowing only uses and intensities that are compatible with agricultural uses. (AI 3)</i>	The Project does not propose land subdivision and consists of improvements to an existing water utility site that is surrounded by rural and agricultural land. The Project will facilitate reliable water delivery within the Local Vicinity. Therefore, the Project will not conflict with existing adjacent agriculture and agricultural uses and is intended to protect existing agriculture within the Local Vicinity.
<i>LU 20.4: Encourage conservation of productive agricultural lands. Preserve prime agricultural lands for high-value crop production</i>	As mentioned above, the Project is proposed to support existing and planned land use in the Local Vicinity.
<i>LU 20.5: Continue to participate in the California Land Conservation Act (the Williamson Act) of 1965.</i>	The Project Site is not within land designed under the Williamson Act Contract. However, parcels adjacent to the Project Site, in the Local Vicinity are designated under the Williamson Act Contract; and, as stated above, the Project is proposed to support an appropriate level of water service in the Vicinity of the Project Site; therefore, it would not conflict with continued participation in the Williamson Act within the Local Vicinity.

Source: Riverside County General Plan, 2021

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. See Response 2, a). According to the California Department of Conservation, Williamson Act Enrollment Finder, the Project Site is not under Williamson Act contract and is adjacent to land designated under the Williamson Act Contract east of El Calamar Road (APN 933-050-037, -038); directly south of the Project Site (APN 933-070-049, -050); and southwest of the Project site, along the eastern perimeter of El Calamar Road (APN 933-505-039)

⁴ According to the County of Riverside's Multipurpose Open Space Element, unique farmland is defined as "land other than Prime and Statewide Important Farmland that is currently used for the production of specific high value food and fiber crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high quality of a specific crop when treated and managed according to modern farming methods."



(See **Figure 7. Williamson Act Farmland Adjacent to the Project Site**). Plans for the Project indicate temporary and permanent modifications within the existing parcel boundaries of the Project Site.

For the reasons stated above, the Project improvements would not result in significant alteration of the existing and planned surrounding land use, including Williamson Act Contracts, or conflict with existing zoning at the Project Site and in the Local Vicinity either directly or indirectly. The Project will incorporate mitigation measure and BMPs listed in the MMRP for the Project to reduce indirect impacts on adjacent properties that are under Williamson Act Contracts to less than significant. For the reasons above, less than significant impacts would result from Project implementation.

- 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))?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. According to the Riverside County GP EIR, Riverside County's General Plan does not include lands zoned or designated for forestland or timberland currently and there are no areas designated as future forest land. Currently, sites, located in the San Jacinto Mountains in central Riverside County, are vegetated with high percentages of "Montane Coniferous Forest" of varying densities totaling approximately 76 acres (Riverside County GP EIR, 2015). These sites are proposed to change from OS-CH (Open Space – Conservation Habitat), which generally does not allow any development, to OS-RUR (Open Space – Rural), which allows one single-family home per 20 acres. These sites are too small for most economically viable commercial timber operations. Also, due to the low densities allowed, it is possible that any timber/tree removal necessary for potential future single-family residential use of these sites could be accomplished under the 3-acre timber clearing exemptions discussed earlier. Riverside County considers this impact to be less than significant.

Therefore, since the Project is proposed to support existing and approved future land uses per the County's Land Use Map, no impact is anticipated. As a result, no impacts to timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production are anticipated. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

- d) **Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The closest forested lands to the Project Site are southeast, approximately 2 miles north from the Project Site, located within the Santa Rosa Ecological Preserve in Unincorporated Riverside County and are characterized as Woodland and Forest, and Montane Coniferous Forests. Other forested land close to the Project Site, are approximately 26-50 miles from the Project Site within the San Bernadino National Forest (Shown in *Figure 4.5.2 Forestry Resources Western Riverside County*, Riverside County GP DEIR). Due to the proximity of forested lands with the Project Site, as well as BMPs for water quality, air quality, safety that will be enforced during construction and long-term operation, Project implementation will not result in indirect impacts on forests. Project implementation will not result in substantial loss of forest or conversion of forest land to non-forest use due to consistency with the goals and policies of the General Plan and Water Master Plan. For these reasons, no mitigation measures are needed.

- 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?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The proposed land use and utility improvement resulting from the Project is confined to the Project Site. Project Plans indicate substantial conformance between the Project and existing site conditions over the long-term. The Project will not require substantive changes in the long-term operations and maintenance of the Project Site. The Project is consistent with approved plans applicable to the Project Site and Local Vicinity. The Project supports reliable water service in the Local Vicinity. Implementing the proposed improvements will ensure that potable water is delivered according to District standards throughout Pressure Zone 2550 pursuant to the approved Water Facilities Master Plan and County Guidelines.

As a result, no impacts are anticipated from the Project and Mitigation Measures are not needed.

MITIGATION MEASURE

No Mitigation Measures are needed.





Legend

- Existing Reservoir
- Existing Footprint of Carancho Pump Station (Project Site)
- Parcel Lines
- Proposed Potable Water Pipeline
- Parcels under the Williamson Act Contract

Rancho California Water District
Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project

**Figure 7. Williamson Act Farmland
Adjacent to the Project Site**

ARDURRA

3. AIR QUALITY

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the Project:				
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards

The Federal Clean Air Act was first implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970 and later amended to enforce national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for six criteria air pollutants, which include particular matter of aerodynamic radius of 10 micrometers or less (PM 10), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ground-level ozone, and lead; and later particulate matter of aerodynamic radius of 2.5 micrometers or less (PM 2.5) was added. Federal standards are designed to protect public health and the environment with a reasonable margin of safety (Reference *Table 4: Federal and State Pollutant Standards*).

TABLE 4: FEDERAL AND STATE POLLUTANT STANDARDS

Air Pollutant	Concentration/ Averaging Time		Most Relevant Effect
	California Standards	Federal Primary Standards	
Ozone (O ₃)	0.09 ppm/1-hour	0.070 ppm/8-hour	(a) Decline in pulmonary function and localized lung edema in humans and animals; (b) Risk to public health implied by alterations in pulmonary morphology and host defense in animals; (c) Increased mortality risk; (d) Risk to public health implied by altered connective tissue metabolism and altered pulmonary morphology in animals after long-term exposures and pulmonary function decrements in chronically exposed humans; (e) Vegetation damage; and (f) Property damage.
	0.07 ppm/8-hour		
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	20.0 ppm/1-hour	35.0 ppm/1-hour	(a) Aggravation of angina pectoris and other aspects of coronary heart disease; (b) Decreased exercise tolerance in persons with peripheral vascular disease and lung disease; (c) Impairment of central nervous system functions; and (d) Possible increased risk to fetuses.
	9.0 ppm/8-hour	9.0 ppm/8-hour	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	0.18 ppm/1-hour	100 ppb/1-hour	(a) Potential to aggravate chronic respiratory disease and respiratory symptoms in sensitive groups; (b) Risk to public health implied by pulmonary and extra-pulmonary biochemical and cellular changes and pulmonary structural changes; and (c) Contribution to atmospheric discoloration.
	0.03 ppm/annual	0.053 ppm/annual	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	0.25 ppm/1-hour	75 ppb/1-hour	(a) Bronchoconstriction accompanied by symptoms which may include wheezing, shortness of breath and chest tightness, during exercise or physical activity in persons with asthma.



	0.04 ppm/24-hour	0.14 ppm/annual	
Suspended Particulate Matter (PM10)	50 µg/m ³ /24-hour 20 µg/m ³ /annual	150 µg/m ³ /24-hour	(a) Exacerbation of symptoms in sensitive patients with respiratory or cardiovascular disease; (b) Declines in pulmonary function growth in children; (c) Increased risk of premature death from heart or lung diseases in elderly.
Suspended Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	12 µg/m ³ /annual	35 µg/m ³ /24-hour 12 µg/m ³ /annual	
Sulfates	25 µg/m ³ /24-hour	No Federal Standards	(a) Decrease in ventilatory function; (b) Aggravation of asthmatic symptoms; (c) Aggravation of cardio-pulmonary disease; (d) Vegetation damage; (e) Degradation of visibility; (f) property damage.
Lead	1.5 µg/m ³ /30-day	0.15 µg/m ³ /3-monthrolling	(a) Learning disabilities; (b) Impairment of blood formation and nerve conduction.
Visibility Reducing Particles	Extinction coefficient of 0.23 per kilometer-visibility of 10 miles or more due to particles when humidity is less than 70 percent.	No Federal Standards	Visibility impairment on days when relative humidity is less than 70 percent.

Source : <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/aaqs2.pdf>

California Air Resources Board (CARB)

The California Air Resources Control Board (CARB) is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) that coordinates and administers both federal and state air pollution control programs within California. CARB conducts research and sets the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), compiles emission inventories, develops suggested control measures, provides oversight of local programs, and prepares the State Implementation Plan (SIP). CARB is also responsible for regulations pertaining to Toxic Air Contaminants.

The CARB and the CalEPA designate air basins across the state as “nonattainment areas” where air quality standards are exceeded. If there is inadequate or inconclusive data to make a definitive attainment designation, they are considered “unclassified.” National nonattainment areas are further designated as marginal, moderate, serious, severe, or extreme as a function of deviation from standards. Each standard has a different definition, or ‘form’ of what constitutes attainment, based on specific air quality statistics. *Table 5: South Coast Air Quality Management District Attainment Status (SCAQMD)* displays the current attainment state of SCAQMD.

TABLE 5: SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGMNT DISTRICT ATTAINMENT STATUS

Pollutant	State Status	Federal Attainment Status
Ozone- One hour	No Federal Standard	Nonattainment/ Severe
Ozone- Eight hour	Nonattainment/ Extreme	Nonattainment
PM10	Attainment	Nonattainment
PM2.5	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Attainment/ Unclassified	Attainment/ Unclassified
Nitrogen Monoxide (NO)	Attainment/ Unclassified	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)	Attainment/ Unclassified	Attainment
Lead	No Designation/ Classification	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Sulfates	No Federal Standard	Attainment
Visibility Reducing Particles	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Vinyl Chloride	No Federal Standard	Attainment

Source: (1) SCAQMD 2020.

Notes: (1) **Unclassified**- A pollutant is designated unclassified if the data are incomplete and do not support a designation of attainment or nonattainment.



- (2) **Attainment.** A pollutant is in attainment if the AAQS for that pollutant was not violated at any site in the area during a three-year period.
- (3) **Nonattainment.** A pollutant is in nonattainment if there was at least one violation of an AAQS for that pollutant in the area.
- (4) **Nonattainment/Transitional.** A subcategory of the nonattainment designation. An area is designated nonattainment/transitional to signify that the area is close to attaining the AAQS for that pollutant.

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)

SCAQMD is the regional agency principally responsible for comprehensive air pollution control in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). SCAQMD works directly with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), county transportation commissions, and local governments and cooperates actively with all federal and state agencies. SCAQMD is responsible for preparing and implementing the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) within the Basin in compliance with the SIP, CAAQS and NAAQS.

The SCAQMD's mission is to "clean the air and protect the health of all residents in the South Coast Air District through practical and innovative strategies" (SCAQMD 2022). The agency regulates air quality through preparation and implementation of air quality compliance measures for Basin compliance with national and state air quality standards established for this area. SCAQMD maintains 38 air quality monitoring sites with designated ambient air monitoring stations representative of each area. The stations record meteorological information to help forecast daily pollution levels.

Air Quality Management Plan

The 2016 AQMP is a regional blueprint for achieving the federal air quality standards (See *Table 4: Federal and State Pollutant Standards*, *Table 5: SCAQMD Attainment Status*) and healthful air within the Basin through both stationary and mobile source strategies to regulate air quality. Following are policies of the AQMP typically applied to development projects to reduce emissions:

SCAQMD Rule 402: Prohibits a person from discharging from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of any such persons or the public, or which cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property.

SCAQMD Rule 403: Governs emissions of fugitive dust during construction and operation activities. Compliance with this rule is achieved through application of standard BMPs, such as application of water or chemical stabilizers to disturbed soils, covering haul vehicles, restricting vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour, sweeping loose dirt from paved site access roadways, cessation of construction activity when winds exceed 25 mph, and establishing a permanent ground cover on finished sites.

SCAQMD Rule 403 requires that fugitive dust be controlled with best available control measures so that the presence of dust does not remain visible in the atmosphere beyond the property line of the emission source. In addition, SCAQMD Rule 403 requires implementation of dust suppression techniques to prevent fugitive dust from creating a nuisance off-site. Applicable dust suppression techniques from Rule 403 are summarized below and can reduce fugitive dust generation, Particulate Matter 10 microns or greater in diameter (PM10). Compliance with these rules would reduce impacts on nearby sensitive receptors. Rule 403 measures may include but are not limited to the following:

- Apply nontoxic chemical soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more).
- Water active sites at least three times daily. (Locations where grading is to occur will be thoroughly watered prior to earthmoving.)
- Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials, or maintain at least 0.6 meters (2 feet) of freeboard (vertical space between the top of the load and top of the trailer) in accordance with the requirements of California Vehicle Code section 23114.
- Reduce traffic speeds on all unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour (mph) or less.
- Suspension of all grading activities when wind speeds (including instantaneous wind gusts) exceed 25 mph.



- Bumper strips or similar BMPs shall be provided where vehicles enter and exit the construction site onto paved roads or wash off trucks and any equipment leaving the site each trip.
- Replanting disturbed areas as soon as practical.
- During all construction activities, construction contractors shall sweep on-site and off-site streets if silt is carried to adjacent public thoroughfares, to reduce the amount of particulate matter on public streets. All sweepers shall be compliant with SCAQMD Rule 1186.1, Less Polluting Sweepers.

SCAQMD Rule 481: Applies to all spray painting and spray coating operations and equipment. The rule states that a person shall not use or operate any spray painting or spray coating equipment unless one of the following conditions is met:

- 1) The spray coating equipment is operated inside a control enclosure, which is approved by the Executive Officer. Any control enclosure for which an application for permit for new construction, alteration, or change of ownership or location is submitted after the date of adoption of this rule shall be exhausted only through filters at a design face velocity not less than 100 feet per minute nor greater than 300 feet per minute, or through a water wash system designed to be equally effective for the purpose of air pollution control.
- 2) Coatings are applied with high-volume low-pressure, electrostatic and/or airless spray equipment.
- 3) An alternative method of coating application or control is used which has effectiveness equal to or greater than the equipment specified in the rule.

SCAQMD Rule 1108: Governs the sale, use, and manufacturing of asphalt and limits the volatile organic compound (VOC) content in asphalt used in the Basin and regulates the VOC content of asphalt during construction. All asphalt used during Project construction must comply with SCAQMD Rule 1108.

SCAQMD Rule 1113: Governs the sale, use, and manufacturing of architectural coating and limits the VOC content in paints and paint solvents. This rule regulates the VOC content of paints available during construction. Therefore, all paints and solvents used during construction and operation of the Project must comply with SCAQMD Rule 1113.

SCAQMD Rule 1143: Governs the manufacture, sale, and use of paint thinners and solvents used in thinning of coating materials, cleaning of coating application equipment, and other solvent cleaning operations by limiting their VOC content. This rule regulates the VOC content of solvents used during construction. Solvents used during the construction phase must comply with this rule.

SCAQMD Rule 1186: Limits the presence of fugitive dust on paved and unpaved roads and sets certification protocols and requirements for contract street sweepers to provide sweeping services to any federal, state, county, agency or special district such as water, air, sanitation, transit, or school district.

SCAQMD Rule 1303: Governs the permitting of re-located or new major emission sources, requiring Best Available Control Measures and setting significance limits for PM10 among other pollutants.

SCAQMD Rule 1401: New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants, specifies limits for maximum individual cancer risk, cancer burden, and non-cancer acute and chronic hazard index from new permit units, relocations, or modifications to existing permit units, which emit toxic air contaminants.

SCAQMD Rule 1403: Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities, specifies work practice requirements to limit asbestos emissions from building demolition and renovation activities, including the removal and associated disturbance of asbestos-containing materials (ACM).

SCAQMD Rule 2202: On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options, is to provide employers with a menu of options to reduce mobile source emissions generated from employee commutes, to comply with federal and state Clean Air Act requirements, Health & Safety Code Section 40458, and Section 182(d)(1)(B) of the federal Clean Air Act. It applies to any employer who employs 250 or more employees on a full or part-time basis at a worksite for a consecutive six-month period calculated as a monthly average.



CEQA Air Quality Handbook

To assist local jurisdictions, South Coast Air Basin's CEQA Air Quality Handbook (SCAQMD CEQA Handbook) was prepared by the SCAQMD in 1993. The version with current updates can be found at <http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/hdbk.html> and was developed in accordance with the projections and programs of the AQMP. In addition, this document is used as a guidance document for preparing air quality impact analysis and Project mitigation. The SCAQMD is in the process of developing an Air Quality Analysis Guidance Handbook to replace the CEQA Air Quality Handbook. In the interim, supplemental guidance has been adopted by the SCAQMD.

SCAG

Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation Improvement Plan

SCAG has prepared the Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP), which addresses regional development and growth forecasts. These plans form the basis for the land use and transportation components of the AQMP, which are utilized for air quality forecasts and in the consistency, analysis included in the AQMP. The Regional Transportation Plan, Regional Transportation Improvement Plan, and AQMP are based on projections originating within the City and County General Plans.

Riverside County

General Plan

The Air Quality Element of the County of Riverside General Plan summarizes air quality issues in the Basin, air quality-related plans and programs administered by federal, state, and special purpose agencies, and establishes goals and policies to improve air quality. These goals and policies in the Air Quality Element that relate to the proposed Project include:

Multijurisdictional Cooperation:

AQ 1.1 Promote and participate with regional and local agencies, both public and private, to protect and improve air quality. (AI 111)

AQ 1.2 Support the SCAG Regional Growth Management Plan by developing intergovernmental agreements with appropriate governmental entities such as the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), sanitation districts, water districts, and those subregional entities identified in the Regional Growth Management Plan. (AI 111)

AQ 1.3 Participate in the development and update of those regional air quality management plans required under federal and state law, and meet all standards established for clean air in these plans. (AI 110)

AQ 1.4 Coordinate with the SCAQMD and MDAQMD to ensure that all elements of air quality plans regarding reduction of air pollutant emissions are being enforced. (AI 111)

AQ 1.5 Establish and implement air quality, land use and circulation measures that improve not only the County's environment but the entire regions. (AI 111)

AQ 1.6 Establish a level playing field by working with local jurisdictions to simultaneously adopt policies similar to those in this Air Quality Element.

AQ 1.7 Support legislation which promotes cleaner industry, clean fuel vehicles and more efficient burning engines and fuels. (AI 113)

AQ 1.8 Support the introduction of federal, state or regional enabling legislation to permit the County to promote inventive air quality programs, which otherwise could not be implemented. (AI 113)

AQ 1.9 Encourage, publicly recognize and reward innovative approaches that improve air quality. (AI 113)



Sensitive Receptors:

AQ 1.10 Work with regional and local agencies to evaluate the feasibility of implementing a system of charges (e.g., pollution charges, user fees, congestion pricing and toll roads) that requires individuals who undertake polluting activities to bear the economic cost of their actions where possible. (AI 111)

AQ 1.11 Involve environmental groups, the business community, special interests, and the general public in the formulation and implementation of programs that effectively reduce airborne pollutants.

Mobile Pollution Sources:

AQ 3.2 Seek new cooperative relationships between employers and employees to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

AQ 3.3 Encourage large employers and commercial/industrial complexes to create Transportation Management Associations.

Stationary Pollution Sources:

AQ 4.1 Encourage the use of building materials/methods which reduce emissions.

AQ 4.2 Require the use of all feasible efficient heating equipment and other appliances, such as water heaters, swimming pool heaters, cooking equipment, refrigerators, furnaces and boiler units.

AQ 4.3 Require centrally heated facilities to utilize automated time clocks or occupant sensors to control heating where feasible.

AQ 4.5 Require stationary pollution sources to minimize the release of toxic pollutants through:

- Design features;
- Operating procedures;
- Preventive maintenance;
- Operator training; and
- Emergency response planning

AQ 4.6 Require stationary air pollution sources to comply with applicable air district rules and control measures.

AQ 4.7 To the greatest extent possible, require every project to mitigate any of its anticipated emissions which exceed allowable emissions as established by the SCAQMD, MDAQMD, SOCAR, the Environmental Protection Agency and the CARB.

AQ 4.8 Expand, as appropriate, measures contained in the County's Fugitive Dust Reduction Program for the Coachella Valley to the entire County.

AQ 4.9 Require compliance with SCAQMD Rules 403 and 403.1 and support appropriate future measures to reduce fugitive dust emanating from construction sites.

AQ 4.10 Coordinate with the SCAQMD and MDAQMD to create a communications plan to alert those conducting grading operations in the County of first, second, and third stage smog alerts, and when wind speeds exceed 25 miles per hour. During these instances all grading operations should be suspended. (AI 111)

Energy Efficiency and Conservation:

AQ 5.1 Utilize source reduction, recycling and other appropriate measures to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of in landfills.

AQ 5.4 Encourage the incorporation of energy-efficient design elements, including appropriate site orientation and the use of shade and windbreak trees to reduce fuel consumption for heating and cooling.



Particulate Matter:

AQ 15.1 Identify and monitor sources, enforce existing regulations, and promote stronger controls to reduce particulate matter.

Multi-jurisdictional Cooperation:

AQ 16.1 Cooperate with local, regional, state and federal jurisdictions to better control particulate matter.

Control Measures:

AQ 17.1 Reduce particulate matter from agriculture, construction, demolition, debris hauling, street cleaning, utility maintenance, railroad rights-of-way, and off-road vehicles to the extent possible. (AI 123)

AQ 17.3 Identify and create a control plan for areas within the County prone to wind erosion of soil.

AQ 17.4 Adopt incentives, regulations and/or procedures to manage paved and unpaved roads and parking lots so they produce the minimum practicable level of particulates. (AI 111)

AQ 17.5 Adopt incentives and/or procedures to limit dust from agricultural lands and operations, where applicable. (AI 123)

AQ 17.6 Reduce emissions from building materials and methods that generate excessive pollutants, through incentives and/or regulations.

EXISTING CONDITONS

The Project is under the jurisdiction of the SCAQMD, and within the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). The Basin includes non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernadino counties, and all of Orange County. Combined, the region is home to 17 million people, which constitutes about half of California's population. The Basin is made up of 6,745-square-miles of coastal plains which are bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the southwest and the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains to the north and east. The Basin is also designated as a "nonattainment" for select State air quality standards, meaning that pollution levels exceed the national and state air quality standards, thresholds of significance, established for the region. SCAQMD maintains 38 air quality monitoring sites with designated ambient air monitoring stations representative of each area. The stations record meteorological information to help forecast daily pollution levels. The nearest monitoring station to the Project Site is Perris Monitoring Station (Perris Station), located approximately 26 miles northeast of the Project Site at 237 1/2 N. D Street, Perris. Another monitoring station close to the Project Site is Lake Elsinore – West Flint Street (Lake Elsinore Station) located approximately 18 miles north at 506 West Flint Street, Lake Elsinore.

During the 2020 to 2022 monitoring period, the State 1-hour concentration standard for ozone was exceeded between 17 and 18 days each year at the Lake Elsinore Station. The State 8-hour ozone standard has been exceeded between 37 and 55 days each year over the past three years at the Lake Elsinore Station. The Federal 8-hour ozone standard was exceeded between 37 and 54 days each year over the past three years at the Lake Elsinore Station.

DISCUSSION

The responses within this section are based on the Air Quality, Global Climate Change, and Energy Impact Analysis, received March 27, 2024, for the Carancho Pump Station Project by Ganddini Group (**Appendix A**). The study was performed to address the possibility of regional/local air quality impacts and global climate change impacts for short-term Project construction and long-term operations.

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

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact.

Short-term Construction Emissions

The demolition of two existing steel tanks, concrete foundations, miscellaneous piping and valves, and portions of existing pavement and installation of 600 linear feet of 24-inch potable water pipeline, pump station



components and equipment and will include export of approximately 250 cubic yards of material and import of approximately 350 tons of material. Construction activities are anticipated to last for approximately 18 months; and utilize the following equipment for various construction phases: for mobilization one (1) backhoe and two (2) service trucks; for demolition one (1) CAT 235 excavator with demolition hammer attachment, one (1) front end loader, two (2) 15 cubic-yard dump trucks, two (2) service trucks, one (1) crane, two (2) chain saws, two (2) scrapers, one (1) tractor; for site preparation/pipeline installation one (1) Pug Mill Mixer, one (1) bulldozer, one (1) front end loader and one (1) Cat 235 Excavator, two (2) service trucks and haulers, one (1) material handling equipment, four (4) pumps, and two (2) skid steer loaders; and for construction one (1) crane, one (1) CAT 235 excavator, one (1) paving equipment, and two (2) service trucks.

Construction emissions were estimated using the CalEEMod (Version 2022.1.1.22) software. Daily regional emissions during construction are forecasted by assuming a conservative estimate of construction activities (i.e., assuming all construction occurs at the earliest feasible date) and applying the mobile source and fugitive dust emissions factors. The input values used in this analysis were adjusted to be Project-specific for the construction schedule and the equipment used was based on CalEEMod defaults. Construction-related criteria pollutant emissions for the construction of the proposed Project are shown below in *Table 6: Construction Related Regional Pollutant Emissions*. The table below shows that the proposed Project will not exceed regional thresholds. Therefore, less than significant regional air quality impact would occur from construction of the proposed Project.

TABLE 6: CONSTRUCTION RELATED REGIONAL POLLUTANT EMISSIONS

Activity	Pollutant Emissions (pounds/day)					
	ROG	NOx	CO	SO ₂	PM10	PM2.5
Maximum Daily Emissions^{1, 2}	4.41	37.70	33.40	0.10	3.57	2.18
SCAQMD Thresholds	75	100	550	150	150	55
Exceeds Thresholds?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: CalEEMod Version 2022.1.1.13

Notes: See **Appendix A** (Air Quality Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Energy Impact Analysis, Ganddini, 2024)

- (1) Includes both on-site and off-site emissions. On -site grading PM-10 and PM-2.5 emissions show compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403 for fugitive dust.
(2) Construction, painting and paving phases may overlap.

While Project construction may not exceed regional emission thresholds, CalEEMod was used to calculate construction emissions based on number of equipment hours and the maximum daily disturbance possible for each piece of equipment to determine impacts to local air quality. As shown in *Table 7: Maximum Number of Acres Disturbed Per Day*, the maximum number of acres disturbed in a day would be 3 acres during demolition. The local air quality emissions from construction were analyzed using the SCAQMD's Mass Rate Localized Significance Thresholds Look-up Tables and the methodology described in Localized Significance Threshold Methodology prepared by SCAQMD (revised July 2008). The Look-up Tables were developed by the SCAQMD in order to readily determine if the daily emissions of CO, NOx, PM10, and PM2.5 from the proposed Project could result in a significant impact to the local air quality. The emission thresholds were calculated based on the Lake Elsinore source receptor area (SRA) 25 and a disturbance value of two acres per day, to be conservative. According to LST Methodology, any receptor located closer than 25 meters (82 feet) shall be based on the 25-meter thresholds. The nearest sensitive receptors to the Project Site are the existing single-family detached residential uses with property lines located approximately 50 feet (~15 meters) southeast and adjacent to the north/northwest of the Project Site; therefore, to be conservative, the SCAQMD Look-up Tables for 25 meters was used. *Table 8: Local Construction Emissions at the Nearest Receptors* shows the on-site emissions from the CalEEMod model for the different construction phases and the LST emissions thresholds.



TABLE 7: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ACRES DISTURBED PER DAY

Activity	Equipment	Number	Acres/ 8hr- day	Total Acres
Mobilization	Crawler Tractors ¹	1	0.5	0.5
Total for phase				0.5
Demolition	Scrapers	2	1	2
	Crawler Tractors ¹	2	0.5	1
Total for phase				3
Site Preparation & Pipeline Installation	Rubber Tiered Dozers	1	0.5	0.5
	Crawler Tractors ¹	1	0.5	0.5
Total for phase				1

Source: South Coast AQMD, Fact Sheet for Applying CalEEMod to Localized Significance Thresholds, 2011b.

Notes: See **Appendix A** (Air Quality Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Energy Impact Analysis, Ganddini, 2024)

(1) Tractor/ loader/ backhoe is suitable surrogate for a crawler tractor per SCAQMD staff.

TABLE 8: LOCAL CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS AT THE NEAREST RECEPTORS

Activity ¹	One-site Pollutant Emissions (pounds/day)			
	NOx	CO	PM10	PM2.5
Mobilization	4.90	5.67	0.20	0.18
Demolition	37.60	32.90	1.72	1.35
Site Preparation & Pipeline Installation	23.40	25.40	3.48	2.15
Pump Station Construction	8.57	9.36	0.36	0.33
Final Site Work	3.56	4.97	0.16	0.15
Total Emissions for overlapping phases ¹	12.13	14.33	0.52	0.48
SCAQMD Thresholds ²	234	1,100	7	4
Exceeds Thresholds?	No	No	No	No

Source: Calculated from CalEEMod and SCAQMD's Mass Rate Look-up Tables for 2 acres, to be conservative, at a distance of 25 meters in SRA 25 Lake Elsinore.

Notes: See **Appendix A** (Air Quality Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Energy Impact Analysis, Ganddini, 2024)

The Project will disturb up to a maximum of 3 acres a day during demolition (See *Table 7: Maximum Number of Acres Disturbed Per Day*)

(1) Pump Station Construction and Final Site Work phases may overlap.

(2) The nearest sensitive receptors are the existing single-family detached residential uses with property lines located approximately 50 feet (~15 meters) southeast and adjacent to the north/northwest of the Project Site; therefore, the 25-meter threshold was used.

Table 8: Local Construction Emissions at the Nearest Receptors shows that none of the analyzed criteria pollutants would exceed the local emissions thresholds at the nearest sensitive receptors. However, the Project will ensure compliance with SCAQMD Regulations through the implementation of Standard Condition **SC AQ-01: Compliance with SCAQMD Rules**, which will ensure fugitive dust control throughout Project construction and includes requirements for architectural coatings, etc. Therefore, a less than significant local air quality impact would occur from construction of the proposed Project.

Long-term Operational Emissions

Operating emissions analysis used for CalEEMod modeling are based on the year 2026, which is the anticipated opening year for the proposed Project. Modeling accounted for area sources (consumer products, landscape equipment- lawn mowers, rototillers, shredders/grinders, blowers, trimmers, chain saws, and hedge trimmers, as well as air compressors, generators, pumps and architectural coatings); energy usage from the generation and use of electricity (approximately 6,898 kWh per year⁵) on-site; and stationary sources consisting of a 1,250-kW emergency diesel generator anticipated to run up to approximately 12 hours per year. Air quality modeling was based on a 1,500-kW generator; however, Project plans were modified for a 1,250-kW generator. Therefore, Project impacts as shown in *Table 9. Regional Operational Pollutant Emissions*, anticipate less emissions from a smaller generator.

⁵ Per the Project design, a maximum of three pumps are to be running at a time at the Project Site. Therefore, for modeling purposes and to provide a conservative scenario, it was assumed that three of the 350-HP pumps will be in operation 24/7 or ~8,760 hours per year per pump. The total hours of operation would be 26,280 hours per year for all three pumps. Energy use calculations for the pumps include: as 1-HP = 0.75 kW a 350-HP pump = 262.5 kW and 262.5 kW x 26,280 hours/year = 6,898,500 kWh/yr. Total of ~6,898,500 kWh/year of electricity used by the proposed pumps. Operation of Project is that of the electric pumps and generators only, no natural gas anticipated to be used.



As shown below within *Table 9: Regional Operational Pollutant Emissions*, maximum daily pollutant emissions created from the proposed Project's long-term operations show that none of the SCAQMD regional thresholds would be exceeded. Therefore, a less than significant regional air quality impact would occur from the operation of the proposed Project.

TABLE 9: REGIONAL OPERATIONAL POLLUTANT EMISSIONS

Activity	Pollutant Emissions (pounds/day)					
	ROG	NOx	CO	SO ₂	PM10	PM2.5
Maximum Daily Emissions	0.10	0.44	0.25	0.25	0.01	0.01
SCAQMD Thresholds	55	55	550	150	150	55
Exceeds Thresholds?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: CalEEMod Version 2022.1.1.13

Notes: See **Appendix A** (Air Quality Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Energy Impact Analysis, Ganddini, 2024)

As a result, impacts from Project construction and long-term operations are anticipated to be less than significant. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

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?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. Since regional and local emissions of criteria air pollutants during construction of the Project would be below the applicable thresholds, it would not contribute to long-term health impacts related to nonattainment of the ambient air quality standards. Therefore, significant adverse acute health impacts as a result of Project construction are not anticipated.

Long-term operations anticipate minimal additional vehicle trips that will likely generate negligible emissions. In addition, Project-related air emissions from on-site sources such as architectural coatings, landscaping equipment, on-site usage of diesel appliances as well as the operation of vehicles on-site may have the potential to exceed the State and Federal air quality standards in the Local Vicinity. These pollutant emissions may not be significant enough to create a regional impact to the Air Basin; and the proposed Project consists of the development of the site with water supply infrastructure that does not include uses including industrial and warehouse/ transfer facilities. Therefore, due to the lack of stationary source emissions, no long-term localized significance threshold analysis is necessary.

Less than significant impacts are anticipated; no Mitigation Measures are needed.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact.

Short-term Construction Emissions

The greatest potential for TAC emissions would be related to diesel particulate emissions associated with heavy equipment operations during construction of the Project. According to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and the SCAQMD *Health Risk Assessment Guidance for Analyzing Cancer Risks from Mobile Source Diesel Idling Emissions for CEQA Air Quality Analysis* (August 2003),¹¹ health effects from TACs are described in terms of individual cancer risk based on a lifetime (i.e., 30-year) resident exposure duration. Given the temporary and short-term construction schedule (approximately 18 months), the Project would not result in a long-term (i.e., lifetime or 30-year) exposure as a result of Project construction. Furthermore, construction-based particulate matter (PM) emissions (including diesel exhaust emissions) do not exceed any local or regional thresholds and the nearest sensitive receptors to the Project Site are the existing single-family detached residential uses with property lines located approximately 50 feet (~15 meters) southeast and adjacent to the north/northwest of the Project Site.



Furthermore, construction-based particulate matter (PM) emissions (including diesel exhaust emissions) do not exceed any local or regional thresholds and the nearest sensitive receptors to the project site are the existing single-family detached residential uses with property lines located approximately 50 feet (~15 meters) southeast and adjacent to the north/northwest of the Project Site.

The Project would comply with the CARB Air Toxics Control Measure that limits diesel powered equipment and vehicle idling to no more than 5 minutes at a location, and the CARB In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation; compliance with these would minimize emissions of TACs during construction. The Project would also comply with the requirements of SCAQMD Rule 1403 pursuant to Standard Condition **SC AQ-01: Compliance with SCAQMD Rules**. As a result, impacts from TACs during construction would be less than significant.

Long-term Operational Emissions

In addition, since regional and local emissions of criteria pollutants during operation of the Project would be below the applicable thresholds, it would not contribute to long-term health impacts related to nonattainment of the ambient air quality standards. Therefore, significant adverse acute health impacts as a result of Project operation are not anticipated.

As a result, impacts from Project construction and long-term operations are anticipated to be less than significant. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

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

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact.

Short-term Construction Emissions

Potential sources that may emit odors during construction activities include the application of materials such as asphalt pavement. The objectionable odors that may be produced during the construction process are short-term in nature and the odor emissions are expected to cease upon the drying or hardening of the odor producing materials. Due to the short-term nature and limited amounts of odor producing materials being utilized, no significant impact related to odors would occur during construction of the proposed project. Diesel exhaust and VOCs would be emitted during construction of the Project, which are objectionable to some; however, emissions would disperse rapidly from the Project Site and therefore should not reach an objectionable level at the nearest sensitive receptors.

Long-term Operational Emissions

Potential sources that may emit odors during the on-going operations of the proposed Project would include odor emissions from the intermittent diesel delivery truck emissions and trash storage areas. Due to the distance of the nearest receptors from the Project Site and through compliance with SCAQMD's Rule 402, no significant impact related to odors would occur during the on-going operations of the proposed Project.

STANDARD CONDITIONS

SC AQ-01: Compliance with SCAQMD Rules- Throughout Project construction, the Project Contractor shall adhere to the following rules outlined within SCAQMD's Air Quality Management Plan:

SCAQMD Rule 402: Prohibits a person from discharging from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of any such persons or the public, or which cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property.

SCAQMD Rule 403: Governs emissions of fugitive dust during construction and operation activities. Compliance with this rule is achieved through application of standard BMPs, such as application of water or chemical stabilizers to disturbed soils, covering haul vehicles, restricting vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour, sweeping



loose dirt from paved site access roadways, cessation of construction activity when winds exceed 25 mph, and establishing a permanent ground cover on finished sites.

SCAQMD Rule 403 requires that fugitive dust be controlled with best available control measures so that the presence of dust does not remain visible in the atmosphere beyond the property line of the emission source. In addition, SCAQMD Rule 403 requires implementation of dust suppression techniques to prevent fugitive dust from creating a nuisance off-site. Applicable dust suppression techniques from Rule 403 are summarized below and can reduce fugitive dust generation, Particulate Matter 10 microns or greater in diameter (PM10). Compliance with these rules would reduce impacts on nearby sensitive receptors. Rule 403 measures may include but are not limited to the following:

- Apply nontoxic chemical soil stabilizers according to manufacturers' specifications to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more).
- Water active sites at least three times daily. (Locations where grading is to occur will be thoroughly watered prior to earthmoving.)
- Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials, or maintain at least 0.6 meters (2 feet) of freeboard (vertical space between the top of the load and top of the trailer) in accordance with the requirements of California Vehicle Code section 23114.
- Reduce traffic speeds on all unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour (mph) or less.
- Suspension of all grading activities when wind speeds (including instantaneous wind gusts) exceed 25 mph.
- Bumper strips or similar BMPs shall be provided where vehicles enter and exit the construction site onto paved roads or wash off trucks and any equipment leaving the site each trip.
- Replanting disturbed areas as soon as practical.
- During all construction activities, construction contractors shall sweep on-site and off-site streets if silt is carried to adjacent public thoroughfares, to reduce the amount of particulate matter on public streets. All sweepers shall be compliant with SCAQMD Rule 1186.1, Less Polluting Sweepers.

SCAQMD Rule 481: Applies to all spray painting and spray coating operations and equipment. The rule states that a person shall not use or operate any spray painting or spray coating equipment unless one of the following conditions is met:

1. The spray coating equipment is operated inside a control enclosure, which is approved by the Executive Officer. Any control enclosure for which an application for permit for new construction, alteration, or change of ownership or location is submitted after the date of adoption of this rule shall be exhausted only through filters at a design face velocity not less than 100 feet per minute nor greater than 300 feet per minute, or through a water wash system designed to be equally effective for the purpose of air pollution control.
2. Coatings are applied with high-volume low-pressure, electrostatic and/or airless spray equipment.
3. An alternative method of coating application or control is used which has effectiveness equal to or greater than the equipment specified in the rule.

SCAQMD Rule 1108: Governs the sale, use, and manufacturing of asphalt and limits the volatile organic compound (VOC) content in asphalt used in the Basin and regulates the VOC content of asphalt during construction. All asphalt used during Project construction must comply with SCAQMD Rule 1108.

SCAQMD Rule 1113: Governs the sale, use, and manufacturing of architectural coating and limits the VOC content in paints and paint solvents. This rule regulates the VOC content of paints available during construction. Therefore, all paints and solvents used during construction and operation of the project must comply with SCAQMD Rule 1113.

SCAQMD Rule 1143: Governs the manufacture, sale, and use of paint thinners and solvents used in thinning of coating materials, cleaning of coating application equipment, and other solvent cleaning operations by limiting their VOC content. This rule regulates the VOC content of solvents used during construction. Solvents used during the construction phase must comply with this rule.



SCAQMD Rule 1186: Limits the presence of fugitive dust on paved and unpaved roads and sets certification protocols and requirements for contract street sweepers to provide sweeping services to any federal, state, county, agency or special district such as water, air, sanitation, transit, or school district.

SCAQMD Rule 1303: Governs the permitting of re-located or new major emission sources, requiring Best Available Control Measures and setting significance limits for PM10 among other pollutants.

SCAQMD Rule 1401: New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants, specifies limits for maximum individual cancer risk, cancer burden, and non-cancer acute and chronic hazard index from new permit units, relocations, or modifications to existing permit units, which emit toxic air contaminants.

SCAQMD Rule 1403: Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities, specifies work practice requirements to limit asbestos emissions from building demolition and renovation activities, including the removal and associated disturbance of asbestos-containing materials (ACM).

SCAQMD Rule 2202: On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options, is to provide employers with a menu of options to reduce mobile source emissions generated from employee commutes, to comply with federal and state Clean Air Act requirements, Health & Safety Code Section 40458, and Section 182(d)(1)(B) of the federal Clean Air Act. It applies to any employer who employs 250 or more employees on a full or part-time basis at a worksite for a consecutive six-month period calculated as a monthly average.



4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. 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 state or federally protected wetlands (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	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Federal Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was enacted in 1973 and establishes protections for fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered along with the ecosystems these species depend on (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544) (USFWS 2023). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) share the responsibility for implementing the ESA. Generally, USFWS oversees terrestrial and freshwater species, while the NMFS manages marine and anadromous species.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 establishes a conservation treaty intended to promote the sustainability of populations of protected migratory bird species. The MBTA prohibits killing, capture, selling, trading, and transport of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the USFWS (USFWS 2023). In addition, the MBTA makes it unlawful to remove nests, eggs, and feathers from any of the species protected under the act.

Migratory bird species that are protected by law depend on the bird family and species included in the four international treaties (Canada in 1916; Mexico in 1936; Japan in 1972; Russia in 1976). This list can be found under Title 50 Part 10.13 (10.13 list), which was last updated in 2020 to incorporate current scientific information on taxonomy and natural distribution. The MBTA applies to almost all avian species that are native to California. A migratory bird species is included on the list if it meets one more of the following criteria:



1. It occurs in the United States or U.S. territories as the result of natural biological or ecological processes and is currently, or was previously listed as, a species or part of a family protected by one of the four international treaties or their amendments.
2. Revised taxonomy results in it being newly split from a species that was previously on the list, and the new species occurs in the United States or U.S. territories as the result of natural biological or ecological processes.
3. New evidence exists for its natural occurrence in the United States or U.S. territories resulting from natural distributional changes and the species occurs in a protected family.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act amends the MBTA so that nonnative birds or birds that have been introduced by humans to the United States or its territories are excluded from protection under the MBTA.

California Fish and Game Code

The California Fish and Game Code is composed of various statutes that aid in the protection of biological resources, including Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) of 1977 and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (California Fish and Game Code Sections 2050-2098). The NPPA designates plants as rare or endangered and prohibits the take of any such plants, unless authorized in limited circumstances by the Fish and Game Commission. CESA prohibits public agencies from approving projects that could jeopardize species listed under CESA as endangered or threatened.

In addition, California Fish and Game Code protects native and migratory birds including nests and eggs in addition to protecting various mammals (Section 4700), amphibians (Section 5050), and fish species (Section 5515). For this reason, California Fish and Game Code requires that California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) be notified of lake or streambed alteration activities. If activities are determined to adversely affect existing fish and wildlife resources by CDFW, a streambed alteration agreement must be authorized to ensure the protection of biological resources and water quality.

Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was established in 2004 and is responsible for implementation of the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The Western Riverside County MSHCP is one of the largest plans in the nation, reserving approximately 500,000-acres of habitat that supports 146 native species, 34 of which are endangered or threatened (Western Riverside County RCA, 2024). The MSHCP allows Riverside County “to better control local land-use decisions and maintain a strong economic climate in the region while addressing the requirements of the state and federal Endangered Species Acts” (Western Riverside County Final MSHCP, 2003).

Stephan’s Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan

The proposed Project Site is located within the Fee Area, established by the County in 1996, for protecting the Stephens’ Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*) (SKR), a federally and State listed species that is protected by the SKR Habitat Conservation Plan (SKR HCP) (County Ordinance No. 663.10).



DISCUSSION

The responses within this section are based on the Biological Resources Assessment for the Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project conducted by ELMT Consulting dated March 22, 2024. The report includes a field investigation conducted by Project Biologist Rachel A. Lyons on January 29, 2024, to document baseline conditions and assess the potential for special-status⁶ plant and wildlife species to occur within the Project Site that could pose a constraint to implementation of the Project.

Standard field guides and texts were reviewed for specific habitat requirements of special-status and non-special-status biological resources, as well as the following resources:

- Google Earth Pro historic aerial imagery (1985-2023);
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Survey⁷;
- USFWS Critical Habitat Designations for Threatened and Endangered Species;
- USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI);
- Stephen's Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan;
- Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) MSHCP Information Map; and
- 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area.

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?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Existing land cover and habitat within the parcel boundaries at the Project Site (APN 933-050-036) are mainly comprised of centrally located, developed, and disturbed land with a perimeter of natural plant communities dominated by buckwheat scrub and sugarbush scrub vegetation. Developed areas, where the existing pump station, tanks and driveways are located, are bordered by non-native vegetation consisting of invasive weedy plants that are typically associated with land disturbances. Steep perimeter slopes with natural vegetation encompass the remaining areas of the parcel and have the potential to support nesting for migratory and native birds. The Project Site also has the potential to support species of reptiles and mammals that are adapted to high levels of human activity. The Project Site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat and Project implementation would not impact Critical Habitat. The nearest designated Critical Habitat is located approximately 0.7 miles northwest within the vicinity of the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve (upstream from the Project) for thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*).

Following is a summary of habitat found on the Project Site and species that have potential to be found on the Project Site. These areas are depicted on **Figure 8: Existing Vegetation and Areas of Disturbance**:

Habitat

Buckwheat Scrub

The buckwheat scrub plant community that was observed along the southern boundary of the Project Site is dominated by representative species such as California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), deerweed

⁶ As used in this report, "special-status" refers to plant and wildlife species that are federally, State, and MSHCP listed, proposed, or candidates; plant species that have been designated with a California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Rank; wildlife species that are designated by the CDFW as fully protected, species of special concern, or watch list species; and specially protected natural vegetation communities as designated by the CDFW.

⁷ A soil series is defined as a group of soils with similar profiles developed from similar parent materials under comparable climatic and vegetation conditions. These profiles include major horizons with similar thickness, arrangement, and other important characteristics, which may promote favorable conditions for certain biological resources.



(*Acmispon glaber*), sagebrush (*Artemesia tridentata*), prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*), brittlebush (*Encelia arinose*), and non-native/ruderal plant species.

Sugarbush Scrub

The sugarbush scrub plant community was observed along the western, northern, and northeastern boundaries, dominated by plants including the sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*) and other common species such as black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), and Chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*).

Disturbed

Disturbed areas along developed margins at the Project Site vary in vegetative density and primarily support non-native weedy/early successional species. Plant species observed include purple fountain grass (*Pennisetum Rubrum*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), and guineagrass (*Megathyrus maximus*). Plans for the Project indicate that the Project will be implemented entirely within the disturbed and developed portions of the Project Site. See **Figure 8: Existing Vegetation and Areas of Disturbance**.

Wildlife

Research from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and California Native Plant Society's (CPNS) Electronic Inventory identified fifty-three (53) special-status plant species, seventy-six (76) special-status wildlife species, and four (4) special-status plant communities that have potential to occur at the Project Site due to the location within the *Wildomar* and *Fallbrook* quadrangles. During the site visit, the potential for occurrence of special-status plant and wildlife species was evaluated based on field conditions and habitat requirements for each species, such as availability and quality of suitable habitat on the Project Site and known distributions for each species. See *Table 10: Potentially Occurring Sensitive Biological Resources*. The Status of wildlife species at the Project Site are summarized below.

Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles

Fish and amphibians were not observed; and no hydrogeomorphic features (e.g., perennial creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs) that would support fish and amphibians were observed. These are presumed absent and would not likely be encountered during construction. The Project Site contains suitable habitat for reptile species adapted to a high degree of human disturbance. The only reptilian species observed during the field investigation was common side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*). Other common reptilian species that could be expected to occur on-site include Great Basin fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis longipes*) and San Diego alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata webbiai*). In addition, the red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus rube*) has low potential to occur at the Project Site.

Birds

The field investigation was conducted at the beginning of breeding season and no active nests or birds displaying nesting behavior were observed; however, native habitat present on site has the potential to provide suitable nesting habitat for year-round and seasonal avian residents, as well as migrating songbirds that are adapted to conditions in Western Riverside County. Less than significant impacts would occur with the implementation of **MM BIO-01: Pre-construction Nesting Bird Clearance Survey**, to the following birds and raptors that may occur onsite: the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), southern Bell's sage sparrow (*Artemisiospiza belli belli*), orange-throat whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*), costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), and California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*). One (1) bird species was present at the Project Site, which was the Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*).

Most birds within this area are protected by the MBTA. Therefore, a pre-construction bird nesting survey shall be conducted pursuant to Mitigation Measure **MM BIO-01: Pre-construction Nesting Bird Clearance Survey** if



construction activities are to occur between February 1 and August 31. Agency protocols would be followed if nesting birds are found.

Mammals

No mammalian species were detected during the field investigation; however, the portions of the Project Site outside of the fenced area provide suitable habitat for mammalian species adapted to a high degree of human disturbance. Species that could be expected to occur at the Project Site include coyote (*Canis latrans*), possum (*Didelphis virginiana*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*); and species with low potential to occur at the Project Site include San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus Bennettii*), pallid bobcat (*Lynx rufus pallescens*), and San Deigo desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*). No bats are expected to roost on-site due to lack of roosting opportunities and routine disturbance associated with onsite water district operations.

For the reasons above, Project impacts are anticipated to be reduced to less than significant levels with the implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM BIO-01: Pre-construction Nesting Bird Clearance Survey**.





Legend

-  Project Site
-  Buckwheat Scrub
-  Sugarbush Scrub
-  Disturbed
-  Developed

*Rancho California Water District
Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project*

Figure 8. Existing Vegetation and Areas of Disturbance



TABLE 10: POTENTIALLY OCCURRING SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
ANIMAL SPECIES				
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> Cooper's hawk	Fed: None CA: WL	Generally found in forested areas up to 3,000 feet in elevation, especially near edges and rivers. Prefers hardwood stands and mature forests but can be found in urban and suburban areas where there are tall trees for nesting. Common in open areas during nesting season.	No	High. Suitable foraging habitat is present within and surrounding the Project Site. Suitable nesting opportunities occur adjacent to site boundaries.
<i>Accipiter striatus</i> sharp-shinned hawk	Fed: None CA: WL	Found in pine, fir and aspen forests. They can be found hunting in forest interior and edges from sea level to near alpine areas. Can also be found in rural, suburban and agricultural areas, where they often hunt at bird feeders. Typically found in southern California in the winter months.	No	High. Suitable foraging habitat is present within and surrounding the Project Site. Suitable nesting opportunities occur adjacent to site boundaries.
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	Fed: None CA: WL	Typically found between 3,000 and 6,000 feet in elevation. Breed in sparsely vegetated scrubland on hillsides and canyons. Prefers coastal sage scrub dominated by California sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>), but they can also be found breeding in coastal bluff scrub, low-growing serpentine chaparral, and along the edges of tall chaparral habitats.	Yes	Present. Species was observed onsite at the time of the investigation.
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> grasshopper sparrow	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in grassland, upland meadow, pasture, hayfield, and old field habitats. Optimal habitat contains short- to medium-height bunch grasses interspersed with patches of bare ground, a shallow litter layer, scattered forbs, and few shrubs. May inhabit thickets, weedy lawns, vegetated landfills, fence rows, open fields, or grasslands.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i> arroyo toad	Fed: END CA: SSC	Occurs in washes and intermittent streams with a mixture of gravel and sandy substrate. Requires a moderate cover of willows, cottonwoods, mulefat, and sycamore to provide shade over the water, and oaks in the upland area to forage for ants.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> Southern California legless lizard	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in sparsely vegetated habitat types including coastal sand dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodland, desert scrub, open grassland, and riparian areas. Requires sandy or loose loamy substrates conducive to burrowing.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> pallid bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Forest, rocky areas (i.e., inland cliffs, mountain peaks), caves, and subterranean habitats (non-aquatic).	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> golden eagle	Fed: None CA: FP; WL	Occupies nearly all terrestrial habitats of the western states except densely forested areas. Favors secluded cliffs with overhanging ledges and large trees for nesting and cover. Hilly or mountainous country where takeoff and soaring are supported by updrafts is generally preferred to flat habitats. Deeply cut canyons rising to open mountain slopes and crags are ideal habitat.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Ardea alba</i> great egret	Fed: None CA: None	Yearlong resident throughout California, except for the high mountains and deserts. Feeds and rests in fresh, and saline emergent wetlands, along the margins of estuaries, lakes, and slow-moving streams, on mudflats and salt ponds, and in irrigated croplands and pastures.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Ardea herodias</i> great blue heron	Fed: None CA: None	Forages along streams, marshes, lakes, and meadows. Nests colonially in tall trees (typically <i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.), on cliffsides, or in isolated spots in marshes.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i> California glossy snake	Fed: None CA: SSC	Inhabits arid scrub, rocky washes, grasslands, and chaparral habitats.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Artemisiospiza belli</i> belli Bell's sage sparrow	Fed: None CA: WL	Generally prefers semi-open habitats with evenly spaced shrubs 1 – 2 meters in height. Dry chaparral and coastal sage scrub. Less common in tall dense, old chaparral.	No	Low. Marginal nesting and foraging habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Asio flammeus</i> short-eared owl	Fed: None CA: SSC	Suitable habitats include salt- and freshwater marshes, irrigated alfalfa or grain fields, and ungrazed grasslands and old pastures. Tule marsh or tall grasslands with cover 30 to 50 cm in height can support nesting pairs.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Aspidoscelis hyperythra</i> Orange-throat whiptail	Fed: None CA: WL	Semi-arid brushy areas typically with loose soil and rocks, including washes, streamsides, rocky hillsides, and coastal chaparral.	No	Low. Marginal nesting and foraging habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> coastal whiptail	Fed: None CA: SSC	Found in a variety of ecosystems, primarily hot and dry open areas with sparse foliage - chaparral, woodland, and riparian areas.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in open, annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Dependent upon fossorial mammals for burrows, most notable ground squirrels.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Atractelmis wawona</i> Wawona riffle beetle	Fed: None CA: None	Found in fast-flowing streams and rivers in shallow sections with rapid current and broken water surface.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i> American bumble bee	Fed: None CA: None	Found in grasslands, agricultural fields, gardens, and parks with flowering plants present for foraging.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> vernal pool fairy shrimp	Fed: THR CA: None	Associated with vernal pools. Can be found in association with other ephemeral habits including alkali pools, seasonal drainages, stock ponds, vernal swales, and rock outcrops.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i> San Diego fairy shrimp	Fed: END CA: None	Occurs only in small, shallow vernal pools which range in depth from 2- 12 inches and water temperature from 50-68 F.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Buteo regalis</i> ferruginous hawk	Fed: None CA: WL	Occurs primarily in open grasslands and fields, but may be found in sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills, or along the edges of pinyonjuniper woodland. Feeds primarily on small mammals and typically found in agricultural or open fields.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	Fed: None CA: THR	Typical habitat is open desert, grassland, or cropland containing scattered, large trees or small groves. Breeds in stands with few trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, and in oak savannah in the Central Valley. Forages in adjacent grassland or suitable grain or alfalfa fields or livestock pastures.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Calypte costae</i> Costa's hummingbird	Fed: None CA: None	Desert and semi-desert, arid brushy foothills and chaparral. A desert hummingbird that breeds in the Sonoran and Mojave Deserts. Departs desert heat moving into chaparral, scrub, and woodland habitats.	No	Moderate. Suitable foraging habitat present within the Project Site. Marginal nesting habitat present.
<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegonensis</i> Coastal cactus wren	Fed: None CA: SSC	Found in arid and semi-arid habitats with a high occurrence of cactus and spiny trees. Nests almost exclusively in prickly pear and cholla cactus.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>californicus femoralis</i> Dulzura pocket mouse	Fed: None CA: None	Found most often in grass-chaparral edges but may also be found in coastal scrub or other habitats, primarily in San Diego County.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i> northwestern San Diego pocket mouse	Fed: None CA: None	Occurs in desert and coastal habitats in southern California, Mexico, and northern Baja California, from sea level to at least 1,400 meters. Found in a variety of temperate habitats ranging from chaparral and grasslands to scrub forests and deserts. Requires low growing vegetation or rocky outcroppings, as well as sandy soils for burrowing.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Circus hudsonius</i> northern harrier	Fed: None CA: None	Frequents meadows, grasslands, open rangelands, desert sinks, fresh and saltwater emergent wetlands; seldom found in wooded areas. Mostly found in flat, or hummocky, open areas of tall, dense grasses moist or dry shrubs, and edges for nesting, cover, and feeding.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Contopus cooperi</i> olive-sided flycatcher	Fed: None CA: SSC	Migrates through coastal southern California. Nests in the mountains in mixed conifer, montane hardwood-conifer, Douglas-fir, redwood, red fir, and lodgepole pine habitats. Most often found in tall montane coniferous forests overlooking open terrain.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Crotalus ruber</i> red-diamond rattlesnake	Fed: None CA: SSC	It can be found from the desert, through dense chaparral in the foothills (it avoids the mountains above around 4,000 feet), to warm inland mesas and valleys, all the way to the cool ocean shore. It is most commonly associated with heavy brush with large rocks or boulders. Dense chaparral in the foothills, cactus or boulder associated coastal sage scrub, oak and pine woodlands, and desert slope scrub associations are known to carry populations of the northern red-diamond rattlesnake; however, chamise and red shank associations may offer better structural habitat for refuges and food resources for this species than other habitats.	No	Low. Marginal habitat present within the Project Site. Natural vegetation along the perimeter does not consist of heavy, dense brush.
<i>Diadophis punctatus modestus</i> San Bernardino ringneck snake	Fed: None CA: None	Common in open, relatively rocky areas within valley-foothill, mixed chaparral, and annual grass habitats.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Diadophis punctatus similis</i> San Diego ringneck snake	Fed: None CA: None	Common in open, relatively rocky areas within valley-foothill, mixed chaparral, and annual grass habitats.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Dipodomys simulans</i> Dulzura kangaroo rat	Fed: None CA: None	Relatively common in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, and peninsular juniper woodland habitats.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> Stephens' kangaroo rat	Fed: THR CA: THR	Occur in arid and semi-arid habitats with some grass or brush. Prefer open habitats with less than 50% protective cover. Require soft, well drained substrate for building burrows and are typically found in areas with sandy soil.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> white-tailed kite	Fed: None CA: FP	Occurs in low elevation, open grasslands, savannah-like habitats, agricultural areas, wetlands, and oak woodlands. Uses trees with dense canopies for cover.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Empidonax traillii</i> willow flycatcher	Fed: None CA: END	A rare to locally uncommon, summer resident in wet meadow and montane riparian habitats (2,000 to 8,000 ft) in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range. Most often occurs in broad, open river valleys or large mountain meadows with lush growth of shrubby willows.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> Southwestern willow flycatcher	Fed: END CA: END	A rare to locally uncommon, summer resident in wet meadow and montane riparian habitats (2,000 to 8,000 ft) in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range. Most often occurs in broad, open river valleys or large mountain meadows with lush growth of shrubby willows.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle	Fed: None CA: SSC	Found in ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, marshes, and irrigation ditches, with abundant vegetation, either rocky or muddy bottoms, in woodland, forest, and grassland. In streams, prefers pools to shallower areas. Logs, rocks, cattail mats, and exposed banks are required for basking. May enter brackish water and even seawater. Found at elevations from sea level to over 5,900 feet (1,800 m).	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i> California horned lark	Fed: None CA: WL	Generally found in shortgrass prairies, grasslands, disturbed fields, or similar habitat types along the coast or in deserts. Trees or shrubs are usually scarce or absent. Generally rare in montane,	No	Low. Marginal nesting and foraging habitat present within the Project Site is



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
		coniferous, or chaparral habitats. Forms large flocks outside of the breeding season.		not conserved grasslands or disturbed fields.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> western mastiff bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Primarily a cliff-dwelling species, roost generally under exfoliating rock slabs. Roosts are generally high above the ground, usually allowing a clear vertical drop of at least 3 meters below the entrance for flight. In California, it is most frequently encountered in broad open areas. Its foraging habitat includes dry desert washes, flood plains, chaparral, oak woodland, open ponderosa pine forest, grassland, and agricultural areas.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Falco columbarius</i> merlin	Fed: None CA: WL	Nest in forested openings, edges, and along rivers across northern North America. Found in open forests, grasslands, and especially coastal areas with flocks of small songbirds or shorebirds.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Falco mexicanus</i> prairie falcon	Fed: None CA: WL	Commonly occur in arid and semiarid shrubland and grassland community types. Also occasionally found in open parklands within coniferous forests. During the breeding season, they are found commonly in foothills and mountains which provide cliffs and escarpments suitable for nest sites.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> American peregrine falcon	Fed: DL CA: DL	Uncommon winter resident of the inland region of southern California. Active nesting sites are known along the coast north of Santa Barbara, in the Sierra Nevada, and in other mountains of northern California. Breeds mostly in woodland, forest, and coastal habitats. Riparian areas and coastal and inland wetlands are important habitats yearlong, especially in nonbreeding seasons.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Gila Orcuttia</i> arroyo chub	Fed: None CA: SSC	Warm streams of the Los Angeles Plain, which are typically muddy torrents during the winter, and clear quiet brooks in the summer, possibly drying up in places. They are found both in slow-moving and fast-moving sections, but generally deeper than 40 cm.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Icteria virens</i> yellow-breasted chat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Primarily found in tall, dense, relatively wide riparian woodlands and thickets of willows, vine tangles, and dense brush with well-developed understories. Nesting areas are associated with streams, swampy ground, and the borders of small ponds. Breeding habitat must be dense to provide shade and concealment. It winters south the Central America.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike	Fed: None CA: SSC	Often found in broken woodlands, shrublands, and other habitats. Prefers open country with scattered perches for hunting and fairly dense brush for nesting.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> hoary bat	Fed: None CA: None	Artificial/terrestrial, forest, caves, and subterranean habitats (nonaquatic).	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Lasiurus frantzii</i> western red bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Inhabit forested areas near water sources and are also found in urban areas, agricultural land, and desert environments. Roost in tree foliage.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i> western yellow bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in valley/foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats. Roosts under palm trees and feeds in, and near, palm oases and riparian habitats.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i> San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	Fed: None CA: None	Occurs in diverse habitats, but primarily is found in arid regions supporting shortgrass habitats. Openness of open scrub habitat is preferred over dense chaparral.	No	Low. Marginal nesting and foraging habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Linderiella occidentalis</i> Californica linderiella	Fed: None CA: None	Found in large, fairly clear vernal pools and lakes. Found in a variety of natural, and artificial, seasonally ponded habitat types including vernal pools, swales, ephemeral drainages, stock ponds, reservoirs, ditches, backhoe pits, and ruts caused by vehicular activities.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Linderiella santarosae</i> Santa Rosa Plateau fairy shrimp	Fed: None CA: None	Restricted to the Santa Rosa Plateau in Southern Interior Basalt Vernal Pools with cool clear to milky waters that are moderately predictable and remain filled for extended periods of time.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Lynx rufus pallescens</i> pallid bobcat	Fed: None CA: None	Found on the western edge of the great basin habitat in extreme northeast California. Live in a variety of habitats including forests, deserts, mountains, swamps and farmland.	No	Low. Marginal habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i> western small-footed myotis	Fed: None CA: None	Occurs in a wide range of habitats, mostly arid wooded and brushy uplands near water. Prefers open stands in forests and woodlands. Roosts in caves, buildings, mines, and crevices.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i> Yuma myotis	Fed: None CA: None	Found in forests and woodlands near water. Roosts in caves, buildings, mines, and crevices.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in coastal scrub communities between San Luis Obispo and San Diego Counties. Prefers moderate to dense canopies, and especially rocky outcrops.	No	Low. Marginal habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> pocket free-tailed bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Often found in pinyon-juniper woodlands, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, desert riparian, desert wash, alkali desert scrub, Joshua tree, and palm oasis.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 10</i> steelhead-southern California DPS	Fed: END CA: Candidate	Found in permanent coastal streams from San Diego to the Smith River.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> osprey	Fed: None CA: WL	Remain close to still or slow-moving bodies of water including oceans, rivers, lakes, mangroves, coastal wetlands, lagoons, reefs, estuaries and marshes. Generally nest in high places, such as trees, power poles, or cliffs.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i> Pacific pocket mouse	Fed: END CA: SSC	Occurs on loose sandy soils that support sparse coastal sage scrub, grassland, and ruderal habitats.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in a wide variety of vegetation types including coastal sage scrub, annual grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, riparian woodland and coniferous forest. In inland areas, this species is restricted to areas with pockets of open microhabitat, created by disturbance (i.e. fire, floods, roads, grazing, fire breaks). The key elements of such habitats are loose, fine soils with a high sand fraction; an abundance of native ants or other insects; and open areas with limited overstory for basking and low, but relatively dense shrubs for refuge.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Piranga rubra</i> summer tanager	Fed: None CA: SSC	Inhabits deciduous and mixed woodlands, edges of forests, and along riverbanks. Occasionally seen in orchards, gardens, and parks.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Plegadis chihi</i> white-faced ibis	Fed: None CA: WL	Prefers to feed in fresh emergent wetland, shallow lacustrine waters, muddy ground of wet meadows and irrigated or flooded pastures and croplands. Nests in dense, fresh emergent wetland.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Plestiodon skiltonianus interparietalis</i> Coronado skink	Fed: None CA: WL	Occurs in grassland, chaparral, pinyon-juniper woodland, juniper sage woodland, pine-oak forests, and pine forests in the Coast Ranges. Prefers early successional stages or open areas and is usually found in rocky areas close to streams or on dry hillsides.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher	Fed: THR CA: SSC	Obligate resident of sage scrub habitats that are dominated by California sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>). This species generally occurs below 750 feet elevation in coastal regions and below 1,500 feet inland. Ranges from the Ventura County, south to San Diego County and northern Baja California and it is less common in sage	No	Low. Marginal nesting and foraging habitat present within the Project Site.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
		scrub with a high percentage of tall shrubs. Prefers habitat with more low-growing vegetation.		
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	Fed: THR CA: SSC	Found mainly near ponds in humid forests, woodlands, grasslands, coastal scrub, and streamsides with plant cover. Most common in lowlands or foothills. Frequently found in woods adjacent to streams. Occurs along the coast ranges from Mendocino County south and in portions of the Sierra Nevada and Cascades ranges.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> yellow warbler	Fed: None CA: SSC	Nests over all of California except the Central Valley, the Mojave Desert region, and high altitudes and the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada. Winters along the Colorado River and in parts of Imperial and Riverside Counties. Nests in riparian areas dominated by willows, cottonwoods, sycamores, or alders or in mature chaparral. May also use oaks, conifers, and urban areas near stream courses.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Spea hammondi</i> western spadefoot	Fed: None CA: SSC	Prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washed, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains. Rainpools which do not contain bullfrogs, fish, or crayfish are necessary for breeding.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Spinus lawrencei</i> Lawrence's goldfinch	Fed: None CA: None	Open woodlands, chaparral, and weedy fields. Closely associated with oaks. Nests in open oak or other arid woodland and chaparral near water.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> Riverside fairy shrimp	Fed: END CA: None	Freshwater crustacean that is found in vernal pools in the coastal California area.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Taricha torosa</i> Coast Range newt	Fed: None CA: SSC	Resides in coastal areas. Found near small ponds, creeks, and seeps in woodlands and chaparral.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	Fed: None CA: SSC	Primarily occupy grasslands, parklands, farms, tallgrass and shortgrass prairies, meadows, shrub-steppe communities and other treeless areas with sandy loam soils where it can dig more easily for its prey. Occasionally found in open chaparral (with less than 50% plant cover) and riparian zones.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> two-striped garter snake	Fed: None CA: SSC	Generally found around pools, creeks, cattle tanks, and other water sources, often in rocky areas, in oak woodland, chaparral, brushland, and coniferous forest.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	Fed: END CA: END	Primarily occupy Riverine riparian habitat that typically feature dense cover within 1 -2 meters of the ground and a dense, stratified canopy. Typically it is associated with southern willow scrub, cottonwood-willow forest, mule fat scrub, sycamore alluvial woodlands, coast live oak riparian forest, arroyo willow riparian forest, or mesquite in desert localities. It uses habitat which is limited to the immediate vicinity of water courses, 2,000 feet elevation in the interior.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present within the Project Site.
PLANT SPECIES				
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i> chaparral sand-verbena	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Grows in sandy soils in coastal sage scrub and in chaparral habitats. Grows in elevation from 262 to 5,249 feet. Blooming period ranges from January to September.	No	Low. Marginal habitat is present within the Project Site.
<i>Allium marvinii</i> Yucaipa onion	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Grows in chaparral (clay, openings). Found at elevations ranging from 2,495 to 2,595 feet. Blooming period is from March to May.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Allium munzii</i> Munz's onion	FED: END CA: THR CNPS: 1B.1	Found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Found at elevations ranging from 974 to 3,510 feet. Blooming period is from March to May.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Arctostaphylos rainbowensis</i> rainbow manzanita	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Habitats include vernal mesic areas, sandy coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, and mesic coastal prairie. Found at elevations ranging from 3 to 164 feet. Blooming period is from March to May.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Ayenia compacta</i> California ayenia	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.3	Occurs in rocky soils within Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 500 to 3,600 feet. Blooming period is from March to April.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> thread-leaved brodiaea	FED: THR CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Grows in chaparral openings, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools, often in clay soils. Found at elevations ranging from 82 to 3,675 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Brodiaea santarosae</i> Santa Rosa basalt brodiaea	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Occurs primarily in soils derived from the Santa Rosa Basalt rock formation; open areas, grasslands, vernal pool edges. Grows in elevations ranging from 1,854 to 3,428 feet. Blooming period is from May to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Calochortus catalinae</i> Catalina mariposa-lily	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Grows in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 49 to 2,297 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Camissoniopsis lewisii</i> Lewis eveningprimrose	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 3	Occurs in sandy or clay soils in coastal bluff scrub, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. Grows in elevations ranging from 0 to 1,740 feet above msl. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Caulanthus simulans</i> Payson's jewelflower	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Grows in chaparral and coastal scrub habitats. Is commonly found in burned areas or in disturbed sites such as streambeds. Also found on rocky, steep slopes. Prefers sandy, granitic soils. Grows in elevation from 623 to 7,185 feet. Blooming period ranges from March to May.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Ceanothus pendletonensis</i> Pendleton ceanothus	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Occurs exclusively on granodiorite-derived soils of the central Santa Margarita Mountains in San Diego County, California. Grows in elevations ranging from 361 to 2,854 feet. Blooming period ranges from March to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Centromadia pungens</i> ssp. <i>laevis</i> smooth tarplant	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Occurs in alkaline soils within chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, riparian woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Grows in elevation from 0 to 2,100 feet. Blooming period ranges from April to September.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i> var. <i>orcuttiana</i> Orcutt's pincushion	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Occurs in sandy areas within coastal bluff scrub and coastal dunes. Found at elevations ranging from 10 to 328 feet. Blooming period is from January to August.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Chamaebatia australis</i> southern mountain misery	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Grows on chaparral hillsides. Found at elevations from 984 to 3,346 feet. Blooming period is from November to May.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i> Parry's spineflower	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Occurs on sandy and/or rocky soils in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and sandy openings within alluvial washes and margins. Found at elevations ranging from 951 to 3,773 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Chorizanthe polygonoides</i> var. <i>longispina</i> long-spined spineflower	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Typically found on clay lenses which are largely devoid of shrubs. Can be found on the periphery of vernal pool habitat and even on the periphery of montane meadows near vernal seeps. Found at elevations ranging from 98 to 5,020 feet. Blooming period is from April to July.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Clinopodium chandleri</i> San Miguel savory	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Grows in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland, and valley and foothill grassland, usually in rocky, gabbroic, or metavolcanic substrate. Found at elevations ranging from 394 to 3,527 feet. Blooming period is from March to July.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Comarostaphylis diversifolia</i> ssp. <i>diversifolia</i> summer holly	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Grows on chaparral hillsides, especially around <i>Quercus</i> species. Very fire tolerant. Found at elevations from 328 to 1,804 feet. Blooming period is from May to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Convolvulus simulans</i> small-flowered morning-glory	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Found in clay and serpentinite seeps within chaparral (openings), coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Found at elevations ranging from 98 to 2,297 feet. Blooming period is from March to July.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Deinandra paniculata</i> paniculate tarplant	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Typically found in vernal mesic, sometimes sandy soils in coastal scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools. Found at elevations ranging from 82 to 3,084 feet. Blooming period is from April to November.	No	Low. Marginal habitat is present within the Project Site.
<i>Diplacus aridus</i> low bush monkeyflower	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Grows in dry, rocky chaparral. Found at elevations ranging from 2,165 to 3,871 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i> many-stemmed dudleya	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Often occurs on clay soils and around granitic outcrops in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and grasslands. From 0 to 2,592 feet in elevation. Blooming period is from April to July.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Dudleya viscida</i> sticky dudleya	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Found in coastal scrub, coastal bluff scrub, chaparral, and cismontane woodland on north- and south-facing cliffs and banks. Grows at elevations ranging from 33 to 1,804 feet. Blooming period is from May to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i> San Diego buttoncelery	FED: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Occurs in mesic soils in coastal scrub and valley and foothill grasslands, and around vernal pools. Found at elevations ranging from 66 to 2,034 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Erythranthe diffusa</i> Palomar monkeyflower	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Occurs in sandy soils in chaparral and lower montane coniferous forests. Found at elevations ranging from 4,002 to 6,004 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Geothallus tuberosus</i> Campbell's liverwort	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Grows in mesic soils in coastal scrub and vernal pool habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 30 to 2,000 feet. This species does not bloom.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i> Palmer's grapplinghook	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Occurs on clay soils in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands habitats. Grows in elevation from 66 to 3,133 feet. Blooming period ranges from March to May.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Hesperocyparis forbesii</i> Tecate cypress	FED: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Grows in clay, gabbroic, or metavolcanic soils within closed-cone coniferous forest and chaparral habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 260 to 4,920 feet.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Holocarpa virgata</i> ssp. <i>elongata</i> curving tarplant	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Found in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and cismontane woodland. Found at elevations from 197 to 3,609 feet. Blooming period is from May to November.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Hordeum intercedens</i> vernal barley	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Found in coastal dunes, coastal scrub, vernal pools, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 16 to 3,281 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Horkelia truncate</i> Ramona horkelia	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.3	Occurs in clay soils in mixed chaparral, vernal streams, and disturbed areas. Found at elevations ranging from 1,312 to 4,265 feet. Blooming period is from May to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Juglans californica</i> southern California black walnut	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 164 to 2,953 feet. Blooming period is from March to August.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Juncus luciensis</i> Santa Lucia dwarf rush	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Occurs in wet soils in vernal pools, seeps, streambanks, and meadows. Found at elevations ranging from 984 to 6,233 feet. Blooming period is from April to July.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i> Robinson's peppergrass	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Dry soils on chaparral and coastal sage scrub from 66 to 4,396 feet in elevation. Blooming period ranges from January to July.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Lilium humboldtii</i> ssp. <i>ocellatum</i> ocellated humboldt lily	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Occurs in openings within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and riparian woodland. Found at elevations ranging from 98 to 5,906 feet. Blooming period is from March to August.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Lilium parryi</i> lemon lily	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Prefers lower montane coniferous forest, riparian forests, upper montane coniferous forests, meadows and seeps. Found at elevations ranging from 4,003 to 9,006 feet. Blooming period is from July to August.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Limnanthes alba</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i> Parish's meadowfoam	FED: None CA: END CNPS: 1B.2	Grows in vernal mesic soils within lower montane coniferous forest, meadow and seep, and vernal pool habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 1,970 to 6,560 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Microseris douglasii</i> ssp. <i>platycarpa</i> small-flowered microseris	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Occurs in clay soils in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and around vernal pools. Found at elevations ranging from 49 to 3,510 feet. Blooming period is from March to May.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Monardella hypoleuca</i> ssp. <i>intermedia</i> intermediate monardella	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.3	Grows in understories within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and occasionally lower montane coniferous forest habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 1,300 to 4,100 feet. blooming period is from April to September.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Myosurus minimus</i> ssp. <i>Apus</i> little mouseltail	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 3.1	Occurs in areas that have semi-regular inundation in association with vernal pools, alkali vernal pools, and alkali grassland. The species is primarily restricted to clay or alkali soils on alkali vernal floodplains. Found at elevations ranging from 66 to 2,100 feet above msl. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i> spreading navarretia	FED: THR CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Grows in chenopod scrub, assorted shallow freshwater marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools. Found at elevations ranging from 98 to 2,149 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Navarretia prostrata</i> prostrate vernal pool navarretia	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools. Grows in elevation from 49 to 2,297 feet in elevation. Blooming period ranges from April to July.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Orcuttia californica</i> California Orcutt grass	FED: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Primarily restricted to the southern basaltic claypan vernal pools at the Santa Rosa Plateau, and alkali vernal pools at Skunk Hollow, and at Salt Creek. Grows in elevations ranging from 45 to 2,165 feet above msl. Blooming period is from April to August.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Piperia cooperi</i> chaparral rein orchid	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Occurs in dry soils on in heavily vegetated coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, and chaparral. Found at elevations to 4,921 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Polygala cornuta</i> var. <i>fishiae</i> Fish's milkwort	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and riparian woodland. Found at elevations ranging from 328 to 3,281 feet. Blooming period is from May to August.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Pseudognaphalium</i> <i>leucocephalum</i> white rabbit-tobacco	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodlands in sandy gravelly soils. Grows in elevation from 3 to 6,890 feet in elevation. Blooming period ranges from July to December.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Quercus engelmannii</i> Engelmann oak	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. Found at elevations ranging from 164 to 4,265 feet. Blooming period is from March to June.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Romneya coulteri</i> Coulter's matilija poppy	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Found in recently burned areas within chaparral and coastal scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 66 to 3,937 feet. Blooming period is from March to July.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Scutellaria bolanderi</i> ssp. <i>austromontana</i> southern mountains skullcap	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Typically grows on the moist embankments of montane creeks. Found at elevations ranging from 1,936 to 7,841 feet above msl. Blooming period is from June to August.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-Site	Potential to Occur
<i>Sibaropsis hammittii</i> Hammitt's clay-cress	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Grows in clay soils within openings of chaparral habitat and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 2,360 to 3,500 feet. Blooming period is from March to April.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Sphaerocarpos drewei</i> bottle liverwort	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Grows in openings within chaparral and coastal scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 200 to 1,970 feet. This species does not bloom.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i> San Bernardino aster	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools. Grows in elevation from 49 to 2,297 feet in elevation. Blooming period ranges from April to July.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
<i>Tetracoccus dioicus</i> Parrys tetracoccus	FED: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Occurs on stony, decomposed gabbro soils within chaparral and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 492 to 3,281 feet. Blooming period is from April to May.	No	Presumed Absent. There is no suitable habitat present.
CDFW SENSITIVE HABITATS				
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	CDFW Sensitive Habitat	Open to locally dense evergreen riparian woodlands dominated by <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> . This type appears to be richer in herbs and poorer in understory shrubs than other riparian communities. Bottomlands and outer floodplains along larger streams, on fine-grained, rich alluvium. Canyons and valleys of coastal southern California.	No	Absent
Southern Interior Basalt Flow Vernal Pool	CDFW Sensitive Habitat	Found only on the Santa Rosa Plateau in Western Riverside County, dominated by native annual plants, with low to moderate levels of perennial herbaceous cover. Concentric rings of flora species often present as the pool evaporates.	No	Absent
Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland	CDFW Sensitive Habitat	Occurs below 2,000 meters in elevation, sycamore and alder often occur along seasonally-flooded banks; cottonwoods and willows are also often present. Poison oak, mugwort, elderberry and wild raspberry may be present in understory.	No	Absent
Valley Needlegrass Grassland	CDFW Sensitive Habitat	Occur as patches of native grasslands within valleys. Dominated by perennial bunch grasses with herbaceous annuals intermixed. Supports early successional sub-shrub and suffrutescent species.		Absent

Source: (ELMT, 2024). See **Appendix B**

Notes:

**Species having low to high potential to occur at the Project Site are grey filled.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Fed) -Federal
END- Federal Endangered
THR- Federal Threatened

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CA) - California
END- California Endangered
THR- California Threatened
Candidate- Candidate for listing under the California Endangered Species Act
FP- California Fully Protected
SSC- Species of Special Concern
WL- Watch List

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Rare Plant Rank
1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
2B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere
3 Plants About Which More Information is Needed – A Review List
4 Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List

CNPS Threat Ranks
0.1- Seriously threatened in California
0.2- Moderately threatened in California
0.3- Not very threatened in California

Western Riverside County MSHCP
Yes- Fully covered.
No- Not covered.
Yes (a)- May require surveys under MSHCP Section 6.1.2
Yes (b)- May require surveys under MSHCP Section 6.1.3
Yes (c)- May require surveys under MSHCP Section 6.3.2
Yes (d)- May require surveys within Criteria Areas under MSHCP Section 6.3.2
Yes (e)- Conditionally covered pending the achievement of species-specific conservation measures.



- 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?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The Project Site does not support any discernible drainage courses and would have no direct impacts on riparian habitat, inundated areas, wetland features, or hydric soils that would be considered jurisdictional by the Corps, Regional Board, or CDFW. There is one (1) unnamed drainage/roadside ditch near the entrance to the Project Site at El Calamar Road. This roadside ditch was created when a concrete lined v-ditch was installed along the northern boundary of the driveway entering the Project Site and is not jurisdictional.

The Project will be implemented within current limits of disturbance within the Project Site and are restricted to areas which support preexisting development and disturbed vegetation. Therefore, the Project activities will not result in direct impacts on sensitive natural communities regulated by Corps (Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 404), Regional Board (CWA, Section 401), or Riverside Conservation Authority (MSHCP). The Project will implement BMPs for water quality to mitigate downstream, temporary impacts from erosion and pollution in surface waters during construction to protect water quality and beneficial uses in receiving waters. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, and no Mitigation Measures are needed.

- c) **Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The Project will not have direct impacts on state or federally protected wetlands. No jurisdictional drainage and/or wetland features were observed at the Project Site during the field investigation or upon review of USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Program "My Waters" data layers. No further surveys are recommended.

As a result, no impacts are anticipated; therefore, no Mitigation Measures are needed.

- 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?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. In accordance with the MSHCP, the Project Site has not been identified as occurring in a wildlife corridor or linkage. A preconstruction nesting bird survey will be implemented and there will be no impacts on migratory birds. The closest migratory wildlife corridor is located approximately 0.7 miles northeast of the Project Site in association with the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Preserve. The proposed Project will be confined to existing areas of the Project Site that are fenced and have been heavily disturbed/developed; therefore, the Project will not impact wildlife corridors. As such, implementation of the proposed Project is not expected to impact wildlife movement opportunities and the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Therefore, impacts to wildlife corridors or linkages are not expected to occur. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

- e) **Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The proposed Project does not anticipate the removal of trees due to Project activities. Therefore, conflicts with local tree preservation policies or ordinances are not anticipated. The Project is within the boundaries of the Western Riverside MSHCP and would not conflict with MSHCP policies because Project-related modifications would only occur within existing developed and disturbed areas. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

- 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?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. As mentioned above, the Project Site is within the Stephan's King Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan (SKR HCP). However, Section 10(d) of the Ordinance specifically exempts development of any parcel used by local, state or federal entities for governmental purposes (i.e., public works, schools) from payment of mitigation fees. As such, this Project is a public works project and RCWD is exempt from fee payment (Section 10(d) of Riverside County Ordinance 663.10). Therefore the Project does not anticipate significant impacts to the SKR HCP.



In addition to the SKR HCP, the Project Site is within the Western Riverside County MSHCP. The Project will implement BMPs for maintenance of water quality and erosion control. Therefore, Project implementation will not result in impacts to areas covered under the Western Riverside County MSHCP. The Project will not impact sensitive resources that are managed under the MSHCP either directly or indirectly with the implementation of mitigation measures and BMPs. See *Table 11: Western Riverside County MSHCP Consistency* below.

TABLE 11: WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP CONSISTENCY

Western Riverside County MSHCP Minimization Measures	Project Consistency
Section 6.1.2: Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/ Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools	According to the Western Riverside County MSHCP, the protection of riparian/ riverine areas and vernal pools would occur within the MSHCP Plan Area to ensure that the “biological functions and values of these areas throughout the MSHCP Plan Area are maintained” (WRC MSHCP, RCTLMA). The MSHCP also notes the protection of riparian/ riverine areas and vernal pools are important for the conservation of listed species including: - Arroyo Toad - Mountain Yellow-legged frog - California red-legged frog - Bald eagle - Least Bell’s vireo - Peregrine falcon - Southwestern willow flycatcher - Western yellow-billed cuckoo - Santa ana sucker - Riverside fairy shrimp - Vernal fairy shrimp - Brad’s phacelia - California Orcutt grass - California black walnut - Coulter’s matilija poppy - Engelmann oak - Fish’s milkwort - Graceful tarplant - Lemon lily - Mojave tarplant - Mud nama - Ocellated Humboldt lily - Orcutt’s brodiaea - Parish’s meadowfoam - Prostrate navarretia - San Diego button-celery - San Jacinto Valley crownscale - San Miguel savory - Santa Ana River woolly-star - Slender-horned spine flower - Smooth tarplant - Spreading nararretia - Thread-leaved broadiaea - Vernal barley During the biological field survey, no riparian/ riverine resources or vernal pools were found onsite. In addition, literature reviews did not indicate significant impacts to federally or State listed species known to occur in the general vicinity of the Project Site (Appendix B- ELMT Consulting 2024). The Project Biologist determined no fish or amphibians or hydrogeomorphic features (e.g., perennial creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs) would be directly impacted by the Project. In addition, the species of significance to riparian/ riverine and vernal pools (listed above) were evaluated by the Project Biologist. <i>Table 10: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources</i>, outlines the species potential for occurrence. The Project will implement Biological Resources Mitigation Measures MM BIO-01: Preconstruction Bird Nesting Clearance Survey. It will require preconstruction bird nesting surveys so that potentially significant impacts would not result from the Project. Specifically, Mitigation Measures MM BIO-01: Preconstruction Bird



Western Riverside County MSHCP Minimization Measures	Project Consistency
	Nesting Clearance Survey will aid in the protection of nesting birds and birds of prey that could be affected by construction. As a result, the Project will remain consistent with Section 6.1.2 of the Western Riverside County MSHCP.
Section 6.1.3: Protection of the Narrow Endemic Plant Species	Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP requires that “site-specific focused surveys of Narrow Endemic Plant Species shall be required for all public and private projects where appropriate habitat is present” (WRC MSHCP, RCTLMA). The Narrow Endemic Plant Species for the MSHCP include: - Brand's phacelia - <i>Phacelia stellaris</i> - California Orcutt grass - <i>Orcuttia californica</i> - Hammitt's clay-cress - <i>Sibaropsis hammittii</i> (F) - Johnston's rockcress - <i>Arabis johnstonii</i> (F) - Many-stemmed dudleya - <i>Dudleya multicaulis</i> - Munz's mariposa lily - <i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>munzii</i> (F) - Munz's onion - <i>Allium munzii</i> - San Diego ambrosia - <i>Ambrosia pumila</i> - San Jacinto Mountains bedstraw - <i>Galium angustifolium</i> ssp. <i>jacinticum</i> (F) - San Miguel savory (Santa Rosa Plateau, Steele Rock) - <i>Satureja chandleri</i> - Slender-horned spine flower - <i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i> spreading navarretia - <i>Navarretia fossalis</i> - Wright's trichocoronis - <i>Trichocoronis wrightii</i> var. <i>wrightii</i> - Yucaipa onion - <i>Allium marvinii</i> Based on the field survey of existing conditions, the Biological Resources Report, Table D-1: Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources, reports narrow endemic plant species were not found and presumed absent at the Project Site due to the lack of suitable conditions. The site consists of primarily vacant, undeveloped land that has been subject to a variety of anthropogenic disturbances. During the biological field survey, a buckwheat scrub plant community and non-native grassland plant community were found adjacent to the Project Site. As a result of the absence of narrow endemic plant species, site-specific focused surveys pursuant to Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP are not required for the proposed Project. The Project will remain consistent with Section 6.1.3. During Project construction, environmental awareness training, preconstruction surveys and continuous monitoring will occur at the Project Site pursuant to MM BIO-01.
Section 6.1.4: Urban/Wildland Interface Guidelines	Guidelines within Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP address indirect effects associated with developments in proximity to MSHCP Conservation Areas, to ensure indirect impacts and potentially significant impacts to Edge Effects are minimized. Impacts within Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP include drainage, toxics, lighting, noise, invasives, barriers, and grading/ land development. Since the Project will implement subterranean infrastructure in connection with approved plans for the Project Site and surrounding area, permanent impacts are not anticipated. Areas of active construction are proposed within the RCWD's existing utility easement. The proposed Project's temporary impact on the following resources are outlined below. 1. Drainage: The proposed Project will comply with the NPDES requirements during construction to ensure that the quantity, rate, and quality of runoff discharged into jurisdictional water of the U.S. during Project construction does not result in significant pollution affecting habitat in receiving waters, water quality or beneficial uses. 2. Toxics: The proposed Project will not utilize chemicals or generate bioproducts such as manure, which is potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife species. Structural and nonstructural minimization measures and BMPs will be implemented pursuant to the NPDES requirements during Project construction to reduce pollution, ensure erosion control, and filter runoff prior to discharge into the municipal storm drain system and comply with the SCAQMD's air toxics rule. BMPs pursuant to the NPDES General Permit include inspection reports, monitoring reports, maintenance of storm drain or natural channel, and 48-hour advance notification of any anticipated discharges to the District, etc. 3. Lighting: Project construction will not take place during nighttime hours nor will the Project result in long-term, permanent lighting sources. Therefore, the proposed Project will not contribute to significant ambient lighting. See impacts to Aesthetic Resources within the Project's ISMND, Section I.



Western Riverside County MSHCP Minimization Measures	Project Consistency
	4. Noise: The proposed Project will install a potable water pipeline and an emergency generator within an enclosure, as a result the County's daytime exterior noise standard of 65 dBA Leq (10-minute) would not be exceeded at any affected parcel with concurrent operation of the three 350 hp pumps and the proposed generator, or with operation of the pumps alone at any of the affected receptors. In addition, The County's nighttime exterior noise standard of 40 dBA Leq (10-minute) would be exceeded at the parcel northwest of the Project Site. See <i>Table 17: Project Operational Noise Levels</i>. Exterior noise levels due to operation of the three 350 hp pumps with or without operation of the backup generator would fall below the interior noise daytime and nighttime noise standards of 40 dBA Leq and 55 dBA Leq (10-minute) respectively. Considering that typical residential construction provides 15 dB of exterior to interior noise reduction (assuming a windows open condition), interior noise levels are expected to range between 20 and 21 dBA Leq inside the affected habitable dwellings. This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is required. The emergency generator will be used intermittently, throughout onsite operations. Therefore, increased long-term ambient noise levels will not result from the Project. Temporary construction activities have the potential to increase ambient noise levels on a temporary and intermittent basis. Long-term Project operations will result in less than significant impacts. Construction will implement noise control measures including application of mufflers, noise-sensitive buffers and barriers pursuant to BMP NOI-01: Noise Best Management Practices, and continuous monitoring by the Project Contractor and biologist will ensure noise levels are sufficiently reduced. 5. Invasives: Landscaping improvements are not proposed with the Project. Clean fill, absent of plant material and debris, will be used as backfill for excavated areas. 6. Barriers: Due to the scope of the Project, it is anticipated that construction, as proposed, would not significantly interfere with wildlife migration as the Project Vicinity is mainly undeveloped and there is sufficient open space surrounding the Project Site to facilitate migration. The Project Site will be returned to pre project conditions after construction is complete. 7. Grading/ Land Development: Earthwork activities will be limited to the area within the RCWD parcel. As a result of the above, the Project will remain consistent with Section 6.1.4 of the Western Riverside County MSHCP.

For the reasons above, impacts from the Project are less than significant with the incorporation of Mitigation Measures **MM BIO-01: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Clearance Survey**.

MITIGATION MEASURE

MM BIO-01: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Clearance Survey. If construction occurs between February 1 and August 31, the District shall obtain a qualified biologist to conduct a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting birds should be conducted within three (3) days of the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction. The biologist conducting the clearance survey should document a negative survey with a brief letter report submitted to the RCWD indicating that no impacts to active avian nests will occur. If an active avian nest is discovered during the pre-construction clearance survey, construction activities should stay outside of a no-disturbance buffer. The size of the no-disturbance buffer will be determined by the wildlife biologist and will depend on the level of noise and/or surrounding anthropogenic disturbances, line of sight between the nest and the construction activity, type and duration of construction activity, ambient noise, species habituation, and topographical barriers. These factors will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis when developing buffer distances. Limits of construction to avoid an active nest will be established in the field with flagging, fencing, or other appropriate barriers; and construction personnel will be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas. A biological monitor should be present to delineate the boundaries of the buffer area and to monitor the active nest to ensure that nesting behavior is not adversely affected by the construction activity. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, construction activities within the buffer area can occur.



5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the Project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

California Public Resources Code 15064.5

The following regulations are applicable to cultural resources that could be found at the Project Site:

California Code of Regulations Title 14 Subsection 15064.5 generally defines historically significant cultural resources as any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is:

- A resource listed or eligible for listing by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR)
- A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code, or identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements section 5024.1(g), (listed as historical by local ordinance)
- A resource a lead agency determines to be historically significant.

California Code of Regulations §15064.5 relating to historical resources pertains to environmental changes impacting any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript meeting the following criteria:

1. Events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
2. The lives of persons important in our past.
3. 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.
4. Resources which have yielded, or may likely yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are considered eligible for listing in the CRHR and thus are significant historical resources for the purpose of CEQA (PRC Section 5024.1(d)(1)).

CEQA Section 21083.2

CEQA Section 21083.2 requires that the CEQA Lead Agency determine whether a project may have a significant effect on unique archaeological resources. A unique archaeological resource is defined in as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that there is a high probability that it:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions, and there is demonstrable public interest in that information;
- Has a special or particular quality, such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

California Health and Safety Code Section 8100

Section 8100 of the California Health and Safety Code defines a cemetery as six or more human burials at one location. Disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony (Health and Safety Code Section 7052). Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code requires that if human remains are found during construction or excavation, the activities be stopped until



the county coroner can determine if the remains are Native American. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner must then contact the NAHC, which has jurisdiction pursuant to PRC Section 5097.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Project Site is located in California's Peninsular Range geologic province that encompasses Riverside County. Geological material in the Local Vicinity is mostly cretaceous plutonic rock consisting of hornblende diorite to gabbro (Tan, 2000; BCR Consulting, 2024); and metamorphosed sedimentary rocks, such as metamorphosed quartzite, are also found near the Project Site. The field survey indicates exposed sediment included yellowish-brown, silty sand with poorly sorted gravels and cobbles mixed throughout. The area south of the Project Site has been cultivated as early as 1967 (United States Department of Agriculture 1938, 1947, 1967, 1978).

Review of aerial photos indicate Project Site was undeveloped until sometime between 1967 and 1978, when two steel tanks were constructed. Construction of the existing tanks occurred between 1975 and 1978 and the tanks are of historic age. Two historic-period steel water tanks were recorded, and described in detail and evaluated for California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) listing eligibility; this evaluation is documented on a completed Department of Park and Recreation 523 Form as follows:

ARD2402-H-1. This resource consists of two (existing) steel water tanks. According to a Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company badge on the south tank, construction was completed in 1975. The south tank has a diameter of 100 feet and an approximate height of 35 feet. According to historic aerial photographs, the north tank was constructed between 1976 and 1978 and has a diameter of 120 feet and an approximate height of 35 feet (United States Department of Agriculture 1976, 1978).

The Project Site is situated within the traditional boundaries of the Luiseño (BCR Consulting, 2024; Bean and Shipek, 1978; Kroeber, 1925). The term "Luiseno" was commonly used to refer to people that were living within the "ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Mission San Luis Rey... [and who shared] an ancestral relationship which is evident in their cosmogony, and oral tradition, common language, and reciprocal relationship in ceremonies" (BCR Consulting, 2024; Oxendine, 1983:8). The Luiseño caught and collected seasonally available food resources and led a semi-sedentary lifestyle. Luiseño villages generally were located in valley bottoms, along streams, or along coastal strands near mountain ranges sheltered in canyons, near a water source, and in a location that was easily defended; and focused primarily on family within smaller communities.

DISCUSSION

The following responses are based on a Cultural Resources Assessment conducted by BCR Consulting LLC, dated March 22, 2024 (See **Appendix C**). Conclusions and recommendations are based on research, a cultural resources records search, a Sacred Lands File search, and intensive-level pedestrian cultural resources field survey performed on February 12, 2024. David Brunzell M.A., R.P.A. acted as Principal Investigator, provided project oversight, and authorized the technical report with contributions from BCR Consulting Staff Archeologist Doug Kazmier, B.A., and BCR Consulting Archeological Crew Chief Nicholas Sheptuk, B.A. Central Information Center (CCIC) staff completed the cultural resources records search through its archive at Eastern Information Center (EIC) at the University of California, Riverside. BCR Consulting Staff Archaeologist, John Defachelle and Pechanga Band of Indians Monitor Puma Martin completed the field survey on February 12, 2024, by walking parallel transects spaced approximately 10-15 meters apart across 100 percent of the accessible Project Site

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Findings were positive during the Sacred Lands File search with the NAHC; therefore, the Pechanga Band of Indians and with Soboba Band of Luiseno were contacted regarding the Project and consultation pursuant to AB 52 to further define the extent of historical significance of the Project Site.

The records search for the Project revealed 10 cultural resource studies have taken place, and one cultural resource was recorded within the Local Vicinity, consisting of a ½ mile radius from the Project Site. Of these studies none have assessed the Project Site for cultural resources and no cultural resources have been previously identified within the Project boundaries. See *Table 12: Cultural Resources within One-Half Mile of the Project Site*.



TABLE 12: CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN ONE-HALF MILE OF THE PROJECT SITE

USGS 7.5 Min Quad	Primary No.	Period	Resource	Approx. Distance from Project Site
Fallbrook, California (1988)	P-33-5186	Prehistoric	Bedrock Milling Feature	0.4 Miles SW

Source: BCR Consulting, 2024

Notes: * Occurred Within the Local Vicinity.

The two steel water tanks are historic in age and were evaluated by the Project archaeologist for historical significance under the four criteria established for the CRHR. This evaluation concludes that the tanks are not considered historical. The tanks are not individually linked to an event that has made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history and are not eligible under Criterion 1. The water tanks are not associated with any individual significant in the past, and are not eligible under Criterion 2. The water tanks are of ubiquitous design and are not eligible under Criterion 3. Lastly, the steel water tanks have not and are not likely to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the region and are not eligible for California Register consideration under Criterion 4. Based on these results, ARD2401-H-1 is not eligible for California Register listing and is not recommended a historical resource under CEQA.

No other visible cultural materials (including historic-period or prehistoric archaeological resources or historic-period built environment resources) were identified within the Project Site during the field survey and, construction within engineered and previously disturbed soils is not expected to yield buried historical resources; Earthwork within native soils has the potential to uncover buried cultural resources, as defined pursuant to § 15064.5 and for this reason Mitigation Measure **MM CUL-01: Archeological Monitoring**, **MM CUL-02: Worker Environmental Awareness Training**, **MM CUL-04: Inadvertent Finds**, & **MM CUL-05: Phase IV Report**. are recommended for preconstruction crew training and for monitoring by an archaeologist and Tribal representative from Pechanga Band of Indians, and establishment of procedures in the event cultural resources are discovered.

Therefore, less than significant impacts with mitigation to historical resources are anticipated.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Section 15064.5 identifies archaeological resources and Native American burials in archaeological sites, in addition to historic structures, as important cultural resources requiring protection from disturbance, vandalism, or inadvertent destruction, all of which are considered potentially significant impacts.

The current study indicates low sensitivity for unknown (buried) cultural resources within native soils; however, ground disturbing activities always have the potential to reveal buried deposits not observed on the surface. In the event that buried prehistoric or historical cultural resources are discovered at the Project Site, the District and Project Contractor shall implement Mitigation Measure **MM CUL-01: Archeological Monitoring**, **MM CUL-02: Worker Environmental Awareness Training**, **MM CUL-04: Inadvertent Finds**, & **MM CUL-05: Phase IV Report**. These Mitigation Measures will ensure field personnel are educated on Project-specific and local historic resources prior to ground disturbances, an archeological monitor is present during ground disturbing activities if earthworks uncover resources, and procedures including buffers, protection in place, and Phase IV Reports are conducted in the event subsurface cultural resources are encountered. The Mitigation Measures will ensure that construction does not cause significant impacts to archeological resources pursuant to Section 15064.5.

As a result, with the implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM CUL-01: Archeological Monitoring** **MM CUL-02: Worker Environmental Awareness Training**, **MM CUL-04: Inadvertent Finds**, & **MM CUL-05: Phase IV Report** less than significant impacts are anticipated.

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

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project Site has not been used as a cemetery; therefore, the likelihood of discovering human remains at the Project Site is relatively low. However, in the unlikely event that human remains are discovered during earthwork, Mitigation Measure **MM CUL-03: Discovery of Human Remains** is proposed and shall be implemented by the Project Contractor to result in less than significant impact.

MITIGATION MEASURES



MM CUL-01: Archeological Monitoring. Prior to start of construction, RCWD shall retain an archaeological monitor for all grading, trenching, and ground disturbance activities. The qualified archaeologist shall have the authority to stop or divert construction excavation as necessary in the event that suspected archaeological or tribal resources are unearthed during Project construction.

MM CUL-02: Worker Environmental Awareness Training. The Project archeologist and the Pechanga Tribe shall attend the pre-grading meeting with RCWD, the construction manager and any contractors and will conduct a mandatory Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training to those in attendance. The Training will include a brief review of the cultural sensitivity of the Project and the surrounding area; what resources could potentially be identified during earthmoving activities; the requirements of the monitoring program; the protocols that apply in the event inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources are identified, including who to contact and appropriate avoidance measures until the find(s) can be properly evaluated; and any other appropriate protocols. All new construction personnel that will conduct earthwork or grading activities that begin work on the Project following the initial Training must take the Cultural Sensitivity Training prior to beginning work and the Project archaeologist and the Pechanga Tribe shall make themselves available to provide the training on an as-needed basis.

MM CUL-03: Discovery of Human Remains. If human remains are encountered during the undertaking, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection and make recommendations within 48 hours of being granted access to the site.

MM CUL-04: Inadvertent Finds. If any subsurface cultural resources are encountered during Project construction, activities within 100 feet of the encounter shall be halted until the qualified monitors can examine these materials, determine their significance, and if significant, notify RCWD, Lead Project Archaeologist and the Pechanga Tribe. The Tribal and archaeological monitor will set up temporary ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area) fence at the 100 ft boundary. A meeting will be convened between the above parties to discuss the significance of the find and determine a plan that would reduce potential effects to a level that is less than significant to evaluate the find and implement appropriate mitigation measures. Recommended measures could include, but are not limited to,

- 1) Preservation in place, or
- 2) Controlled Grading or Trenching
- 3) Excavation, recovery, and reburial on site

If the parties find that any excavated cultural resources meet eligibility requirements for listing on the California Register or the National Register, plans for the treatment, evaluation, and mitigation of impacts to the find will need to be developed. Prehistoric or historic cultural materials that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities include:

- prehistoric flaked-stone artifacts and debitage (waste material), consisting of obsidian, basalt, and or cryptocrystalline silicates;
- groundstone artifacts, including mortars, pestles, and grinding slabs;
- historic-period artifacts such as glass bottles and fragments, cans, nails, ceramic and pottery fragments, and other metal objects;
- historic-period structural or building foundations, walkways, cisterns, pipes, privies, and other structural elements.

MM CUL-05: Phase IV Report. Prior to final inspection, the Project Archeologist is to submit two (2) copies of the Phase IV Cultural Resources Monitoring Report that complies with RCWD requirements for such reports. The Phase IV report shall include evidence of the required cultural/historical sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the pre-grade meeting. RCWD shall review the reports to determine adequate mitigation compliance. Provided the reports are adequate, the RCWD shall clear this condition. Once the report(s) are determined to be adequate, two (2) copies shall be submitted to the Eastern Information Center (EIC) at the University of California Riverside (UCR) and one (1) copy shall be submitted to the Pechanga Cultural Resources Department.

MM TRI-01: Native American Monitoring. See Section 5.18- Tribal Cultural Resources for more information.



6. ENERGY

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

EPA

Tier 2 Emissions Standards

The EPA has adopted multiple tiers of emission standards pertaining to the operation of diesel engines to reduce emission from nonroad diesel engines by integrating engine and fuel controls (EPA, n.d.). These standards provide thresholds for exhaust and evaporative emissions.

Energy Policy Act

The Energy Policy Act was adopted in 2005 to address energy production in the United States. Issues covered by the Act include (1) energy efficiency; (2) renewable energy; (3) oil and gas; (4) coal; (5) Tribal energy; (6) nuclear matters and security; (7) vehicles and motor fuels, including ethanol; (8) hydrogen; (9) electricity; (10) energy tax incentives; (11) hydropower and geothermal energy; and (12) climate change technology (EPA, n.d.).

Energy Star

ENERGY STAR is a joint program with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE). The purpose of the program is to help customers, businesses, and industry save money to protect the environment through the adoption of energy-efficient products and practices (ENERGY.gov). There are programs set forth to provide specifications, testing procedures, and verification testing for equipment that is verified by ENERGY star. For commercial uses, the program has developed the Commercial Building Energy Asset Score Program to allow building owners, managers, and operators to more accurately assess building energy performance.

California Energy Commission

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is a planning and policy agency responsible for forecasting future energy needs, promoting energy efficiency, maintaining energy data, developing energy technology, promoting renewable energies, and planning for energy emergencies throughout California.

DISCUSSION

- a) **Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operation?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. Within the County of Riverside, there are 13 electricity generating facilities that generate a total of 1,382.466 MW of electricity (County of Riverside GP DEIR 2015). These facilities operate off fossil fuels like natural gas. In addition, within Riverside County there are 11 hydroelectric facilities, 28 wind farms, and 34 large solar thermal power plants. Amongst the three electricity providers serving unincorporated Riverside County, SCE will provide electricity to the Project Site since it is within their area of service (See *Figure 4.10.1- Electricity Providers Serving Riverside County* from Riverside County's GP EIR); the Project Site is within the jurisdiction of SoCal Gas; therefore SoCal Gas will provide the Project Site with natural gas if needed.

Energy consumption will occur during construction. Based on duration of construction (18 months) and anticipated equipment and phasing, it is anticipated that \$2.37 of electricity will be used for every 1,000 square feet of building construction per month (2021 National Construction Estimator; Ganddini, 2024); and CalEEMod Modeling estimates 59,876 gallons of diesel fuel will be used throughout Project construction. Using the CalEEMod data input for the air



quality and greenhouse gas analyses (Section 5.3 & 5.5), the Project's construction phase would consume electricity and fossil fuels as a single energy demand, that is, once construction is completed their use would cease. CARB's 2017 Emissions Factors Tables show that an average, aggregate fuel consumption (gasoline and diesel fuel) would be approximately 18.5 hp-hr-gal. Since construction worker trips are anticipated to produce 42,880 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), an estimated 1,648 gallons of fuel would be consumed for construction worker trips. In addition, an estimated 37 VMT will occur from vendor and hauling during mobilization and site preparation and pipe installation; therefore, an estimated 6 gallons of fuel would be consumed for vendor and hauling trips.

Construction equipment used over the approximately eighteen-month construction phase would conform to CARB regulations and California emissions standards and is evidence of related fuel efficiencies. There are no unusual Project characteristics or construction processes that would require the use of equipment that would be more energy intensive than is used for comparable activities; or equipment that would not conform to current emissions standards (and related fuel efficiencies). Equipment employed in construction of the Project would therefore not result in inefficient wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of fuel.

The Project would utilize construction contractors which practice compliance with applicable CARB regulations regarding retrofitting, repowering, or replacement of diesel off-road construction equipment. Additionally, CARB has adopted the Airborne Toxic Control Measure to limit heavy-duty diesel motor vehicle idling in order to reduce public exposure to Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) and other Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs). Compliance with these measures would result in a more efficient use of construction-related energy and would minimize or eliminate wasteful or unnecessary consumption of energy. Idling restrictions and the use of newer engines and equipment would result in less fuel combustion and energy consumption.

Additionally, as required by California Code of Regulations Title 13, Motor Vehicles, section 2449(d)(3) Idling, limits idling times of construction vehicles to no more than five minutes, thereby minimizing or eliminating unnecessary and wasteful consumption of fuel due to unproductive idling of construction equipment. Enforcement of idling limitations is realized through periodic site inspections conducted by County building officials, and/or in response to citizen complaints.

Therefore, as the Project's construction is required to comply with CARB regulations and does not include the need of construction processes that would require the use of equipment that is more energy efficient, the proposed Project annual construction related fuel consumption would not be considered significant.

Long-term Project operations will require additional staffing needs, which will produce a minimal number of daily worker trips for routine maintenance; and the use of one (1) emergency diesel generator anticipated to consume up to approximately 4,599.6 gallons of diesel per year from the average use of 12 hours per year. Therefore, the Project's transportation and operational energy consumption would not be considered inefficient, wasteful, or otherwise unnecessary. The pump station proposed at the Project Site will consist of four new 350 Hp pumps (3 duty pumps; one standby pump), will utilize approximately 6,898,500 kWh per year, which is assumed to be powered by electricity generated from natural gas. Since the existing facility operates two 350 Hp pumps, the net increase from the proposed Project is the additional diesel needed for the operation of the third 350 Hp pump.

In comparison to the Project, the County of Riverside non-residential sector's annual consumption in 2022 was approximately 8,720 million kWh of electricity and 147 million therms of gas. Therefore, the increase in both electricity and natural gas demand from the proposed Project is insignificant compared to the County's 2022 non-residential sector demand.

Furthermore, the proposed Project energy demands in total would be comparable to other water distribution projects of similar scale and configuration. Therefore, the Project's facilities' energy demands, and energy consumption would not be considered inefficient, wasteful, or otherwise unnecessary.

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

RESPONSE:

No Impact. Regarding federal transportation regulations, the Project Site is located in an already developed area. Access to/from the Project Site is from existing roads. These roads are already in place so the Project would not interfere with, nor otherwise obstruct intermodal transportation plans or projects that may be proposed pursuant to the Intermodal



Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) because SCAG is not planning for intermodal facilities in the Local Vicinity.

Regarding Pavley (AB 1493) regulations, an individual project does not have the ability to comply or conflict with these regulations because they are intended for agencies and their adoption of procedures and protocols for reporting and certifying Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions from mobile sources. However, the vehicles associated with the proposed Project would be required to comply with federal and state fuel efficiency standards.

Regarding the State's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards, the Project would be required to meet or exceed the energy standards established in the California Green Building Standards Code, Title 24, Part 11 (CALGreen). CALGreen Standards require that new buildings reduce water consumption, employ building commissioning to increase building system efficiencies, divert construction waste from landfills, and install low pollutant-emitting finish materials. As this is mainly a construction Project, with no buildings being constructed, only construction waste regulations would apply.

The proposed Project would be consistent with the goals of County of Riverside CAP Update. The CAP includes measures on energy efficiency and clean energy use. The Project's consistency with applicable energy-related CAP reduction measures is provided in *Table 14: Project Consistency with County of Riverside CAP Energy Reduction Measures*. The table illustrates that the Project is consistent with the applicable energy-related measures.

The standard application of the County and District's plan review processes will result in compliance with state and local development standards implementing energy efficiency requirements. For these reasons, less than significant impacts are anticipated. Therefore, no Mitigation Measures are needed.



7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. 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 direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act

California's Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (Alquist-Priolo Act) (PRC Section 2621 et seq.), originally enacted in 1972 as the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zones Act and renamed in 1994, is intended to reduce the risk to life and property from surface fault rupture during earthquakes. The Alquist-Priolo Act prohibits the location of most types of structures



intended for human occupancy across the traces of active faults and strictly regulates construction in the corridors along active faults (earthquake fault zones). It also defines criteria for identifying active faults, giving legal weight to terms such as active, and establishes a process for reviewing building proposals in and adjacent to earthquake fault zones.

Under the Alquist-Priolo Act, faults are zoned and construction along or across them is regulated if they are active. "A fault is considered well defined if its trace can be clearly identified by a trained geologist at the ground surface or in the shallow subsurface, using standard professional techniques, criteria, and judgment.

CEQA: Paleontological Resources

CEQA provides guidance relative to significant impacts on paleontological resources, indicating that a project will have a significant impact on paleontological resources if it disturbs or destroys a unique paleontological resources or site or unique geologic feature. Section 5097.5 of the California Public Resources Code specifies that any unauthorized removal of paleontological remains is a misdemeanor. Further, California Penal Code Section 622.5 sets penalties for damage or removal of paleontological resources. CEQA documentation prepared for projects would be required to analyze paleontological resources as a condition of the CEQA process to disclose potential impacts. Please note that as of January 2018 paleontological resources are considered in the geological rather than cultural category.

DISCUSSION

The responses within these sections are based on technical reports outlining the baseline conditions of the soil composition. Specifically, the IS/MND used the following resources:

- **Appendix C:** Cultural Resources Assessment, Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project, Riverside County, California, prepared by BCR Consulting LLC on March 22, 2024.
- **Appendix D:** Geotechnical Exploration, El Calamar Road and Via Escalon 24-inch PW Pipeline, De Luz Area, Riverside County, California, prepared by Leighton on May 20th, 2020.

- 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.**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. Fault areas classified under the Alquist-Priolo fault zones are considered the highest risk fault; however, the Project Site does not contain Alquist-Priolo designated fault zones. The Project Site and surrounding areas are subject to seismic activity from north-west trending regional fault systems such as the San Andreas, San Jacinto, and Elsinore fault zones (Leighton, 2020). According to the Department of Conservation, Fault Activity Map of California, the Project Site is not located near a mapped fault line (CA DOC, 2015; Riverside County Hazards Maps, 2024). The closest fault lines are Wildomar and Murrietta Creek, part of Elsinore Fault zone, located approximately 10.2 and 11 miles east of the Project Site. Since the Project Site is not within mapped fault zones or within the confines of active fault traces or their associated Alquist- Priolo Fault Zones, it is unlikely for the potential of ground displacement to occur outside of them. Therefore, construction will not likely result in substantially increased exposure to risk from an earthquake fault. Over the long-term the Project will not increase the level of human activity or exposure to risk of loss from an earthquake fault, because maintenance and operations of the pump station will remain unchanged from existing conditions.

For these reasons, no impact is anticipated in association with fault rupture. This includes the risk of loss, injury, or death, which are not anticipated to occur at the Project Site or other properties in the Local Vicinity. Therefore, no Mitigation Measures are needed.

- ii. **Strong seismic ground shaking?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. See Response 7, a) i). All of California is subject to potential seismic activity, and areas within proximity of fault zones are subject to regulations minimizing risk associated with ground shaking. The Project Area Site is subject to ground shaking due to its geographic location; however, the Project Site is not within a fault zone and there is nothing unique about the location of the Project that would make it more susceptible to strong seismic ground shaking above general earthquake susceptibility levels at similar locations within the state. The severity of shaking is dependent on proximity with active faults and the estimated maximum ground acceleration of the fault. Since the Project is located more than 10 miles from fault lines, significant impacts resulting from seismic ground shaking are not anticipated. The Geotechnical Exploration report for the El Camar Road and Via Escalon 24-



inch PW Pipeline, a previously approved project within the Local Vicinity, indicated that the chance of ground rupture within this area is considered very low (Leighton, 2020).

As a result, less than significant impacts from strong seismic ground shaking are anticipated. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

iii. **Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. Reference Response 7, a) i) and ii). Liquefaction, as defined by the California Department of Conservation, is “the transformation of granular materials from a solid state into a liquefied state as a consequence of increased pore-water pressure” (CA Department of Conservation 2023). Additionally, liquefaction is anticipated in areas where the groundwater is less than 30 feet from the surface.

According to the California Department of Conservation, Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation Map, the Project Site is not within areas identified as having high susceptibility to liquefaction or landslide potential (CA DOC n.d.). Low liquefaction potential at the Project Site is a result of the Project Site being underlain with primarily dense older alluvium or granite rock, which are not prone to liquefaction or dynamic settlement (Leighton, 2020). The Project will undergo design review and inspection for compliance with the District’s Engineering Standards.

For these reasons, the proposed Project is not highly susceptible to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, and no Mitigation Measures are needed.

iv. **Landslides?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. See Response 7, a) i) through iii) above. According to the Department of Conservation, Landslide Inventory Map, the Project Site is not highly susceptible to landslides (CA Department of Conservation, 2015). The Project Site is relatively flat and does not contain slopes. The highest point of elevation to the Project Site is north near the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Preserve (approximately 2.5 miles). Construction will require earthworks including open trench construction and excavation, which have the potential to create temporary steep slopes subject to failure. However, these slopes are subject to temporary reinforcements pursuant to Cal-OSHA standards for building and utility trenching operations (29 CFR Section 1926.650; 29 CFR Section 1926.625), and the California Division of Industrial Safety.

As a result of the implementation of the District’s Standard Specifications and the Project Site’s relatively flat topography, potential impacts from landslides throughout temporary Project construction and long-term operational use of the proposed Project components is anticipated to be less than significant. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

b) **Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. See Response 7, a) i) through iv) above. Project construction will consist of the following activities: (1) mobilization, (2) demobilization, (3) site preparation and pipeline installation, (4) pump station construction, and (5) final site work. Project construction will occur over a 18-month period and use equipment including a backhoe, two service trucks, Cat 235 Excavator with demolition hammer attachment, front end loader, two 15 cubic-yard dump trucks, two service trucks, crane, two chain saws, two scrapers, one tractor, Pug Mill Mixer, Bulldozer, one Front End Loader, two service trucks and haulers, as well as one Crane, Cat 235 Excavator, paving equipment. See Project Section 3.0: *Project Description, Project Construction* for more information. While Project construction is anticipated to involve open-trench construction and excavation, earthwork activities are anticipated to remain within the Pump Station’s existing footprint and area of disturbance. The Project will implement BMPs for temporary erosion control and dust control during construction in compliance with the RCWD’s standards for erosion control and water quality as well as SCAQMD Rule 403 for dust control.

As a result, substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil are not anticipated from Project construction. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant; therefore, no Mitigation Measures are needed.



- 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?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. According to the Department of Conservation, Geologic Map of California, the Project Site is underlain with a geologic composition comprised of alluvial fan deposits from the Pleistocene- Holocene age (approximately 2,580,000 to 11,700 years ago) (CA DOC, 2015). The Project Site and surrounding areas are elevated and will be subject to disturbance during earthwork that is consistent with engineering standards for safety pursuant to engineering standards established by the District Engineer and inspectors. Monitoring and inspections throughout construction-related ground disturbances that can alter soil stability, will ensure the Project is compliant with the District's "General Provisions *Article 18. Trenches* to ensure trench and backfill are stable throughout construction.

For these reasons, less than significant impact is anticipated from geologic units or soils that are unstable resulting in potential on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. Therefore, no Mitigation Measures are needed.

- d) **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?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. See Response 7, a) through c). Expansive soils undergo shrinking and swelling with changes in moisture. These characteristics are attributed to higher clay content within the soil. As expansive soils dry, the clay causes soils to shrink; when the moisture is reintroduced, the soils swell up. Developing infrastructure on low expansive potential is preferred since the soil will not change its volume depending on the moisture and will therefore provide a foundation that is more static. The Project is located on alluvium that has a Sand Equivalent of less than 20, and an Expansion Index of less than 21, and slight collapse potential (<3%) Leighton, 2020).

For these reasons above, the Project will not increase the potential for direct and indirect risks to life and property due to expansive soils, nor will the Project increase exposure to expansive soil hazards. Therefore, less than significant impacts are anticipated, and no Mitigation Measures are needed.

- e) **Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. Septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems are not existing at the Project Site and are not proposed with the Project. The Project will implement Project components that will not propose any changes to existing septic or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated; no Mitigation Measures are needed.

- f) **Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. A records search was conducted for the proposed Project with the Western Science Center, and a response was received on March 22, 2024 (See **Appendix C**). According to the Western Science Center, the geological units underlying the Project Site are mapped as gabbro units from the mid-Cretaceous Holocene epoch (Kennedy, Tan, Bovard, Alvarez, Watson, and Gutierrez 2007). Gabbro units are considered to be of low paleontological value, and the Western Science Center does not have localities within the Project Site or within a 1-mile radius. Should excavation activity associated with the Project extend beyond previous areas of disturbance into surrounding alluvial units, there is low potential that paleontological resources could be encountered. However, under current Project parameters, and with the geologic units described, it would be unlikely for fossil materials to be significantly impacted.

Therefore, less than significant impacts to direct and indirect destruction of unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features are anticipated. No Mitigation Measures are needed.



8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) trap heat in the atmosphere and can occur both naturally and from human activities. Sources of naturally occurring GHG include volcanic activity, respiration, and decomposition of plants. Climate data indicates a relationship between increased industrialization and continuously elevated atmospheric temperatures attributed to GHG. Human activities that are considered a continuous source of GHG emissions include electricity production, transportation, manufacturing, and agriculture. Greenhouse gases are formed via mixing of chemicals emitted into the atmosphere. Specific chemicals that are known to result in GHG include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrogen oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) (State Guidelines, Section (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15364.5 and Health and Safety Code, Section 38505(g))). Levels of GHGs in the atmosphere enhance the Greenhouse Gas Effect, resulting in trapped heat within earth's atmosphere leading to the continual warming of the earth's climate. According to the 2007 International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, global temperatures are anticipated to increase by approximately 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade (IPCC 2007). Due to the impacts greenhouse gas emissions have on the planet, Senate Bill (SB) 97 was signed into legislation in 2007. SB 97 required CEQA documents prepare feasible mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and evaluate potential effects.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The federal government administers a wide array of public-private partnerships to reduce the GHG intensity generated in the United States. The U.S. EPA is responsible for implementing federal policies and programs to address GHGs, which primarily focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, methane and other non-CO₂ gases, agricultural practices, and implementation of technologies to achieve GHG reductions.

CARB

Scoping Plan

The CARB Board approved a Climate Change Scoping Plan in December 2008. The Scoping Plan outlines the State's strategy to achieve the 2020 greenhouse gas emissions limit. The Scoping Plan "proposes a comprehensive set of actions designed to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions in California, improve our environment, reduce our dependence on oil, diversify our energy sources, save energy, create new jobs, and enhance public health" (CARB 2008). The measures in the Scoping Plan have been in place since 2012.

This Scoping Plan calls for an "ambitious but achievable" reduction in California's greenhouse gas emissions, cutting approximately 30 percent from business-as-usual emission levels projected for 2020, or about 10 percent from today's levels. On a per-capita basis, which means reducing annual emissions of 14 tons of carbon dioxide for every man, woman and child in California down to about 10 tons per person by 2020.

South Coast Air Quality Management District

SCAQMD Regulation XXVII Climate Change

SCAQMD Regulation XXVII currently includes three rules:

- The purpose of Rule 2700 is to define terms and post global warming potentials.
- The purpose of Rule 2701, SoCal Climate Solutions Exchange, is to establish a voluntary program to encourage, quantify, and certify voluntary, high quality certified GHG emission reductions in the SCAQMD.



- Rule 2702, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program, was adopted on February 6, 2009. The purpose of this rule is to create a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program for GHG emission reductions in the SCAQMD. The SCAQMD will fund projects through contracts in response to requests for proposals or purchase reductions from other parties.

Riverside County
Climate Action Plan

Riverside County adopted their Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2015, which set targets to reduce air emissions back to 1990 levels by the year 2020 pursuant to the AB 32 Scoping Plan. Goals and supporting measures were proposed within the County’s CAP to reflect and conform with changes in the local and State policies and regulations such as SB 32 and California’s 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan. Therefore, compliance with the County’s CAP in turn reflects consistency with the goals of the CARB Scoping Plan, Assembly Bill (AB) 32, and Senate Bill (SB) 32.

According to the County's CAP Update, projects that do not exceed emissions of 3,000 MTCO2e per year are also required to include the following efficiency measures:

- 3 Energy efficiency matching or exceeding the Title 24 requirements in effect as of January 2017, and;
- 3 Water conservation measures that matches the California Green Building Code in effect as of January 2017.

Projects that exceed emissions of 3,000 MTCO2e per year are also required to use Screening Tables. Projects that garner at least 100 points will be consistent with the reduction quantities anticipated in the County’s CAP Update. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines, such projects would be determined to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact for GHG emissions. Those projects that do not garner 100 points using the Screening Tables will need to provide additional analysis to determine the significance of GHG emissions.

DISCUSSION

The responses within this section are based on **Appendix A-** Air Quality, Global Climate Change, and Energy Impact Analysis for the Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project dated March 27, 2024, conducted by Ganddini. Results from the study are based on modeling from CalEEMod Version 2022.1.1.21, which was used to calculate the GHG emissions from the construction of the proposed Project. The construction-related GHG emissions were included in the analysis and were based on a 30-year amortization rate.

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. There is no construction threshold for GHG emissions. Therefore, per SCAQMD recommended methodology, construction-related GHG emissions were analyzed and were based on a 30-year amortization rate as recommended in the SCAQMD GHG Working Group meeting on November 19, 2009, and compared to the County of Riverside’s Climate Action Plan 3,000 MTCO2e/year operational GHG emissions threshold. The Project proposes to expand the existing Carancho Pump Station by replacing the existing pumps to increase overall capacity at the Pump Station.

Based on the parameters above, GHG emissions were calculated for the proposed Project (without credit for any reductions from sustainable design, and/or regulatory requirements) and are anticipated to be 1,700.30 MTCO2e per year. See *Table 13: Project-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions* below.

TABLE 13: PROJECT-RELATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Category	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tons/Year)					
	Bio-CO2	NonBio-CO2	CO2	CH4	N2O	CO2e
Maximum Annual Operations	1.25	1,676.00	1,678.00	0.23	0.01	23.10
Construction ¹	0.00	13.23	13.23	0.00	0.00	13.30
Total Emissions	1.25	1,689.23	1,691.23	0.23	0.01	1,700.30
County of Riverside CAP Update Screening Threshold						3,000
Exceeds Threshold?						No

Source: **Appendix A-** Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Energy Technical Memorandum, Ganddini 2023.

Notes: CalEEMod Version 2022.1.1.22 for Opening Year 2026

(1) Construction GHG emissions CO2e based on a 30-year amortization rate.



According to the thresholds of significance established above, a cumulative global climate change impact would occur if the GHG emissions created from the on-going operations of the proposed Project would exceed the County of Riverside CAP Update threshold of 3,000 MTCO₂e per year for all land uses. Therefore, as the total emissions for the proposed Project would not exceed the screening threshold of 3,000 MTCO₂e per year, operation of the proposed Project would not create a significant cumulative impact to global climate change. Therefore, the Project anticipates less than significant impacts. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

In addition, the Project is consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064h (3)⁸. The District, as lead agency, has determined that the Project’s contribution to cumulative GHG emissions and global climate change would be less than significant if the Project is consistent with the applicable regulatory plans and policies to reduce GHG emissions. See *Table 14: Project Consistency with County of Riverside CAP Energy Reduction Measures*, for Project consistency with energy reduction measures from Riverside County’s Climate Action Plan.

As a result, the Project does not anticipate significant impacts, less than significant impacts are anticipated. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

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

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. At a level of 1,700.30 MTCO₂e per year, the Project's GHG emissions would be in compliance with the reduction goals of the CARB Scoping Plan, AB-32 and SB-32. Furthermore, the Project will comply with applicable Green Building Standards and Title 24 regarding sustainability (as dictated by the County’s General Plan). Therefore, as the Project would comply with the goals of the County of Riverside CAP Update, the Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

In addition, given the Project’s consistency with the County of Riverside CAP Update emission reduction goals, the Project’s incremental contribution to GHG emissions and their effects on climate change would not be cumulatively considerable. See *Table 14: Project Consistency with County of Riverside CAP Energy Reduction Measure*.

Impacts are considered to be less than significant; no Mitigation Measures are needed.

TABLE 14: PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE CAP ENERGY REDUCTION MEASURES

Applicable Energy Related CAP Reduction Measure		Project Compliance with Measure
Energy Efficiency		
R1-EE1: California Building Code Title 24	California’s building efficiency standards are updated regularly to incorporate new energy efficiency technologies.	No Conflict. Any applicable portions of the proposed Project that is required to comply with the California Building Code Title 24 will comply.
R2-EE6: Energy Efficiency Training, Education and Recognition in the Commercial Sector	Education is at the core of attaining energy efficiency goals. Specific education measures emphasize the critical role of education in achieving energy efficiency. This measure provides County staff with a framework to interact with and educate the community about behavioral and technological changes that can increase energy efficiency in commercial buildings. Potential actions for this measure include: -Post energy-efficiency information or links on websites and/or social media and provide materials at public events -Set up an email list for blasts of new information or training sessions. -Encourage business owners to visit SCE Energy Education Centers for energy efficiency resources. -Promote and manage energy efficiency programs which are not already in the purview of Energy Service Providers. -Invite building inspectors to hold trainings semi-annually on energy efficiency and Title 24.	No Conflict. The proposed Project involves improvements to an existing pump station. The proposed Project would not hinder the County's energy education and training for the commercial sector.

⁸ The State CEQA Guidelines were amended in response to SB 97. In particular, the State CEQA Guidelines were amended to specify that compliance with a GHG emissions reduction program renders a cumulative impact insignificant. Per State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(h)(3), a project’s incremental contribution to a cumulative impact can be found not cumulatively considerable if the Project will comply with an approved plan or mitigation program that provides specific requirements that will avoid or substantially lessen the cumulative problem within the geographic area of the Project. To qualify, such a plan or program must be specified in law or adopted by the public agency with jurisdiction over the affected resources through a public review process to implement, interpret, or make specific the law enforced or administered by the public agency. Examples of such programs include a “water quality control plan, air quality attainment or maintenance plan, integrated waste management plan, habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, [and] plans or regulations for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.”

<i>R2-EE7: Increase Business Participation in Existing Energy Efficiency Programs</i>	There are many energy efficiency opportunities that are low-cost for businesses to initiate that would result in cost-savings over time. SCE and SoCalGas offer many rebates and incentives to purchasing energy-efficient appliances and lights. As many business owners may be unaware that the opportunities exist, this measure would allow for the County to increase the participation of businesses in existing energy-efficiency programs that are low-cost and would provide financial benefits. Potential action for this measure includes: -Partner with SCAG, WRCOG, SCE, and SoCalGas for outreach events.	No Conflict. The proposed Project involves improvements to an existing pump station. The proposed Project would not hinder the County's partnering with SCAG, WRCOG, SCE, and SoCalGas for outreach events.
<i>R2-EE7: Increase Business Participation in Existing Energy Efficiency Programs</i>	There are many energy efficiency opportunities that are low-cost for businesses to initiate that would result in cost-savings over time. SCE and SoCalGas offer many rebates and incentives to purchasing energy-efficient appliances and lights. As many business owners may be unaware that the opportunities exist, this measure would allow for the County to increase the participation of businesses in existing energy-efficiency programs that are low-cost and would provide financial benefits. Potential action for this measure includes: -Partner with SCAG, WRCOG, SCE, and SoCalGas for outreach events.	No Conflict. The proposed Project involves improvements to an existing pump station. The proposed Project would not hinder the County's partnering with SCAG, WRCOG, SCE, and SoCalGas for outreach events.
<i>R2-EE8: Non-Residential Building Energy Audits</i>	Commercial energy audits are necessary to identify cost-effective opportunities for energy savings and for business owners to take practical actions to increase energy efficiency. The audits can be established or promoted by various existing programs. The potential action for this measure is: -Promote the SCE energy audit program for residents within the SCE service area and the Home Energy Saver Do It Yourself online energy audits for the IID service area.	No Conflict. The proposed Project involves improvements to an existing pump station. The proposed Project would not hinder the SCE energy audit program.
<i>R2-EE11: Exceed Energy Efficiency Standards in New Commercial Units</i>	County planners have a unique opportunity to inform and encourage developers to apply new energy efficiency opportunities in new development. This measure would educate County staff to encourage and implement energy efficiency beyond that required by current Title 24 standards. This measure would also ensure that as Title 24 standards are updated, County staff would be well informed and could implement updates quickly and effectively. Potential actions for this measure include: -Educate County staff and developers on future Title 24 updates and additional energy efficiency opportunities for new non-residential development. -Promote Tier 1 and Tier 2 Green Building Ratings such as LEED, Build It Green, or Energy Star®- certified buildings. -Establish online permitting to facilitate new non-residential building energy efficiency programs. -Comply with State requirements on new non-residential buildings, such as Net Zero Energy Buildings for all new non-residential development meeting zero net-energy use by 2030.	No Conflict. The proposed Project involves improvements to an existing pump station and any applicable portions of the proposed Project that is required to comply with the California Building Code Title 24 will comply.
Clean Energy		
<i>R1-CE1: Renewable Portfolio Standard</i>	Senate Bills (SBs) 1075 (2002) and 107 (2006) created the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), and SB 100 (2018) further requires the energy providers to derive 33 percent, 60 percent, and 100 percent of electricity from qualified renewable sources by 2020, 2030, and 2045, respectively. The RPS is anticipated to lower emission factors (i.e., fewer GHG emissions per kWh used) State-wide. Therefore, reductions from RPS are taken for energy embedded in water, as well as commercial/industrial and residential electricity.	No Conflict. The proposed Project involves improvements to an existing pump station and would not hinder energy providers from deriving their electricity from qualified renewable sources.
Advanced Measures		
<i>R2-L1: Tree Planting for Shading and Energy Saving</i>	Trees and vegetation lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade and through evapotranspiration, making vegetation a simple and effective way to reduce urban heat islands Potential actions for this measure include: -Work with the community to support nonprofit tree-planting groups within the County consisting of volunteers to plant and care for trees correctly and safely. - Develop and promote a County tree-planting program for new development at plan check.	No Conflict. The proposed Project involves improvements to developed portions of an existing pump station. The proposed Project would not hinder the County's ability to promote tree-planting programs.
<i>R2-L2: Light Reflecting Surfaces for Energy Saving</i>	Replacing surface areas with light-reflecting materials can decrease heat absorption and lower outside air temperature. Both roofs and pavements are ideal surfaces for taking advantage of this advanced technology. Potential actions for this measure include: -Comply with Title 24 requirements on installing enhanced cool roofs. -Comply with Title 24 requirements on installing cool pavements.	No Conflict. Any applicable portions of the proposed Project that is required to comply with the California Building Code Title 24 will comply.

Source: Ganddini, 2024 (**Appendix A**)

Notes: County of Riverside Climate Action Plan Update, November 2019.



9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. 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 § 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐



REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA provides federal regulations regarding the adequate hazardous waste management. The EPA was given authority by Congress to develop the Resource Conservation and Recovery (RCRA) program through the RCRA Act. The Act created the framework from the proper management of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste. Under RCRA, the EPA regulates hazardous waste from generation to disposal, referred to as “cradle to grave.” Pursuant to this regulation, preparation of applications for hazardous waste disposal are required and processes vary based on type and qualities of materials.

Over the years, the EPA has led several hazardous waste initiatives to meet growing challenges that come with hazardous waste management. The EPA has created standards, exclusions, and exemptions for certain types of wastes including Universal Waste, Household Hazardous Waste, Pharmaceutical hazardous waste, etc.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has primary responsibility for regulating hazardous materials in California under authority of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the California Health and Safety Code and California Hazardous Waste Control Law. Other state entities with responsibility for hazardous materials regulation include:

- Regional Water Quality Control Board – under authority of the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1969
- California Department of Pesticide Regulations, Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Department of Public Health – under authority of California Code of Regulations Title 3 and Title 22
- California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of OSHA – under authority of California Code of Regulations Title 8
- California Air Toxic “Hot Spots” (AB 2588) Program – under authority of the California Safety Code & SJVAPCD Air Toxics Program

Temporary ID numbers are issued to generators who do not typically generate hazardous waste and are valid for 90 days. Hazardous waste ID numbers are issued by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) through their website: dtsc.ca.gov/IDManifest/index.cfm. Construction or demolition Projects can be considered temporary generators of hazardous waste.

In addition to various regulations, the DTSC also provides an Emergency Response Unit (ERU). The ERU is in place to issue “statewide response to actual and potential releases of hazardous substances that pose an acute threat to public health and/ or the environment” (DTSC 2022).

State Department of Industrial Relations, California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CAL-OSHA)

CAL-OSHA establishes protocol, provides training, and issues permits for regulation of workplace conditions, including construction sites, to foster safe work conditions and regulate workers’ levels of exposure to hazardous materials. CAL-OSHA standards specifically for hazardous waste operations, emergency response, safety, and preparedness can be found in the California Code of Regulations. OSHA standards for worker exposures must be implemented during general industry and construction activities.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a permit program led and managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Wastewater Management in coordination with EPA regional offices. The NPDES permit program ensures water quality is not degraded by pollutants discharged with stormwater flows from development and construction projects. The NPDES General Construction Permit applies to projects that plan to disturb one acre or more of land during construction. Compliance with permitting requirements requires a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to be implemented during construction.

Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)

The Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) is a program that consolidates the administrative requirements, permit, inspections, and enforcement activities of multiple environmental and emergency response programs. CalEPA and other state agencies set the standards for the Program, while local governments enforce their standards via CUPAs. Riverside’s CUPA is part of the Environmental Health Department, which was an action approved by the State for Riverside. This department administers/ oversees the “inspection of facilities that own/operate underground storage tanks” and “own/operate aboveground petroleum storage tanks” (RivCo, 2024). The CUPA also oversees the two Participating Agencies, Corona Fire and Riverside Fire, that implement the hazardous materials programs within the County (RivCo, 2024).



Riverside County

Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is intended to reduce impacts to hazards for prevention of negative public health and the environmental implications. The LHMP draws upon previous plans and on-going maintenance strategies to establish plans for disasters in order to improve response times and outcomes in the event disaster occurs throughout Riverside County's cities and unincorporated areas.

Emergency Operations Plan

The Riverside County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is a plan for response to potential disasters within County Limits. The EOP addresses the planned response to emergency situations and recovery efforts throughout the County, through hazard analysis, mitigation plans, and response plans for disasters including earthquakes, pandemic flu, cyber-attacks, wildland fires, etc. In order to adequately address such issues, the EOP establishes a management framework that includes emergency management from federal, state, and city governments.

Riverside County maintains an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for emergency preparedness and coordinates with local cities, special districts, fire, and law enforcement agencies, and provides emergency management services.

General Plan

The County of Riverside has implemented the following policies and regulations within the General Plan for the purpose of monitoring hazardous materials within County Limits:

- ***Ordinance No. 615.3.*** This ordinance has been implemented for the purpose of monitoring establishments where hazardous waste is generated, stored, handled, disposed, treated, or recycled and to regulate the issuance of permits and the activities of establishments where hazardous waste is generated. This ordinance designates the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health to enforce the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.5, Division 20, Sections 25100 et seq., and the Environmental Health Standards for the Management of Hazardous Waste as specified in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 4.5 pertaining to the generation, storage, handling, disposal, treatment, and recycling of hazardous waste.
- ***Ordinance No. 787.*** This ordinance addresses implementation of the California Fire Code, based on the International Code Council. The codes prescribe performance characteristics and materials to be used to achieve acceptable levels of fire protection and include the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fire area building standards mentioned above. Collectively, the ordinance establishes the requirements and standards for fire hazard reduction regulations within Riverside County (including additions and deletions to the California Fire Code) to fully protect the health, safety and welfare of existing and future residents and workers of Riverside County. The ordinance assures that structural and nonstructural architectural elements of the building do not:
 - A. impede emergency egress for fire safety staffing/ personnel, equipment, and apparatus; nor
 - B. hinder evacuation from fire, including potential blockage of stairways or fire doors.
- ***Safety Policy 6.1.*** Riverside County shall enforce the policies and siting criteria and implement the programs identified in the County of Riverside Hazardous Waste Management Plan, which include the following:
 - a) Comply with federal and State laws pertaining to the management of hazardous wastes and materials.
 - b) Ensure active public participation in hazardous waste and hazardous materials management decisions in Riverside County.
 - c) Coordinate hazardous waste facility responsibilities on a regional basis through the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Authority.
 - d) Encourage and promote the programs, practices, and recommendations contained in the Riverside County Hazardous Waste Management Plan, giving the highest waste management priority to the reduction of hazardous waste at its source.



DISCUSSION

The analysis for this Section is based on the Paint Sampling Analysis conducted by CSI Services from samples collected on January 24, 2024 (see **Appendix E**).

a) **Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As defined by the California Health and Safety Code Section 25501, “hazardous material” is any materials with “quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics” that “poses a significant or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment” (CHSC Section 25501). Within Riverside County, most hazardous materials are transported on regional transportation routes including Interstate (I-) 10, I-15, I-215, and State Route (SR-) 60 and SR-91 (Riverside County GP, 2021). The most vulnerable locations are at on/ offramps as well as interchanges. Since the Project Site is approximately 8.1 and 8.5 miles west from I-5 and I-215, risks associated with routine transport of hazardous materials along these corridors are not anticipated. According to State and federal databases, the closest hazardous materials contamination reported to the Project Site is located approximately 13 miles east (Riverside County GP DEIR, *Figure 4.13.1- Locations of Major Hazardous Material Sites*). This hazardous materials site is currently inactive, and undeveloped due to potential contaminants of concern consisting of explosives within the soils since the site was used as an artillery firing range.

The Project Site regularly uses small quantities of hazardous materials for maintenance and operations of the pump station and tanks. Since the Project Site is located within a state responsibility area (SRA), the Riverside County Fire Department and CAL FIRE provides hazardous materials response to the Project Site. In the event of a hazardous materials release, Station 12 located at 28330 Mercedes St, Temecula, CA 92590, approximately 11.9 miles east of the Project Site, will likely respond to emergency events; and CALFIRE Station 16 located at 39431 De Luz Rd, Fallbrook, CA 92028, approximately 8 miles southwest of the Project Site.

Throughout Project construction, transport, use, and short-term storage of hazardous materials including petroleum-based fuels, lubricants, lead-based paints, and other similar materials may be required. As a result, the transport of hazardous materials via truck will be regulated under the supervision of the County of Riverside and US Department of Transportation. In order to ensure proper storage, handling, and transport of hazardous materials throughout Project construction, a hazardous materials manifest shall be maintained by the Project Contractor pursuant to Mitigation Measure **MM HAZ-01: Hazardous Materials Manifest and Plan**. However, the temporary impacts from short-term handling and storage of hazardous materials will be confined to the Project Site and construction staging areas. The County of Riverside in conjunction with the District’s plan check and inspection processes pursuant to RCWD 2024 “General Provisions” *Article 27: Tests and Inspections* will ensure adverse impacts from past and current use of hazardous materials during Project construction do not occur.

Project construction anticipates the disposal of lead-based paint chips from the demolition of Carancho Tanks 1 and 2. According to paint samples collected by CSI Services, Inc. on January 24, 2024, each paint sample was tested in accordance with EPA 350B/ Method 6010B. The results are contained in *Table 15: Paint Sample Data*, below and indicate demolition of the tanks will involve handling, transport, and disposal of paint containing lead concentrations over 1,000 mg/kg (ppm). Since concentrations of lead exceed the state’s threshold of 600 ppm (0.06% lead dry weight), the two-steel tanks are classified under California non-RCRA requiring disposal at a landfill facility that is permitted to accept California non-RCRA hazardous waste if removed from the site. Therefore, the Project Contractor will be required to dispose of the lead-based paint with an appropriate commercial hazardous waste management company pursuant to Standard Condition **SC HAZ-01: Disposal of Hazardous Waste Materials**, which is based on the District’s 2024 “General Provisions” *Article 20: Removal of Hazardous Materials*. In addition, the Project will be required to obtain a temporary ID with the DTSC for hazardous waste disposal.



TABLE 15: PAINT SAMPLES

Metal Analysis	CSI 1	CSI 2	CSI 3	CSI 4	CSI 5
	<i>Carancho Tank 1</i>			<i>Carancho Tank 2</i>	
	Exterior Shell	Exterior Piping	Exterior Adjacent Piping	Exterior Shell	Exterior Piping
	Result (mg/kg)	Result (mg/kg)	Result (mg/kg)	Result (mg/kg)	Result (mg/kg)
Antimony	122	<15.3	<9.44	<6.50	<6.54
Arsenic	<6.46	<15.3	28.8	<6.50	<6.54
Barium	21300	25700	2440	12000	12700
Beryllium	<6.46	<15.3	<9.44	<6.50	<6.54
Cadmium	<6.46	<15.3	<9.44	<6.50	<6.54
Chromium	6240	95.7	<23.6	<16.3	<16.4
Cobalt	248	206	107	208	211
Copper	31.4	<38.2	27.7	<16.3	<16.4
Lead	1770	2520	52.2	2230	2740
Mercury	<0.100	<0.123	0.136	<0.118	<0.110
Molybdenum	27.8	2500	<9.44	1190	1250
Nickel	38.1	15.3	189	11.1	<6.54
Selenium	<6.46	<15.3	<9.44	<6.50	<6.54
Silver	<6.46	<15.3	<9.44	<6.50	<6.54
Thallium	<6.46	<15.3	<9.44	<6.50	<6.54
Vanadium	<6.46	<15.3	<9.44	<6.50	<6.54
Zinc	9420	3980	8910	2150.0	2020

Source: CSI Services, 2024

Note: **Appendix E**

Upon the completion of Project construction, the Project Site anticipates operations will require small quantities of hazardous materials, such as lubricants and paints, for maintenance of the pump station and ancillary gear equipment (e.g., generator and surge tank). Federal, State, and Local regulations pertaining to the storage, transport, handling, and use of hazardous materials at the Project Site will be maintained through the Riverside County Fire Department during the plan check and inspection process.

As a result of the reasons above, less than significant impacts related to a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials are anticipated with mitigation incorporated.

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?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. According to the Riverside County's General Plan, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and CALFIRE's Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer, the Project Site and Local Vicinity are within a State Responsibility Area, in an area susceptible to fire hazards and within a moderate to very high-risk fire zone (See Riverside County General Plan, *Figure 7- Fire Hazard Severity Zones (West County) and Emergency Services Facilities*; CALFIRE FHSZ). The Project Site is within a zone designated for moderate fire severity; while adjacent parcels, located approximately 50 feet north, 100 feet west, and 0.3 miles east of the Project Site are designated for "Very High" severity. The Project Site is not within an area that is highly susceptible to other types of upset or accident conditions. The Project will be installed within existing developed portions of the Project Site and does not involve substantially increased foreseeable risk to the public involving release of hazardous materials from upset and accident conditions due to location.

Construction will utilize of small quantities of hazardous materials and involves demolition of lead-coated steel tanks (Carancho Tanks 1 and 2); routine handling, use, and disposal of small quantities of hazardous materials during Project construction is regulated through the District plan check and inspection process as well as Contractor compliance with CAL-OSHA standards. The removal and disposal of lead-based tank coatings will be regulated through routine application of permit requirements for handling and disposal of lead coatings issued by Cal EPA pursuant to EPA standards referenced in **SC HAZ-01 Disposal of Hazardous Materials**. Therefore, significant hazard to the public from Project construction would not occur. The Project will implement Mitigation Measure **MM HAZ-01: Hazardous Materials Manifest and Plan** and Standard Condition **SC HAZ-01: Disposal of Hazardous Waste Materials** so that significant



hazardous materials upsets do not occur during Project construction. As a result, impacts during construction of the Project are considered to be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

The Project will install new permanent equipment, pumps, and an emergency generator that have been selected for suitability with Project objectives and Project Site, including secondary containment and appropriate safety ratings meeting current standards for safety within the existing footprint of the Carancho Pump Station; the new equipment will include components containing, petroleum products and fuel that are classified as hazardous materials and could be released during an accident or upset conditions. However, the Project would not substantially change level of risk associated with the location of the Project Site within the Local Vicinity and the new equipment installations would not substantially increase risk of upset because they do not involve large quantities of hazardous materials and will be installed and tested for safety by the manufacturer. Furthermore, implementation of manufacturer protocols and District standards by RCWD for ongoing operations and maintenance will reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

The Riverside General Plan indicates that the Project Site is not within an area susceptible to flood risks, dam hazard inundation, or earthquake fault zones. Since the Project Site is located adjacent to areas with moderate to very high fire severity, the Project will ensure Project construction and ongoing operations are consistent with Riverside County's *Ordinance No. 787- Fire Code Standards* pursuant to Standard Condition **SC WILD-01: Fire Code Standards**. The following ordinance will ensure that structural and nonstructural architectural elements of the building do not impede emergency access for safety personnel; hinder evacuation; implement Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fire area building standards; and installation and maintenance of an onsite fire extinguisher.

Existing hazardous waste facilities and sites closest to the Project Site according to GeoTracker and EnviStor are located approximately 5 miles southwest from the Project Site at Matthews Ranch (41855 De Luz Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028) (EnviStor and GeoTracker, 2024). According to GeoTracker, the site was a former Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Cleanup Site which has been closed since May 14, 1993, and was an aquifer used for drinking water supply that was previously contaminated with gasoline. The closest active Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Clean Up Site to the Project Site is approximately 16 miles northeast within the City of Murrieta located on 41541 Ivy Street, Murrieta, CA 92562, on the Murrieta Nursery, which was established in the early 1980s. The active LUST Clean-Up Site contains gasoline; the latest update was from a site assessment on November 12, 2021, where it was concluded to be open and still under investigation. However, due to the distance from the Project Site, the active LUST Cleanup Site is not anticipated to impact the Project or construction.

For the reasons above, impacts related to 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 would be less than significant due to proposed Mitigation Measure **MM HAZ-01: Hazardous Materials Manifest and Plan** and **MM HAZ-02: Disposal of Hazardous Waste Materials**; and Standard Condition **SC WILD-01: Fire Code Standards**.

- c) **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The closest school to the Project Site is Temecula Community School (41125 Winchester Road #B2), located within Temecula's city limits, approximately 11.1 miles east. Due to the proximity of existing schools from the Project Site, impacts related to emission of hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school is not anticipated. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

- d) **Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. Government Code section 65962.5 is an updated list of Hazardous Waste Substances, also referred to as the Cortese List. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control Publishes the list as the EnviroStor Website (DTSC Cortese List 2022).

Based on a preliminary search on the EnviroStor Website, utilizing the City name, Zip Code, and County, three results were found. None of the results were located at the Project Site or adjacent land use addresses. Since the Project Site is not included on the Cortese List of sites that have known or potential contamination and is not located where facilities



permitted to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste, no impacts are anticipated with the Project regarding Government Code section 65962.5. For this reason, mitigation measures are not required.

- 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?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The closest airport to the Project Site is French Valley Airport, approximately 13.3 miles northeast of the Project Site. Since the closest airport is over two (2) miles from a public airport or public use airport, the Project will not result in impacts to a safety hazards or excessive noise for people working or residing in the Local Vicinity. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

- f) **Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Riverside County OA EOC, evacuation protocol suggests that evacuation will coincide with local and county jurisdiction (e.g., Riverside County Sheriff's Department). The Riverside County Sheriff's Department will oversee evacuation procedures outlined within the County's Emergency Operations Plan. At the Project Site, multiple evacuation routes can be taken in the unlikely event of an emergency during Project construction. In the event of an emergency, local roads (i.e., El Calamar Road, Carancho Road) can provide access to designated evacuation routes including Rancho California Road, De Luz Road, and I-15. These roads will double as evacuation routes and be used to haul equipment and materials to and from the Project Site.

The closest fire stations to the Project Site are Riverside County Fire Department Station 92 (Temecula/ Wolf Creek Station), located approximately 11.9 miles east from the Project Site; and CAL FIRE Station 16, located approximately 8 miles southwest from the Project Site. Long-term operation of the Project will not differ substantively from existing conditions since traffic is not anticipated to increase due to long-term operation of the Project Site. Therefore, upon the completion of Project construction, the access to the Project Site will return to existing conditions; therefore, emergency access will not be inhibited in the long-term.

However, during short-term Project construction, large trucks will slow down traffic and increase activity within the Local Vicinity; therefore, the impact related to interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan during Project construction with the implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan** would result in less than significant impact. Mitigation Measures will not be required.

- g) **Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. Project implementation will not result in permanently increased population, activity, or structures at the Project Site and in the Local Vicinity. The Project will not substantively affect inspection frequencies in the long term. Construction will temporarily increase activity and population from the construction crew during work hours. Due to the scope of the Project, 10 workers are expected during construction, and this is not expected to result in significantly elevated exposure to risk of people or structures either directly or indirectly involving wildland fires as described in responses a) through f) and Section 20, Wildland Fire.

STANDARD CONDITIONS

SC HAZ-01: Disposal of Hazardous Waste Materials. Prior to the issuances of permits and demolition of Carancho Tanks 1 and 2, the Project Contractor and RCWD must prepare a waste management and disposal plan to control and prevent releases of heavy metals from paint and heavy metals-laden materials during construction activities that could pose a risk to human health and the environment. This plan shall include the following information:

- A. **Wrapped Dismantling.** Specify that the existing tanks be dismantled without removing the paint on the tanks. During dismantling, handling, and transporting the tank to the disposal facility, the tank surface should be stabilized by wrapping and securing the tank pieces in plastic sheeting or coating the outer tank surface with a stabilizer compound to mitigate the potential for friable paint to flake off during transport. The management and disposal of the tank debris will be conducted in accordance with the off-site facility receiving the dismantled tanks; **or**



- B. **Tank Coatings.** Tank coating removal will be implemented at the discretion of the Project Contractor. If the coatings are to be removed from the tanks prior to tank removal, Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) leaching tests shall be performed to determine if the paint/coating is RCRA hazardous waste. Metal from the Carancho Tanks containing lead will not be eligible for recycling.
- C. **Qualified Landfill.** Identify the receiving qualified landfill and present proof of waste acceptance to the RCWD. The District will need to obtain a temporary ID with the Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC) for prior disposal and acceptable of hazardous materials.

SC WILD-01: Fire Code Standards. See Section 5.20 for this Standard Condition.

MITIGATION MEASURES

MM HAZ-01: Hazardous Materials Manifest and Plan. Prior to the issuance of permits, the Contractor shall provide a manifest of construction materials and a plan for proper handling, disposal, contingency, and emergency response to the Building Official, Riverside Fire Department for verification of adequate contingency measures for storage, use, and handling of potentially hazardous materials used, stored, and handled onsite during construction. Contractor compliance shall be monitored throughout construction. In the unlikely event of hazardous materials discovery within the Project Site or APE, the Contractor shall notify and coordinate with Riverside County Fire Department and Riverside County Hazardous Materials Division and RCWD Engineering Department.



10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the Project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water 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 a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
i. 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

The Clean Water Act

CWA implementation is overseen by the U.S. EPA with the intent to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters” (EPA, n.d.). EPA has assigned implementation authority for the CWA to other trustee and responsible agencies, such as the Corps, and state and local agencies including the SWQCB, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB), and County of Riverside. The CWA is an important instrument for waterboards across California in the management of surface water quality and is the foundation of various regulatory and non-regulatory programs (education, outreach, voluntary efforts, partnerships with stakeholders, etc.) to monitor water quality and to



reduce pollutant discharges into waterways. Regulated waterways under the CWA include lakes, streams, creeks, rivers as well as groundwater and recharge basins and the ocean. The CWA contains several provisions protecting water quality, including Sections 303(c)(2)(B), 303(d), 401, 402(p), and 404, and the Toxics Rule.

Section 303(c)(2)(B) establishes water quality standards and designated beneficial uses within various water bodies (e.g., drinking water, recreation, biological preservation, etc.). This Section of the CWA requires the State to review and update standards for designated uses.

Section 303(d) pertains to impaired waters. The State is required to submit a list of waters that do not meet water quality standards and are impaired due to pollutants. The State must develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for these water bodies, which establishes a maximum threshold of a pollutant allowed within a waterbody.

Section 401 gives the State the authority to issue water quality certifications to conduct activities including, but not limited to, construction or operation of large facilities by an individual permittee, which may result in any discharge into surface waters. Individual permits can be issued for projects that exceed the approved threshold of the NPDES Permit issued to the local agency. As a result, prior to the issuance of a permit that might result in a discharge to navigable waters, the State must certify that the activity will comply with State water quality standards, either through an individual permit issued for a specific project or verification by the local agency that a project conforms with the general permit issued to the local agency (city or county) for a specific activity identified via plan check and discretionary approval.

Section 402(p) pertains to the NPDES program. This section focuses on regulating point source stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity, requiring industrial facilities to obtain permits for their stormwater discharges.

Section 404 regulates discharge of fill materials into “Waters of the United States”, including wetlands. The Corps is responsible for the issuance of the Section 404 permit if any project proposes to fill wetlands or “waters of the United States.”

Toxic Rules includes various regulations related to toxic substances within water bodies. The EPA establishes thresholds for toxic pollutants discharges into navigable waters.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act protects waters of the State for use and enjoyment of the people by regulating activities that foreseeably degrade water quality within the state. To attain the highest reasonable water quality and to protect beneficial uses of surface water bodies, wetland and groundwater, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act is administered at a regional level within the framework of the SWRCB and nine RWQCBs across the state of California. Under this legislation, each RWQCB must formulate and adopt their own water quality control plan that establishes water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses and prevention of nuisance either from point source or non-point source discharges (CA.gov 2023).

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

The NPDES is a permit program led and managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Wastewater Management in coordination with EPA regional offices. The EPA has retained oversight authority for this program and has delegated responsibility for program implementation to the SWQCB and RWQCB. This program is managed at the local level through plan check and inspections by local agencies (e.g., Cities and Counties) under authority delegated by the State and pursuant to state-issued water quality permits. Improved water quality is achieved through a combination of pollutant monitoring in receiving waters, discretionary review of specific projects and modification of activities that have the potential to contribute to water quality impairments, as well as requisite deployment of pollutant source control requirements on construction, new development, and related activities via local discretionary reviews. The program implements pollution source control to filter runoff prior to discharge into local stormwater systems from developed land use and activities to protect water quality and beneficial uses in receiving waters pursuant to the CWA. This process places requirements for BMPs on new construction during design and local agency reviews through either State-issued individual permits or Municipal Storm (MS-4) Water Program.

The Project is under jurisdiction of the Santa Ana RWQCB, Riverside County Regional Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS-4) permit (Water Quality Order No. R8-2002-0012, NPDES. No. CAS618036). The MS-4 permit provides general coverage to the Riverside County Flood Control District, County of Riverside, and incorporated cities of Riverside County and applies water quality regulations to new construction and development meeting specific thresholds. The MS-4 permit



program regulates water quality in urban storm water runoff under authority of the CWA within cities and unincorporated County and provides a framework for water quality compliance via individual project reviews verifying coverage within the established guidelines approved for the County under the MS-4 permit for pollution source control. This program implements standard BMPs, which have been approved by the State Water Board to specifically target and minimize water quality concerns in surface water runoff within Riverside County. Under the MS-4 permit, certain types of construction activities must implement standard BMPs to reduce pollution that may contribute to known water quality deficiencies in receiving waters. Projects which do not meet the guidelines established in the approved MS-4 Permit must apply for an individual NPDES permit pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA.

The NPDES General Construction Permit applies to new projects that plan to disturb more than one acre of land during Project construction. This permit requires Project Applicants to prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for all construction projects. Riverside County requires that the SWPPP include a limitation on land clearing and disturbances, temporary stabilization, runoff diversion during Project construction, and contingency methods to prevent adverse impacts of any discharge of chemicals, substances, or materials (Riverside County General Plan, 2015). The implementation of the SWPPP starts prior to construction with installation of temporary BMPs for erosion and pollution source control. Projects shall implement appropriate construction and post-construction BMPs, as listed in their Stormwater Quality Management Plan or the "California Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook", to reduce pollutants to the maximum extent possible or the extent required by law.

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

The San Diego RWQCB regulates water quality within the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed and is given water permitting authority by the U.S. EPA. The primary responsibility of the Regional Board is to protect the quality of the waters within the region for all beneficial uses through the formulation and adoption of water quality plans for specific ground or surface water basins. In addition, the RWQCB, enforces regulations for industrial, domestic, and agricultural water discharges contained within the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

The San Diego RWQCB adopted a Basin Plan in 1995, which has been amended in 2019, outlining beneficial uses of State Waters and programs, projects, and other actions that help the RWQCB achieve their established standards.

DISCUSSION

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project Site is located within the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed, which generally flows in a southwest direction, from the Northeast to the Pacific Ocean. This watershed contains two major basins drained by Temecula Creek and Murrietta Creek. Surface waters throughout the Local Vicinity consist of tributary creeks (De Luz, Murrietta, Santa Gertrudis, and Temecula Creek) as well as a developed storm drain system and the County's improved storm drain structures. The Project Site's southernmost storm drains run from the vehicular access from the lower pad of the Project Site to the southern property boundary; the easternmost storm drains traverse north-south through the vehicular access road to a ditch adjacent to El Calamar Road near the southeast boundary of the Project Site. This roadside ditch was created when a concrete lined v-ditch was installed next to the driveway entering the Project Site and is not jurisdictional. The flows within this concrete lined v-ditch originate from the northeast of the Project Site and consolidate into a 36-inch culvert stemming from the existing water infrastructure on the Project Site to El Calamar Road. Flows continue southwest as they exit the culvert towards El Calamar Road and are slowed down by reinforced by riprap. Flows are further consolidated through a 24-inch culvert and are redirected southeast under El Calamar Road and southwest of the Project Site.

From the Project Site, surface waters drain south and southeast into receiving water bodies, listed below in *Table 16: Water Resources and Their Beneficial Use*. Temecula and Murrietta Creeks eventually form the Santa Margarita River, which traverses 27 miles, traversing in a northeast-southwest direction, through San Diego County and eventually discharging into the Pacific Ocean.

A majority of these receiving waters are natural creeks that run parallel to fault lines, flowing between mountains. Non-point sources of pollution, due to agriculture and urban runoff, contribute heavily to the accumulation of pollution within these receiving waters that degrade water quality. Impacts from pollutants in surface waters in the Local Vicinity are typically from pollutants combining with storm runoff during and after precipitation. In the Local Vicinity, this includes



pollutants from agricultural and domestic land uses. See *Table 8: Water Resources and Their Beneficial Use* which outlines the list of pollutants found in receiving waters that are in excess of the standards established to protect the beneficial uses of water bodies in accordance with Section 30(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act.

TABLE 16: WATER RESOURCES AND THEIR BENEFICIAL USES

Receiving Waters	Section 303 (d), Category 5 Listings: Contaminant & Potential Sources	Designated Beneficial Uses
De Luz Creek 14 miles	1. Iron- source unknown. 2. Manganese- agriculture, point and non-point. 3. Nitrogen- source unknown 4. Sulfates- source unknown	MUN, AGR, IND, REC1, REC2, WARM, COLD, RARE, SPWN
Murrietta Creek 12 miles	1. Chlorpyrifos- Natural sources, unknown non-point sources, urban runoff/ storm sewers 2. Copper- natural sources, unknowns non-point source, urban runoff/ storm sewers 3. Iron- Natural sources. 4. Manganese- source unknown 5. Nitrogen- unknown point and non-point sources, urban runoff/ storm sewers 6. Phosphorous- unknown point and non-point sources, urban runoff/ storm sewers 7. Toxicity- unknown point and non-point sources, urban runoff/ storm sewers	MUN, AGR, IND, PROC, GWR, REC1, REC2, WARM, WILD
Santa Gertrudis Creek 12 miles	1. Chlorpyrifos- urban runoff/ storm sewers, unknown non-point source 2. Copper- urban runoff/ storm sewers, unknown non-point source 3. E. Coli- natural sources, urban runoff/ storm sewers, unknown non-point source 4. Fecal Coliform- natural sources, urban runoff/ storm sewers, unknown non-point source 5. Iron- urban runoff/ storm sewers, unknown non-point source. 6. Manganese- source unknown 7. Nitrogen- source unknown 8. Phosphorous- urban runoff/ storm sewers, unknown non-point source	MUN, AGR, IND, PROC, GWR, REC1, REC2, WARM, WILD
Temecula Creek 44 miles	1. Chlorpyrifos- source unknown 2. Copper- urban runoff/ storm sewers, unknown source 3. Phosphorous- urban runoff/ storm sewers, unknown point and non-point sources 4. Total Dissolved Solids- urban runoff/ storm sewers, unknown point and non-point sources 5. Toxicity- urban runoff- industrial permitted unknown point and non-point sources	MUN, AGR, IND, PROC, GWR, REC1, REC2, WARM, WILD

Source: County of Riverside Environmental Impact Report No. 521, 2015; Table 4.19-C: Impaired Waterbodies in Riverside County

Note: The Project Site is located in the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed.

- (1) AGR= Agricultural Supply- uses of water for farming, horticulture, or ranching, including but not limited to, irrigation, stock watering, or support of vegetation for range grazing (CA Waterboards).
- (2) IND= Industrial Service Supply- use of water for industrial activities that do not depend primarily on water quality, including, but not limited to, mining, cooling water supply, hydraulic conveyance, gravel washing, fire protection, and oil well repressurization (CA Waterboards).
- (3) MUN= Municipal and Domestic Supply- use of water for community, military, or individual water supply systems, including, but not limited to, drinking water supply (CA Waterboards).
- (4) PROC= Industrial Process Supply- use of water for industrial activities that depend primarily on water quality (CA Waterboards).
- (5) REC1= Water Contact Recreation- uses of water for recreational activities involving body contact with water where ingestion of water is reasonably possible (CA Waterboards); REC2= Noncontact Water Recreation- use of water for recreational activities involving proximity to water, but not normally involving contact with water where water ingestion is reasonably possible (CA Waterboards).
- (6) WARM= Warm Freshwater Habitat- uses of water that supports warm water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish, or wildlife, including invertebrates (CA Waterboards).
- (7) WILD= Wildlife Habitat- uses of water that supports wildlife habitats, including, but not limited to, the preservation and enhancement of vegetation and prey species used by wildlife, such as waterfowl (CA Waterboards).
- (8) COLD= Cold freshwater habitat

Project construction is anticipated to result in approximately 3 acres of disturbance due to construction activities consisting of open trench, excavation, demolition of existing tanks, and pump installation. Likewise, the Project is for a RCWD utility and would therefore not trigger requirements for an NPDES Construction Permit under the County's Storm



Water Management Program; therefore, compliance with the state NPDES requirements will be achieved through implementation of the District's engineering standards, *Article 23. Compliance with State Stormwater Permit*. BMPs pursuant to **BMP HYDRO-01: Water Quality BMPs** will be enforced through the standard application and plan check review and inspection from the District's Engineering Department and their water quality management processes, which are ultimately the responsibility of the Contractor and District Engineer. BMPs consist of minimization of temporary land disturbances; slope stabilization; management of runoff velocity via dissipators; and detainment of on-site sedimentation, etc.

For the reasons above, the Project impacts related to violation of any water quality standard or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality are less than significant. Mitigation will not be required.

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The Project is located within the Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin, under the jurisdiction of the San Diego RWQCB. This groundwater basin encompasses approximately 87,800 acres, bounded by the Peninsular Ranges and valleys that drain into receiving water bodies including Temecula and Murrieta Creek. Average annual precipitation in this area ranges from 7-15 inches. Historically, between 1990 to 2001 the groundwater levels have been in the decline; the total groundwater storage capacity of the basin is estimated at 253,000 AF. The actual storage capacity for the basin is currently unknown.

The Project Site is overlain with mostly impervious surfaces and steep slopes with natural vegetation. Therefore, existing site conditions do not likely contribute to significant groundwater recharge and plans for the Project indicate that Project implementation would not result in significant changes to existing conditions in this regard.

Construction from the proposed Project would result in short-term increased water demand; however, this increase is temporary and is not anticipated to be substantial due to the size of the Project, the length of the construction schedule, and the anticipated intermittent use of water during the various construction activities. Upon completion of Project construction, the area will return to pre-Project conditions and will result in no substantive changes on groundwater use or recharge. The Project will not modify the existing long-term use or activities at the Project Site and will have no permanent impact on water demand on the District's water system. Furthermore, the Project will not indirectly support or induce population growth beyond what has already been approved in the General Plan due to Project consistency with the approved Water Facilities Master Plan.

For the reasons above, the Project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. No impacts are anticipated. Mitigation Measures will not be required.

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 a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. The Project Site is elevated approximately 150 feet above El Calamar Road and drains south and southwest. Surface flows from the Project Site discharge towards earthen drainage ditches adjacent to El Calamar Road and Carancho Road. The Project will not permanently modify existing drainage patterns either on or off site or permanently increase the area of impervious surfaces at the Project Site. Construction will temporarily remove portions of the existing stable surfaces. Construction will be within areas that are currently paved. After construction, stable surfaces will be reestablished and contoured for consistency with existing drainage patterns. Therefore, during construction, the Project has the potential to temporarily increase erosion or siltation and these temporary impacts will be reduced to less than significant levels with water quality BMPs. There will be no long-term impacts from the Project.

Implementation of BMPs, **BMP HYDRO-01: Water Quality BMPs**, will protect water quality in surface waters during construction. Plans indicate the Project will return disturbed surfaces to pre-project conditions and will



not permanently change the direction, rate, or volume of surface flows discharging into the municipal storm drain system or involve permanent modification of the topography or additional impervious surfaces at the Project Site.

In addition to proposed BMPs, the Project will be required to comply with the NPDES General Permit for Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Stormwater Runoff Associated with Construction Activity ("Permit") pursuant to RCWD's 2024 "General Provisions" *Article 23. Compliance with State Stormwater Permit*. The Project is anticipated to disturb up to 3 acres during the demolition of the Carancho Tanks 1 and 2 and installation of water main, ancillary piping and new generator; therefore, the Project will implement Standard Condition **SC HYDRO-01: Compliance with State Stormwater Permit** throughout Project construction which will require the Project Contractor to prepare and implement a SWPPP; procure, implement, and comply with provisions of the Permit and SWPPP; and informs the Project Contractor of assumed risks and liabilities from storm, surface, nuisance, or other waters encountered during Project construction.

The Project is not near a stream or river and would not directly or indirectly modify the closest stream or river that is located approximately 6.1 miles north of Santa Margarita Creek. According to Project plans, the Project will substantially conform with existing topography in the area and will result in surfaces restored to pre-project conditions with no substantive permanent changes in impervious surfaces or topography. Substantial erosion or siltation either on-or-off-site would not occur due to implementation of BMPs by the Contractor as verified by the District's Engineering Department during plan check and inspections pursuant to Standard Specifications adopted by the District.

As a result, less than significant impacts to substantial increases in the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site are not anticipated. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

ii. **substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. Increased impervious surfaces or significantly changed grades are not proposed with the Project. According to plans, the Project will involve removal of the existing tanks and temporary removal of portions of pavement within the existing driveway and pads. Once tank removals, pipe removal/replacement, and installations are complete, paved surfaces will be restored to match existing pavement and drainage patterns. The Project will not substantially change existing topography and increased impervious surfaces since the tanks contribute to existing impervious surfaces at the Project Site; therefore, runoff at the Project Site will not change from existing conditions due to increased area of impervious surfaces or modified grades. Less than significant impacts to the rate or amount of surface runoff are expected. With the implementation of BMPs during construction, the Project Site will remain the same during and post-construction with regard to surface runoff and flooding on-or off-site.

For the reasons above, less than significant impacts are anticipated related to the amount of surface runoff and flooding either on- or off-site. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

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**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. The Project does not anticipate permanent increases in impervious surfaces or significant alterations in drainage patterns during construction or long-term maintenance and operations. Furthermore, the Project would not contribute indirectly to changed land use patterns or new sources of pollution which could impact drainage systems or pollution in runoff. The Project will remove Carancho Tanks 1 & 2; and install a generator within an enclosure. The volume and rate of runoff, before and after construction, will remain substantially unchanged. The Project is included in the planned buildout of the District's Water Master Plan and will be maintained according to District standards, with no substantial deviation from the existing maintenance program, therefore impacts on existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or new sources of pollution would not result from the Project during construction and over the long-term. During construction water quality BMPs will be implemented by the Contractor pursuant to **BMP HYDRO-01: Water**



Quality BMPs of the MMRP. Implementation of these BMPs for erosion control during construction will result in runoff conditions that are substantially similar to existing conditions.

As a result, less than significant impacts are anticipated, and no additional Mitigation Measures are needed.

iv. **impede or redirect flood flows?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. According to the FEMA Flood Hazard Map, the Project Site and Local Vicinity are located in a FEMA-designated "Zone D". Zone D is not considered a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA); and building restrictions do not apply. Flooding in these areas is possible but undetermined; therefore, the Project Site does not anticipate potential inundation (FEMA 2015).

Plans for Project development indicate general consistency between the completed Project and the existing drainage patterns at the site and surrounding the Project Site. Construction will temporarily alter localized drainage along the existing ingress and egress to the Project Site from El Calamar Road, due to the installation of 600 linear feet of potable water main. However, due to the scale of the Project, significant impacts are not anticipated. The construction footprint for the pipeline in the driveway is approximately 12-feet wide. Since the Project would not install structures that could permanently impede or redirect flood flows, the impacts are considered less than significant. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

d) **In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. See Section 5.10.3, Response a) through c) iv above. See Section 5.10.3, Response a) through c) iv above. The California Department of Conservation does not place the Project Site within a zone at risk for a tsunami (CA Department of Conservation, 2015). The Project Site is located within southwestern Riverside County, which is not geographically close to ocean or large bodies of water.

For the reasons above, the proposed Project is anticipated to have no impacts related to release of pollutants due to Project inundation in a flood hazard, tsunami or seiche zone. Therefore, no Mitigation Measures are needed.

e) **Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. See Section 5.10.3, Responses a) through d) above. The Project Site is located within the Temecula Valley Groundwater Basin. The Project will follow current requirements for pollution source control and flood control or sustainable ground water management plan. In addition, the Project Contractor will implement stormwater pollution prevention measures and erosion control pursuant to Riverside County General Plan Policies, and **BMP HYDRO-01: Water Quality BMPs**; and implement Standard Condition **SC HYDRO-01: Compliance with State Stormwater Permit** throughout Project construction to comply with the NPDES General Permit for Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Stormwater Runoff Associated with Construction Activity ("Permit").

For the reasons above, Project impacts are less than significant with mitigation incorporated during construction activities. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

STANDARD CONDITIONS

SC HYDRO-01: Compliance with State Stormwater Permit. Prior to the issuances of building permits and plan approval, the District shall verify that the following conditions are contained within the Project Specifications pursuant to District Standards and applicable Riverside County NPDES permit program requirements that shall be implemented throughout Project construction by the Project Contractor and monitored by the District:

- a. Contractor shall be required to comply with all conditions of the SWRCB NPDES General Permit for Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Stormwater Runoff Associated with Construction Activity ("Permit") for all construction activity that results in the disturbance of in excess of one acre of total land area or that is part of a larger common area of development or sale. Contractor shall be responsible for filing the Notice of Intent and for obtaining the Permit. Contractor shall be solely responsible for preparing and implementing a SWPPP prior to initiating Work. In bidding on this Contract, it shall be Contractor's responsibility to evaluate the cost of procuring the Permit and preparing the SWPPP, as well as complying with the SWPPP and any necessary revision to the SWPPP.



Contractor shall comply with all requirements of the SWRCB. Contractor shall include all costs of compliance with specified requirements in the Contract amount.

- b. Contractor shall be responsible for procuring, implementing, and complying with the provisions of the Permit and the SWPPP, including the standard provisions, monitoring, and reporting requirements, as required by the Permit. Contractor shall provide copies of all reports and monitoring information to the Engineer.
- c. Contractor shall comply with the lawful requirements of any applicable municipality, the District, drainage district, and other local agencies regarding discharges of stormwater to separate storm drain systems or other watercourses under their jurisdiction, including applicable requirements in municipal stormwater management programs.
- d. Storm, surface, nuisance, or other waters may be encountered at various times during construction of the work. Therefore, the Contractor, by submitting a bid, hereby acknowledges that it has investigated the risk arising from such waters, has prepared its bid accordingly, and assumes any and all risks and liabilities arising therefrom.
- e. Failure to comply with the Permit is in violation of federal and state law. Contractor hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless District, its officials, officers, agents, employees, and authorized volunteers from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, or liabilities of any kind or nature that the District, its officials, officers, agents, employees, and authorized volunteers may sustain or incur for noncompliance with the Permit arising out of or in connection with the Project, except for liability resulting from the sole established negligence, willful misconduct, or active negligence of the District, its officials, officers, agents, employees, or authorized volunteers. District may seek damages from Contractor for delay in completing the Contract in accordance with the Contract Documents, caused by Contractor's failure to comply with the Permit.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

BMP HYDRO-01: Water Quality BMPs. Prior to the issuances of building permits and plan approval, the RCWD shall verify that the following measures pursuant to District Standards and applicable Riverside County NPDES permit program requirements are implemented by the Project Contractor throughout Project construction:

- a. **Land Clearing and Disturbances.** Clearing of land is limited to only what is necessary to implement construction in the near term, new land disturbance during the rainy season is minimized and disturbance to sensitive areas or areas that would not be affected by construction is minimized.
- b. **Temporary stabilization** of disturbed soils is provided whenever active construction is not occurring on a portion of the site and permanent stabilization is provided immediately by finish grading and installation of permanent landscaping.
- c. **Runoff Velocity.** Disturbance of natural channels should be avoided; slopes and crossings shall be stabilized and any increase in runoff velocity shall be managed (through force dissipaters or other mechanisms) to avoid erosion of slopes and channels.
- d. **Diversion of Upstream Runoff.** Upstream runoff shall be diverted around or safely conveyed through the site and is kept free of excessive sediment and other constituents.
- e. **Detainment of On-site Sedimentation.** Sediment-laden waters from disturbed, active areas within the site are detained.
- f. **Stockpiling and Materials Storage.** Temporary outdoor storage for construction shall be placed outside of the limits of surface flows and shall be protected with sandbags along the perimeter to divert surface flows.



11. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the Project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a) Physically divide an established community?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. The Project is located within Western Riverside County, within the Southwest Area Plan of the County's General Plan. This plan area is described as the gateway between Riverside and San Diego Counties, "framed by the Santa Ana Mountains, Santa Margarita, Agua Tibia ranges, and the Black Hills; this area consists of a series of valleys separated by rolling hills and steep eastern slopes of the Santa Ana Mountains in use for citrus and avocado orchards, and the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Preserve; large residential lots; rural communities east of Temecula; Vail Lake; equestrian uses on rolling hills, and general agricultural uses" (Riverside County GP, 2021).

The Project does not include or require permanent development of large infrastructure that would cause physical divides to an established community. Project implementation is rehabilitation and upsizing of an existing pump station for redundancy and reliability within Pressure Zone 2550. The Project will be implemented and operated within the existing Carancho Pump Station footprint. The Project does not propose to change zoning or existing and future land use and is proposed in response to existing deficiencies in Pressure Zone 2550 in its capacity to support existing land use and future land use approved in the current County of Riverside General Plan.

As a result, the Project does not anticipate impacts to physical division of an established community either directly or indirectly. Project implementation will not divide an established community and are consistent with concepts evaluated in the City's Water Master Plan. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. Site improvements will not exceed what has been anticipated under the RCWD's 5-year CIP plan and Water Facilities Master Plan. Therefore, Project implementation will not cause a significant environmental impact due to conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The Project is intended to enhance system redundancy for the RCWD for existing consumers and land use within the western region of Riverside County's 2550 Pressure Zone.

As a result, less than significant impacts are anticipated. No Mitigation Measures are necessary.



12. MINERAL RESOURCES

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the Project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975

The County of Riverside identifies potential mineral resources within their General Plan documents pursuant to the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). The Act sets requirements for mining and reclamation policy to ensure the following:

- Production and conservation of minerals is encouraged;
- Environmental effects are prevented or minimized;
- Consideration is given to recreational activities, watersheds, wildlife, range and forage, and aesthetic enjoyment;
- Mined lands are reclaimed to a useable condition once mining is completed; and
- Hazards to public safety both now and in the future are eliminated.

In addition, the Act requires local jurisdictions, within the State of California, to classify land that has potential for the discovery of mineral resource called Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs). According to the California State Board's Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands, the following MRZ designations are below:

- **MRZ-1:** Areas where available geologic information indicates that there is minimal likelihood of significant resources.
- **MRZ-2:** Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic data indicate that significant mineral deposits are located or likely to be located.
- **MRZ-3:** Areas where mineral deposits are found but the significance of the deposits cannot be evaluated without further exploration.
- **MRZ-4:** Areas where there is not enough information to assess the zone. These are areas that have unknown mineral resource significance.
- **SZ:** Areas containing unique or rare occurrences of rocks, minerals, or fossils that are of outstanding scientific significance shall be classified in this zone.

Due to the on-going discovery of mineral resources on County lands, policies and goals are enacted by Riverside County to conserve the natural resources within the region. The State Office of Mining Reclamation (OMR) and County Public Works Department monitors all mining activities within Riverside County to ensure operations are compliant with applicable laws.

DISCUSSION

- a) **Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The County's General Plan and General Plan DEIR indicate there are no mineral resources at the Project Site or vicinity known to be significant within the region or to the state. The closest significant mineral resources are located north of I-10 and northeast of the Project Site, approximately 84 miles. According to the County General Plan and General Plan DEIR, the Project Site is located within an MRZ-3 and are unstudied (No MRZ designation issued) zone. An MRZ-3 zone is an area where mineral deposits are present, however, significance is undetermined and therefore possible



further exploration would be needed. The potential for finding mineral resources within these areas are moderate (GP DEIR 2006). The Project Site has been in use as a water utility since 1978; therefore, the rehabilitation of the existing facility is not considered a potentially significant impact related to important mineral resources.

Since the areas with known mineral resources of significance are outside the bound of the Project Site and Vicinity, no impacts for implementation of the Project on mineral resources are anticipated.

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?

RESPONSE:

No Impact. See Response 12, a). There are no locally important mineral resource recovery sites delineated in the County's General Plan. The Project is consistent with existing zoning and General Plan designations at this location. Therefore, Project implementation will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan or other land use plan and no impacts are anticipated.



13. NOISE

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. 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 the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Federal Noise Control Act of 1972

In 1972, the EPA Office of Noise Ambient and Control issued the Federal Noise Control Act, which established programs and guidelines to identify and address the effects of noise on public health, welfare, and the environment. The EPA established Levels of Environmental Noise recommended that Ldn should not exceed 55 dBA outdoors or 45 dBA indoors to prevent significant activity interference and annoyance in noise-sensitive areas (e.g. residences, schools, hospitals, etc.). 55 dBA was identified as an “adequate margin of safety” for noise level increase relative to a baseline noise exposure level of 55 dBA Ldn. The standards set by the EPA’s Federal Noise Control Act are advisory exposure levels below which there would be no risk to a community from any health or welfare effect of noise.

In 1981, EPA administrators determined that subjective issues such as noise would be better addressed at lower levels of government. Consequently, in 1982 responsibilities for regulating noise control policies were transferred to State and local governments. However, noise control guidelines and regulations contained in EPA rulings in prior years remain in place by designated Federal agencies, allowing more individualized control for specific issues by designated Federal, State, and local government agencies.

Riverside County

General Plan

The County of Riverside General Plan Policies which apply to the proposed construction related Project are presented below.

- **Policy N 1.1:** Protect noise-sensitive land uses from high levels of noise by restricting noise-producing land uses from these areas. If the noise-producing land use cannot be relocated, then noise buffers such as setbacks, landscaping, or block walls shall be used.
- **Policy N 1.5:** Prevent and mitigate the adverse impacts of excessive noise exposure on the residents, employees, visitors, and noise-sensitive uses of Riverside County.



- **Policy N 4.1:** Prohibit facility-related noise, received by any sensitive use, from exceeding the following worst-case noise levels:
 - A. 45 dBA-10-minute Leq between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM [nighttime standard].
 - B. 65 dBA-10-minute Leq between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM [daytime standard].County staff has clarified that the above standards are to be applied to any surrounding property containing a “habitable dwelling, hospital, school, library or nursing home”.
- **Policy N 4.3:** Ensure any use determined to be a potential generator of significant stationary noise impacts be properly analyzed and ensure that the recommended mitigation measures are implemented.
- **Policy N 4.5:** Encourage major stationary noise-generating sources throughout the County of Riverside to install additional noise buffering or reduction mechanisms within their facilities to reduce noise generation levels to the lowest extent practicable prior to the renewal of conditional use permits or business licenses.
- **Policy N 13.1:** Minimize the impacts of construction noise on adjacent uses within acceptable practices.
- **Policy N 13.2:** Ensure that construction activities are regulated to establish hours of operation in order to prevent and/or mitigate the generation of excessive or adverse noise impacts on surrounding areas.
- **Policy N 13.3:** Condition subdivision approval adjacent to developed/occupied noise-sensitive land uses (see policy N 1.3) by requiring the developer to submit a construction-related noise mitigation plan to the County for review and approval prior to issuance of a grading permit. The plan must depict the location of construction equipment and how the noise from this equipment will be mitigated during construction of this Project, through the use of such methods as:
 - A. Temporary noise attenuation fences
 - B. Preferential location of equipment; and
 - C. Use of current noise suppression technology and equipment.
- **Policy N 13.4:** Require that all construction equipment utilizes noise reduction features (e.g., mufflers and engine shrouds) that are no less effective than those originally installed by the manufacturer.
- **Policy N 16.2:** Consider the following land uses sensitive to vibration: hospitals, residential areas, concert halls, libraries, sensitive research operations, schools, and offices.

County Code

Ordinance 847 exempts construction noise from County noise standards as long as it is limited to the hours of 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM during the months of June through September and between the hours of 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM during the months of October through May (Sec 2.i.1,2).

Rancho California Water District

Standard Specifications

RCWD's Engineering Department maintains several standard specification/guideline and planning documents to assist developers, property owners, contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers with residential, commercial, irrigation, or other development/design Projects, as well as construction contracts. Article 25 of the District's Specifications - General Provisions document includes regulations regarding excessive noise. These specifications are outlined below:

- a. Contractor shall use only such equipment on the work and in such state of repair so that the emission of sound therefrom is within the noise tolerance level of that equipment, as established by CAL-OSHA.
- b. Contractor shall comply with the most restrictive of the following: (1) local sound control and noise level rules, regulations, and ordinances, and (2) the requirements contained in these Contract Documents, including hours of operation requirements. No internal combustion engine shall be operated on the Project without a muffler of the type recommended by the manufacturer. Should any muffler or other control device sustain damage or be determined to be ineffective or defective, the Contractor shall promptly remove the equipment and shall not return said equipment to the job until the device is repaired or replaced. Said noise and vibration level requirements shall apply to all equipment on the job or related to the job including, but not limited to, trucks, transit mixers, or transit equipment that may or may not be owned by the Contractor.
- c. Noise Control Measures. The Contractor shall incorporate the following noise control measures in the performance of the work:



1. Maximum Noise Levels within 1,000 feet of any Residence, Business, or Other Populated Area: Noise levels for trenchers, pavers, graders, and trucks shall not exceed 90 dBA at 50 feet as measured under the noisiest operating conditions. For all other equipment, noise levels shall not exceed 85 dBA at 50 feet.
2. Equipment: Jack hammers shall be equipped with exhaust mufflers and steel muffling sleeves. Air compressors should be of a quiet type such as a “whisperized” compressor.
3. Operations: Keep noisy equipment as far as possible from noise-sensitive site boundaries. Machines should not be left idling. Use electric power in lieu of internal combustion engine power, wherever possible. Maintain equipment properly to reduce noise from excessive vibration, faulty mufflers, or other sources. All engines shall have mufflers.
4. Scheduling: Schedule noisy operations so as to minimize their duration at any given location.
5. Monitoring: To determine whether the above noise limits are being met and whether noise barriers are needed, the Contractor shall use a portable sound level meter meeting the requirements of American National Standards Institute Specification S1.4 for Type 2 sound level meters. If non-complying noise levels are found, the Contractor shall be responsible for monitoring and correction of excessive noise levels at no additional cost to the District.

DISCUSSION

The responses in this section are based on the Noise Impact Analysis for Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project conducted by Ganddini Group, dated March 26, 2024 (**Appendix F**). Results from the noise impact analysis are based on four (4) 15-minute daytime noise measurements taken between 1:36 PM and 4:46 PM on February 29, 2024; in addition, one (1) long-term noise measurement was also taken between February 19, 2024, and March 1, 2024, for the purposes of determining noise impacts associated with on-site and off-site construction related noise. Locations for the long-term and short-term noise measurements are shown in **Figure 9 & 9A: Project Operational Noise Levels** below. Note that modeling for operational noise was based on a 1,500-kW generator; Project plans illustrate a smaller generator, 1,250-kW.

- 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?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Based on the interval ambient noise data from the short-term and long-term noise measurements, short-term ambient noise levels ranged between 37.5 and 64.7 dBA Leq; and long-term hourly noise measurement ambient noise levels ranged from 32.6 to 52.4 dBA Leq. The dominant noise source near the Project Site was existing pump equipment, residential activity, and vehicle traffic associated with El Calamar Road and other surrounding roadways.

Construction Noise

The single-family residential uses to the northwest and southeast of the Project Site boundaries may be affected by short-term noise impacts associated with construction noise. Construction noise will vary depending on the construction process, type of equipment involved, location of the construction site with respect to sensitive receptors, the schedule proposed to carry out each task (e.g., hours and days of the week) and the duration of the construction work. Assumptions for the phasing, duration, and required equipment for the construction of the proposed Project were obtained from the Project applicant.

Modeled construction noise levels are expected to reach up to 87.2 dBA Leq at a distance of 50 feet and up to 73.8 dBA Leq at the nearest sensitive receptor property line and is not expected to exceed the noise level limitations presented in Article 25 of RCWD’s Specifications - General Provisions document, which prohibits trenchers, pavers, graders, and trucks within 1,000 feet of any residence, business, or other populated area from exceeding 90 dBA at 50 feet as measured under the noisiest operating conditions. For all other equipment, noise levels shall not exceed 85 dBA at 50 feet.



Implementation of **BMP NOI-01: Noise Best Management Practices** the proposed Project will be consistent with the applicable ordinances, plans, and policies and therefore, will not result in or generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project.

Construction truck trips would occur throughout the construction period. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the traffic volumes would need to be doubled in order to increase noise levels by 3 dBA CNEL. The estimated existing average daily trips along El Calamar Road is 96 daily vehicle trips. As shown in the CalEEMod output files provided in the Air Quality, Global Climate Change, and Energy Impact Analysis prepared for the proposed Project (Ganddini Group Inc., 2024) the greatest number of construction-related vehicle trips per day would be up to 12 during demolition (10 for worker trips and 1.5 for hauling trips). Given the Project Site's location, it is anticipated that vendor and/or haul truck traffic would take the most direct route to either State Route 79 or the 15 Freeway. Therefore, the addition of Project vendor/haul trucks and worker vehicles per day along off-site roadway segments would not be anticipated to result in a doubling of traffic volumes. Off-site Project generated construction vehicle trips would result in a negligible noise level increase and would not result in a substantial increase in ambient noise levels. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

Operational Noise

Two operational scenarios were modeled. One with the emergency generator in operation and one without the emergency generation in operation. Modeled noise sources include the proposed pumps and the emergency back-up generator. Other on-site noise sources were not considered to be significant. Three of the proposed pumps were assumed to be in operation, as the fourth is considered to be a backup pump. Sound power levels utilized in the SoundPLAN noise model were calibrated using existing on-site noise measurements (**Figure 9 & 9A: Project Operational Noise Levels**) of two existing pumps (65 dBA at a distance of 40 feet) and sound reference level data provided by the generator manufacturer (see **Appendix F**). The sound pressure level of two pumps at a distance of 40 feet (no intervening buildings or topography) was used to find the sound pressure level of three pumps at a distance of 40 feet (66.8 dBA Leq). A point noise source with a sound power level 96.8 utilized to represent this sound pressure level in the noise model.

Per the generator manufacturer, the sound pressure level with the generator to be used on site will have a sound pressure level of 72 dB at a distance of 21 feet. As shown within *Table 17: Project Operational Noise Levels*, the Project's operational noise with all three pumps operating and the backup generator in operation will result in exterior noise levels ranging between 40 and 51 dBA Leq at nearby properties with habitable dwellings, and Project operational noise with three pumps in operation with no backup generator noise will result in exterior noise levels ranging between 30 and 50 dBA Leq. The County's noise standards apply at the closest property line of the affected sensitive receptor. Therefore, the receptors considered for compliance at the property line (Receptors 1 and 2) are actually approximately 350-412 feet from what would be considered to be "active residential outdoor use areas" associated with the existing habitable dwellings. Receptor 3 was modeled to show noise levels at the active residential outdoor use area associated with the affected parcel with a habitable dwelling unit to the northwest of the Project Site for discussion purposes.

As shown in *Table 17: Project Operational Noise Levels*, the County's daytime exterior noise standard of 65 dBA Leq (10-minute) would not be exceeded at any affected parcel with concurrent operation of the three 350 hp pumps and the proposed generator, or with operation of the pumps alone at any of the affected receptors. The County's nighttime exterior noise standard of 45 dBA Leq (10-minute) would be exceeded at the parcel northwest of the Project Site (see Receptor 1 on **Figure 9 & 9A: Project Operational Noise Levels**) with concurrent operation of all three pumps and operation of the generator or with operation of the pumps alone. The County has written in some discretion regarding application of these standards which states "These are only preferred standards; final decision will be made by the Riverside County Planning Department and Office of Public Health." Taking into consideration this caveat, and the fact that operation of the three 350 hp pumps would result in exterior noise levels of 35 dBA Leq without the backup generator and 36 dBA Leq with the backup generator at the active residential outdoor use area associated with parcel with the affected habitable dwelling northwest of the Project Site (Receptor 3 of **Figure 9 & 9A: Project Operational Noise Levels**), the impact at Receptor 1 is considered less



than significant with no mitigation required. The nighttime noise standard would not be exceeded at the affected parcel southeast of the Project Site under either scenario.

TABLE 17: PROJECT OPERATIONAL NOISE LEVELS

Receptor Location ¹	Exceeds Exterior Daytime 65 dBA Leq Standard (Y/N)	Exceeds Exterior Nighttime 45 dBA Leq Standard (Y/N)	Exceeds Exterior Daytime 55 dBA Leq Standard (Y/N)	Exceeds Exterior Nighttime 40 dBA Leq Standard (Y/N)
Operational Noise Levels (dBA Leq) Pumps & Generator				
1	No	Yes ²	No	No
2	No	No	No	No
3	No	No	No	No
Operational Noise Levels (dBA Leq) Pumps Only				
1	No	Yes ²	No	No
2	No	No	No	No
3	No	No	No	No

Source: Noise Impact Analysis, Ganddini 2024 (**Appendix F**)

Notes:

- Estimated using short-term and long-term noise measurements **Figure 9 & 9A: Noise Measurement Locations**.
- The County has written in some discretion regarding application of these standards, which states “These are only preferred standards; final decision will be made by the Riverside County Planning Department and Office of Public Health.” Taking into consideration this caveat, and the fact that operation of the three 350 hp pumps would result in exterior noise levels of 35 dBA Leq without the backup generator and 36 dBA Leq with the backup generator, the lead agency should consider the impact at Receptor 1 to be less than significant with no mitigation required.

As mentioned above, exterior noise levels due to operation of the three 350 hp pumps with or without operation of the backup generator would fall below the interior noise daytime and nighttime noise standards of 40 dBA Leq and 55 dBA Leq (10-minute) respectively. Considering that typical residential construction provides 15 dB of exterior to interior noise reduction (assuming a windows open condition), interior noise levels are expected to range between 20 and 21 dBA Leq inside the affected habitable dwellings. This impact would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. The California Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual (CalTrans, 2020) establishes criteria for groundborne vibration. The guidelines recommend that the threshold at which there is a risk of architectural damage is a peak particle velocity (PPV) of 0.25 inches/second (in/sec) for historic buildings, PPV of 0.3 in/sec at older residential structures, and a PPV of 0.5 in/sec at new residential structures and modern commercial/industrial buildings. Groundborne vibration becomes sternly perceptible to people living or working in nearby buildings when PPV of 0.1 in/sec is exceeded (CalTrans, 2020).

The nearest off-site buildings are the single-family residential dwelling unit located to the southeast of the Project Site along El Calamar Road, with associated structures located as close as approximately 277 feet from the closest Project Site property line, and the single-family residential dwelling unit located to the northwest of the Project Site along Via Escalon, with associated structures located as close as approximately 593 feet from the closest Project Site property line. As shown in *Table 18: Construction Vibration at the Nearest Receptors*, at the closest distance to nearby residential structures, approximately 277 feet, the use of a vibratory roller would be expected to generate a PPV of 0.006 in/sec and a bulldozer would be expected to generate a PPV of 0.002 in/sec. Therefore, vibration levels associated with Project construction would not exceed the threshold at which there is a risk of “architectural” damage to older residential buildings of a PPV of 0.3 in/sec at any of the surrounding residential structures.

Therefore, temporary vibration levels associated with Project construction would not cause architectural damage to the nearest residential receptors. Impacts from vibration generated damage would be less than significant.



As shown in *Table 18: Construction Vibration at the Nearest Receptors*, vibration becomes strongly perceptible to sensitive receptors at a level of 0.1 in/sec PPV. A vibratory roller could generate a PPV of up to 0.1 in/sec at a distance of 41 feet and a large bulldozer at a distance of 24 feet. As discussed above, the closest structures to the boundaries of the Project Site are at least approximately 500 feet to the southeast along El Calamar Road. Impacts from vibration related annoyance would be less than significant. No Mitigation Measures are required.

TABLE 18: CONSTRUCTION VIBRATION AT THE NEAREST RECEPTORS

Receptor Location	Distance to Nearest Structure (feet)	Equipment	Vibration Level (PPV in/sec)	Threshold Exceeded? ¹
Residential (43650 El Calamar Road, Temecula)	277	Vibratory Roller	0.006	No
	33	Large Bulldozer	0.002	No
Residential (43625 Via Escalon, Temecula)	593	Vibratory Roller	0.002	No
	593	Large Bulldozer	0.001	No

Source: Noise Impact Analysis, Ganddini 2024 (**Appendix F**)

Notes:

- (1) Caltrans identifies a vibration level of 0.3 in/sec PPV as the threshold at which there is a risk to “architectural” damage to older residential buildings.

- c) For a Project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The closest airport to the Project Site is the French Valley Airport located approximately 15.9 miles to the northeast of the Project Alignment. This airport is utilized for public use and serves communities of Temecula, Murietta, and Winchester. According to the Riverside County GP DEIR, *Figure 4.15.11- French Valley Airport Existing Noise Contours*, the Project Site is not within a zone that is affected by the noise produced by the airport. This includes zones ranging from 70 CNEL to 55 CNEL. Due to the Project Site’s proximity to the nearest airport, the Project will not expose construction workers or residence in the Local Vicinity to excessive noise levels.

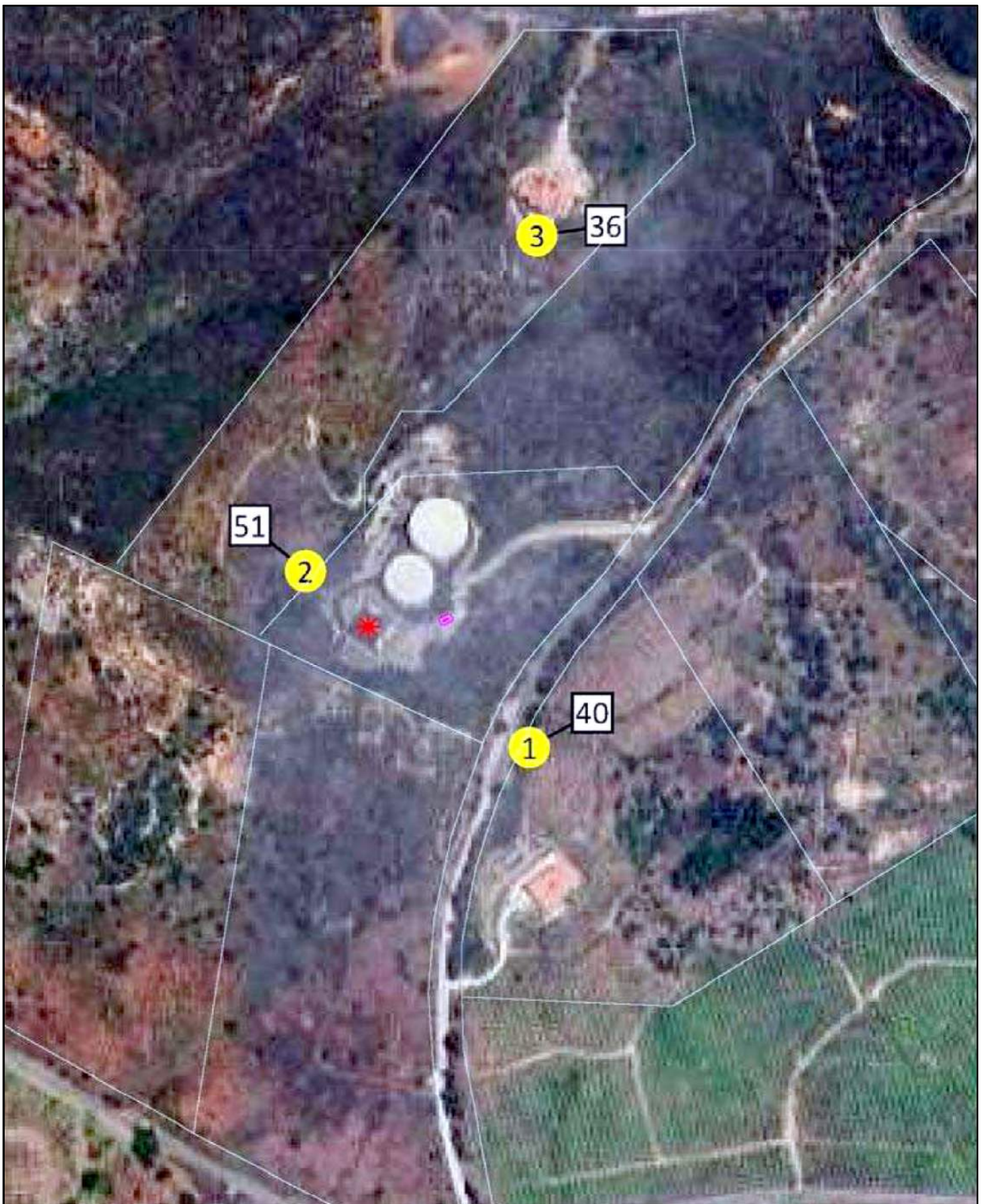
As a result, impacts are not anticipated; therefore, no Mitigation Measures are required.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

BMP NOI-01- Noise Best Management Practices: Prior to approval of the Project Plans the District shall ensure that the Project-Specific specifications contain the following BMPs throughout Project construction that the Project Contractor shall comply with:

1. No internal combustion engine will be operated on the Project without a muffler of the type recommended by the manufacturer. Should any muffler or other control device sustain damage or be determined to be ineffective or defective, the Contractor will promptly remove the equipment and will not return said equipment to the job until the device is repaired or replaced. Said noise and vibration level requirements will apply to all equipment on the job or related to the job including, but not limited to, trucks, transit mixers, or transit equipment that may or may not be owned by the Contractor.
2. Maximum noise levels within 1,000 feet of any residence, business, or other populated area for equipment such as trenchers, pavers, graders, and trucks shall not exceed 90 dBA at 50 feet as measured under the noisiest operating conditions. For all other equipment, noise levels shall not exceed 85 dBA at 50 feet.
3. Jack hammers will be equipped with exhaust mufflers and steel muffling sleeves.
4. Air compressors will be of a quiet type such as a “whisperized” compressor.
5. Noise operations will be scheduled to minimize their duration at any given location.
6. Noise equipment will be kept as far as possible from noise-sensitive site boundaries.
7. Construction equipment will not be left idling.
8. Whenever possible, electric power will be used in lieu of internal combustion engine power.
9. Equipment will be properly maintained to reduce noise from excessive vibration, faulty mufflers, or other sources. All engines shall have mufflers.

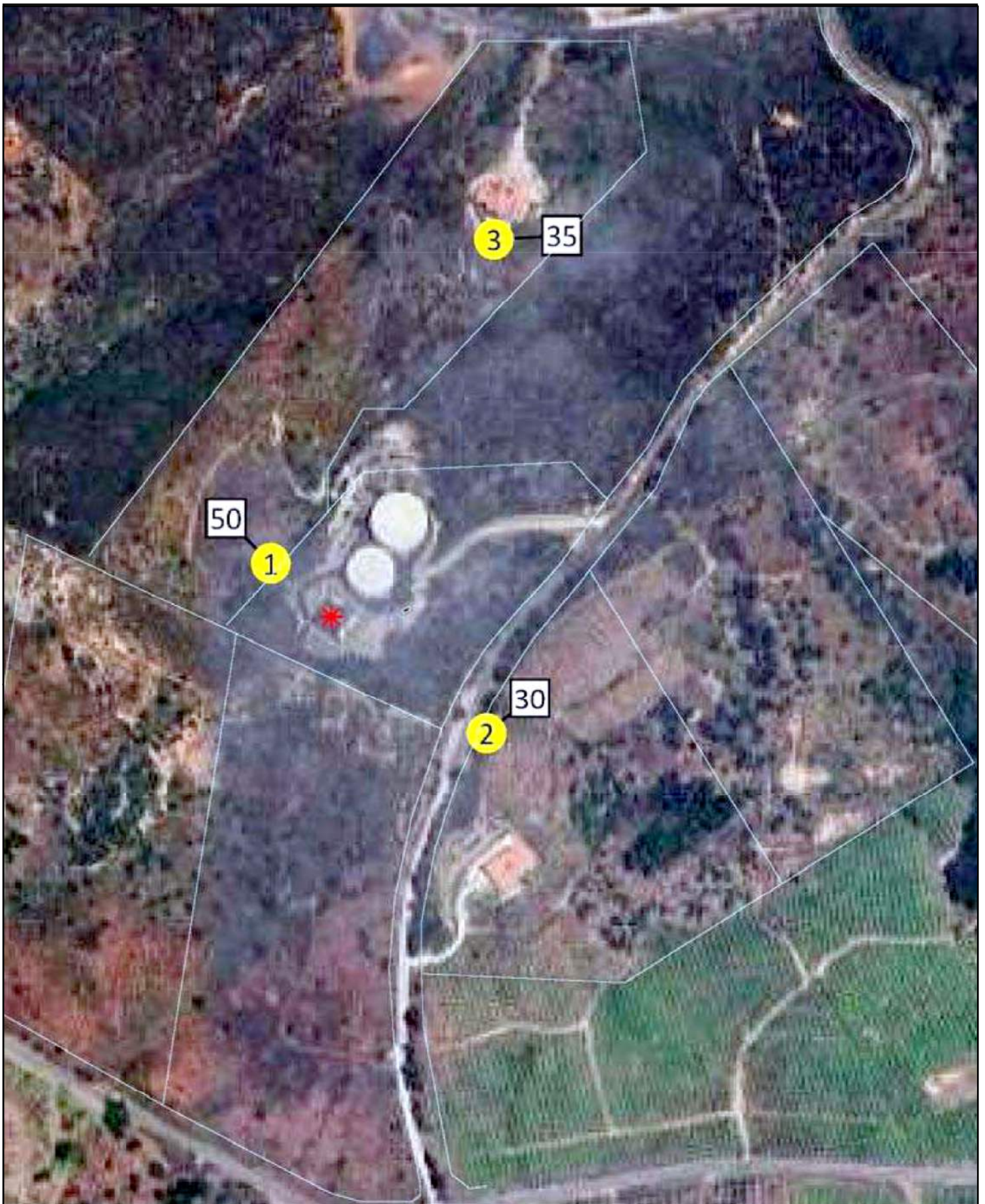




- Legend
- Receiver
 - ★ Point Source (Three 350 Hp pumps)
 - Area source (Transformer sound applied to exterior walls and roof)
 - # Noise Level Tables (dB(A), Leq)

Rancho California Water District
Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project
Figure 9. Project Operational Noise Levels
(Three 350 Hp & Backup Generator)





Legend

- Receiver
- ★ Point Source (Three 350 Hp pumps)
- Area source (Transformer sound applied to exterior walls and roof)
- # Noise Level Tables (dBA, Leq)

Rancho California Water District
Carancho Pump Station Expansion Project
Figure 9A. Operational Noise Levels
(Three 350 Hp Pumps Only)

14. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. 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 people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

- 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)?

RESPONSE:

No Impact. Riverside County has expanded drastically in the last few decades, with significant growth dating back to the early 2000s. The County now encompasses approximately 7,296 square miles (4,669,173 acres), containing 24 incorporated cities, as well as public and privately owned land in unincorporated areas under the jurisdiction of Riverside County (Riverside County GP, 2021). According to the County's General Plan, amongst the population that lives within areas of unincorporated county, approximately 82 percent are concentrated within the unincorporated areas within Western Riverside County (Riverside County GP, 2021). Cities in Western Riverside County, including Temecula and Murrieta, have experienced a tremendous amount of growth due to relatively low cost of living and agricultural production within Temecula Valley, which is recognized as a premiere wine grape growing area within Southern California (RCWD Urban Water Management Plan, 2020).

The Project is located adjacent to agricultural land uses with "high-value crops" and require a consistent irrigation supply. The Project proposes to increase the capacity of the Carancho Pump Station to ensure reliability for surrounding land use within the District's 2550 Pressure Zone, which supplies potable water for rural land use and agricultural production. The District intends to increase capacity at the pump station through various onsite improvements to meet the desired capacity of 4,400 gpm.

The Project is consistent with long-range plans outlined within RCWD's Urban Water Management Plan. The Project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth by either implementing new homes or business or indirectly by extending infrastructure in support of the construction of new homes or the establishment of new businesses. As a result, impacts are not anticipated, and no Mitigation Measures are needed.

- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

RESPONSE:

No Impact. See Response 14, a). The Project will remain within the existing footprint of the Carancho Pump Station and will not result in significant indirect, off-site impacts due to implementation of Standard Conditions, BMPs, and Mitigation Measures for the Project. The Project will allow RCWD to increase reliability and capacity for long-range operations within the 2550 Pressure Zone, a zone essential to the local economy for production of "high-value crops" within Temecula Valley. The Project has been previously approved by the District and Riverside County to support planned buildout of the approved Riverside County General Plan. Upon the completion of Project construction, maintenance of the Project Site will return to pre-Project conditions.

For these reasons, no impacts related to the displacement of substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere is not anticipated to occur. Mitigation Measures are not needed.



15. PUBLIC SERVICES

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the Project:				
a) 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:	☐	☐	☐	☐
i. Fire Protection?	☐	☒	☐	☐
ii. Police Protection?	☐	☒	☐	☐
iii. Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
v. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

- a) **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:**

i. **Fire Protection?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project is within the jurisdiction of Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) and State of California Program of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE). The RCFD maintains 95 fire stations and 17 battalions, one (1) of which is located within the City of Temecula; three (3) stations are operated directly under CALFIRE and are located within portions of unincorporated Riverside County. Riverside Fire Department is staffed with both County and CALFIRE personnel that are equipped with the tools to respond to both urban and wildland fire emergencies (Riverside County FD Strategic Plan, 2009).

The closest fire stations to the Project Site include Fire Department Station 12, located approximately 11.9 miles east from the Project Site; and CAL FIRE Station 16, located approximately 8 miles southwest from the Project Site. Fire Stations within the RCFD jurisdiction house the following inventory/ equipment: structural engines, rural engines, brush engines, telesquirts, trucks, paramedic units, a helicopter, hazardous materials unit, incident command units, water tenders, fire crew vehicles, mobile communications centers, breathing support units, lighting units, power supply units, fire dozers, mobile training vans and emergency feeding units. Specifically, CALFIRE Station 16 maintains three (3) personnel onsite and houses a Type 3 Engine and patrol vehicle; and RCFD Station 12, contains a Type 1 Medic Engine and two (2) Type 3 Engines, at minimum four (4) personnel are at the scene of all emergencies (1 Paramedic; 3 EMTs) and a total of 25 personnel are staffed at this station consisting of three (3) permanent fire captains, three (3) permanent fire apparatus engineers, one (1) seasonal fire apparatus engineer, four (4) permanent firefighters and fourteen (14) seasonal firefighters. RCFD seeks to respond to all fire, life, and environmental emergencies within the City of Temecula within five (5) minutes; therefore, additional time may be required to coordinate responses outside of city limits to the Project Site.

Since the Project does not propose development leading to permanently increased population or increased level of activity within the Local Vicinity, significant demands resulting in the need for an additional fire station, equipment, or staff over the long-term would not result from Project implementation. Project will not permanently change land use, either directly or indirectly, from what was considered and approved in the existing General Plan and Water Master Plan. Therefore there will not be an increased need for fire response



beyond what has already been identified in the RCWD's Water Facilities Master Plan and pre-approved 5-year CIP Projects.

Construction will result in increased activities and risk during the eleven (18) month construction period. The Project is estimated to require a crew of approximately 10 during construction, which is not of a duration or scale that would result in substantial need for changes in the existing public services or physically altered facilities beyond what is already been planned and approved. The Contractor is required to implement Cal-OSHA standards throughout construction pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, §3221, which requires a written Fire Prevention Plan, including prevention, safety, and response measures as well as crew training. In addition, an approved traffic control plan, including input from the Fire Department, will be followed by the construction crew to reduce conflicts and delays from construction and equipment moving within the public right-of-way pursuant to RCWD's standard specifications and Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan**. This will allow fire protection services to function according to agency standards. Therefore, the County Fire Department and emergency response through the construction zone will be maintained pursuant to agency input and standards without the need for new or physically altered government facilities. As a result, less than significant impacts are expected during construction on fire and emergency services.

The standard application of the District's plan check, inspection process will verify the implementation of fire protection performance objectives during construction and long-term operation. In addition, Mitigation Measure **MM PUB-01: Coordination with Fire Protection Agencies** will help to facilitate fire protection services are maintained throughout Project construction activities.

For these reasons, impacts are considered less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM PUB-01: Coordination with Fire Protection Agencies** and Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan**.

ii. **Police Protection?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. See Section 13, a) i). The Project Site is fenced and gated; Access is controlled with a lock placed by District staff. During construction, the site will be secured at the end of each day and construction activities and access will be managed by the Contractor's construction supervisor and the District's inspectors pursuant to the District's Standard Specifications, "Front End Documents" Article 28. Riverside County Sheriff's Department provides police protection to the Project Site and Local Vicinity. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department employs 2,3000 sworn personnel to cover limited patrol services throughout the County. The closest police station to the Project Site is Temecula Promenade Police Substation, approximately 11.8 miles southeast from the Project Site. (Riverside County General Plan, 2015, *Figure 4.17.3-Police and Sheriff Stations*). In addition, Temecula Police Department manages a Traffic Unit composed of 10 motorcycle enforcement officers and seven (7) accident investigators. In order to maintain levels of service, the Riverside County Sheriff Department has established criteria for staffing needs within unincorporated Riverside County, which include one (1) sworn officers per 1,000 population; one (1) supervisor and one (1) support staff employee per seven officers; one (1) patrol vehicle per three sworn offers; one (1) school resources officer per school (Riverside County General Plan, 2015). Since the City of Temecula contracts with Riverside County Sheriff's Department, the current contract provides 76 sworn officers and 12 non-sworn officers amongst the Temecula Police Departments (Temecula General Plan, 2005).

During construction an encroachment permit with an approved traffic control plan will be followed pursuant to Article 15 of the District's General Provisions. To ensure proper coordination for the implementation of the traffic control plan occurs between the County's Engineering Department, RCWD, and County Sheriff, Mitigation Measure **MM PUB-01: Coordination with Police and Traffic Unit for Traffic Control**. This will allow services to function according to agency standards, and access will remain open throughout construction along the Project Alignment. The proposed Project will not permanently increase population or change land use resulting in increased need for police services either directly or indirectly.

Since the Project is a part of the approved Water Facilities Master Plan, intended to benefit the District's overall service area, the Project will not impact the level of police protection at the Project Site. The Project does not propose to increase population or change land use.



As a result of the reasons above, less than significant impacts to police protection are expected. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

iii. **Schools?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. The Project Site is within the Murrietta Valley Unified School District (MVUSD), which operates approximately 21 educational facilities (12 elementary schools; five (5) middle schools; and four (4) high schools) (Riverside County General Plan, 2015, *Figure 4.17.5- Public School Locations*). However, the closest educational facility to the Project Site is Temecula Elementary School, located approximately 11 miles east within the City of Temecula, in the Temecula Valley Unified School District (TVUSD). TVUSD contains approximately 30 educational facilities (20 elementary schools; 7 middle schools; 3 high schools). Due to the location of the closest school to the Project Site, temporary impacts during intermittent Project construction and long-term maintenance are not anticipated. Operation of educational facilities as well as disruptions during drop-offs and pick-ups are not anticipated.

Additionally, the Project will not increase population or density either directly or indirectly within the planning area; therefore, the Project will not result in permanent changes to school enrollment. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

iv. **Parks?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. The Project is a public works improvement and will not result in any short-term or permanent changes in demand for parks services. As mentioned within Section 16. Recreation, the closest parkland and open spaces is Santa Rosa Plateau approximately 2 miles north of the Project Site. The Project does not propose to change land use resulting, either directly or indirectly, in an increase in density or population that would affect park use. Therefore, long-term impacts are not anticipated.

In addition, the Project components are planned to be constructed within the existing footprint of the Carancho Pump Station; therefore, an approved traffic control plan will be implemented in compliance with Rancho California and County Standard Specifications. As a result, access to existing park land adjacent to the Project Site is not anticipated to be impacted by Project construction. Less than significant impacts are anticipated; no Mitigation Measures are needed.

v. **Other public facilities?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The Project Site is west of Temecula city limits, adjacent to primarily agricultural land uses and rural open spaces under the jurisdiction of the County. See *Table 1. Surrounding Adjacent Land Uses*. Rancho California's Engineering Department will facilitate coordination on the Project between other County departments. Therefore, construction is not anticipated to result in significant temporary or permanent changes to public facilities.

MITIGATION MEASURES

MM PUB-01: Coordination with Fire Protection Agencies for Traffic Control. Prior to finalizing the traffic control plan, RCWD's Engineering Division in coordination with the County of Riverside must ensure coordination is facilitated between local fire protection agencies within Riverside County and the City of Temecula including RCFD and CALFIRE. Coordination between local agencies shall involve the review of the Project's traffic control plan prior to the District's approval to ensure all agency BMPs and standards are incorporated into the traffic control plan.

MM PUB-02: Coordination with Police and Traffic Unit for Traffic Control. Prior to finalizing the traffic control plan, RCWD's Engineering Division, in coordination with the County of Riverside, must ensure coordination is facilitated between local police protection agencies within Riverside County and the City of Temecula including Riverside County Sheriff's Department and City of Temecula Police Department including the traffic unit. Coordination between local agencies shall involve the review of the Project's traffic control plan prior to the District's approval to ensure all agency BMPs and standards are incorporated into the traffic control plan.

MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan. See Section 5.17 Transportation for information pertaining to the Mitigation Measure.



16. RECREATION

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

The Quimby Act

The Quimby Act of 1965, Section 66477 of the California Government Code, enables local governments, cities, or counties to require the dedication of land or impose a requirement of the payment of the in-lieu fees for development of community parks as well as setting minimal standards for parks.

Riverside County

Regional Park and Open-Space District

The Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (RivCoParks) is a county department that oversees Parks and Resources, Planning and Development, and Business Operations. Their goal is to preserve land with sensitive habitat or rich heritage within Riverside County and provide opportunities for the community to enjoy equitable access through recreation and education” (RivCoParks, 2024).

DISCUSSION

- 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?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The closest parkland and open spaces to the Project components are Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Preservation, approximately 2 miles north from the Carancho Pump station (Project Site). Due to the distance, the Project will not directly impact parks. The Project will support long-term goals outlined in RCWD’s Water Facilities Master Plan and Riverside County’s General Plan with system redundancy and reliability within the District’s 2550 Pressure Zone.

The Project consists of improvements on the existing footprint of the Carancho Pump Station that will temporarily disrupt site access due to open trenching and mobilization and heavy equipment. Through access within the streets will be maintained during construction with the implementation of an approved traffic control plan by the Contractor; therefore, construction would not alter traffic resulting temporary changes to park utilization within the Local Vicinity or outlying areas. Upon completion, the public right-of-way and Project Site will be restored to existing conditions. The Project does not propose structures or buildings that will directly increase population or level of activity, resulting in permanently increased use of neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The Project will temporarily increase daytime, weekday population at the Project Site during construction; however, significantly increased park uses, resulting in substantial or accelerated physical deterioration of nearby parks, is not expected during construction due to the size of the Project and anticipated size of the construction crew.

As a result, the Project will have no impact on recreational facilities. No Mitigation Measures are required.



- 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?

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The Project will not construct or expand recreational facilities. The Project is composed of the replacement of existing pumps and cans, along with other onsite improvements that will occur within the existing pump station footprint. During construction the Contractor will be required to implement mitigation measures and BMPs to reduce physical effects of construction on the environment to less than significance. Upon completion of construction the Project will restore disturbed areas during construction to existing conditions. Therefore, the Project will have no temporary or permanent impacts related to construction or expansion of recreational facilities which will have an adverse physical effect on the environment, and no mitigation is required.



17. TRANSPORTATION

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. 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) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☒	☐	☐

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

CEQA Guidelines

In December 2018, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) was adopted by the California Natural Resources Agency. The updated guidelines outline the specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts; identifying "vehicle miles traveled" (VMT) as the most appropriate measure for determining impact levels. The updated guidelines focus primarily on transit priority areas, shifting the focus from driver delay to GHG reductions, the utilization of multimodal networks, and mixed land uses.

Section 15064.3 subdivision (b) considers all the following acceptable criteria for analyzing transportation impacts:

- (1) Land Use Projects.** Vehicle miles traveled exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact. Generally, projects within one-half mile of either an existing major transit stop or a stop along an existing high quality transit corridor should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. Projects that decrease vehicle miles traveled in the Local Vicinity compared to existing conditions should be presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact.
- (2) Transportation Projects.** Transportation projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. For roadway capacity projects, agencies have discretion to determine the appropriate measure of transportation impact consistent with CEQA and other applicable requirements. To the extent that such impacts have already been adequately addressed at a programmatic level, such as in a regional transportation plan EIR, a lead agency may tier from that analysis as provided in Section 15152.
- (3) Qualitative Analysis.** If existing models or methods are not available to estimate the vehicle miles traveled for the particular project being considered, a lead agency may analyze the project's vehicle miles traveled qualitatively. Such a qualitative analysis would evaluate factors such as the availability of transit, proximity to other destinations, etc. For many projects, a qualitative analysis of construction traffic may be appropriate.
- (4) Methodology.** A lead agency has discretion to choose the most appropriate methodology to evaluate a project's vehicle miles traveled, including whether to express the change in absolute terms, per capita, per household or in any other measure. A lead agency may use models to estimate a project's vehicle miles traveled and may revise those estimates to reflect professional judgment based on substantial evidence. Any assumptions used to estimate vehicle miles traveled and any revisions to model outputs should be documented and explained in the environmental document prepared for the project. The standard of adequacy in Section 15151 shall apply to the analysis described in this section.

Source: CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3- Determining the Significance of Transportation Impacts.



DISCUSSION

a) **Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As mentioned within Section III. Project Description, the Project components will be constructed within APN 933-050-036, the existing footprint of the Carancho Pump Station. Driveway access to the Project Site from El Calamar Road and the existing internal circulation and access on the Project Site will be maintained with a traffic control plan pursuant to Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan** during construction and will be fully restored upon completion of construction. Since the Project does not propose habitable structures, the Project does not anticipate permanently generating traffic trips that may impact the Local Vicinity.

Temporary Project construction will increase truck trips and worker vehicle trips along local roadways including El Calamar Road, Carancho Road, Camaron Road and De Luz Road from regional transportation routes including I-15 and I-215. As mentioned within the Project Description, construction-related vehicles are anticipated to consist of two (2) service trucks during mobilization; 65 truck trips during demolition; 24 truck trips during site preparation; and 13 trucks per day for pump station construction. As a result, truck trips associated with Project construction are anticipated to be negligible, since the proposed Project will likely generate 42,917 truck trips.

As a result, the Project is not anticipated to conflict with program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities; however, due to the increased volume of construction worker trips and vendor trips the Project will implement Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan** for less than significant impact.

b) **Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) pertains to vehicle miles traveled that are expected from a Project. The Project does not propose changes to existing or approved land use and will not facilitate permanently increased traffic trips or increased VMT. As mentioned above, **Appendix A**, Air Quality, Greenhouse, & Energy Technical Memorandum anticipates temporary Project construction will generate 42,880 construction works trips and 37 vendor and hauling trips during temporary Project construction activities, totaling 42,917 VMT. As a result of temporary increases in truck trips along local roadways, the Project will implement Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan** to ensure BMPs for temporary increases in VMT minimize disruptions to agricultural production, regional trail access, or delays along local roadways within the Local Vicinity. Long-term increases in VMT as a result of the Project are not anticipated. In addition, the traffic control plan will ensure RCWD's and Riverside County standards for traffic control are being implemented throughout Project construction. In addition to **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan**, which will ensure that the Project Manager is compliant with standards established by Riverside County.

As a result, the Project does not anticipate conflicts or inconsistencies with CEQA Guidelines related to VMT with the implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan**.

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

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The Project will be constructed within APN 933-050-036, within the existing footprint of the Carancho Pump Station, outside of the public right-of-way; therefore, Project impacts related to hazards from geometric design features are not anticipated. During construction, the Project will require transport of heavy equipment to the Project Site and the use of heavy equipment. During the mobilization of equipment, the Project will implement a traffic control plan to ensure truck trips do not impede access to local roadways or adjacent properties. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

d) **Result in inadequate emergency access?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. In the long-term, The Project Site will return to pre-project conditions and there will be no impact on vehicular access and emergency access near the Project Site or in the Local Vicinity. However, potential for delay within the Local Vicinity during Project construction is likely, due to equipment and materials being transported to the Project Site for construction. Emergency access will be managed pursuant to the



approved Traffic Control Plan. Continuous access will be maintained to adjacent properties throughout the duration of construction and staging is proposed on-site and within the existing pump station footprint. Therefore, throughout Project construction, the Project Contractor will implement a traffic control plan pursuant to Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan**. The traffic control plan will be available to first responders including Riverside Sheriff's Department, Riverside County Fire Department, and CALFIRE throughout construction activities.

As a result, the Project anticipates less than significant impacts due to the implementation of Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan**.

MITIGATION MEASURES

MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan: Upon the finalization of a detailed design, the RCWD shall arrange for a Traffic Control Plan to be prepared by a licensed traffic engineer, for all Project-affected roadways and intersections. The Traffic Control Plan shall comply with requirements in encroachment permits issued by Riverside County and the RCWD's standards for a traffic control plan. The Traffic Control Plan to be prepared by the construction Contractors shall include, but not be limited to, the following measures from Riverside County, and the District:

- a) **Maintain Vehicular Access:** Maintain the maximum amount of travel lane capacity during construction periods, with all trenches covered with steel plates during non-working hours; and ensure vehicular access is maintained to adjacent property and streets. Provide flagger-control at all active construction sites.
- b) **Construction Work Limits:** Limit the construction work zone in each block to a width that, at a minimum maintains continuous alternate one-way traffic flow past the construction zone. Alternatively, use detour signing on alternate access streets when temporary full streets closure is required.
- c) **Timing:** Restrict construction to non-peak traffic periods as required for specific work sites, such as schools, in encroachment permits. Weekend and night work shifts may be considered in non-residential areas only.
- a) **Construction Coordination:** Coordinate construction activities (time of year and duration) at least two weeks prior to the start of construction. The Contractor shall furnish and install public information signs notifying the public of the Project. The signs shall meet the District's General Provisions for Public.
Contractor shall notify the District, all affected residents, commercial and public establishments, and utility companies of impending work pursuant to the District's General Provisions for Public Information Signs.
- b) **Roadway Signs:** Post advanced warning of construction activities (e.g., signs, articles in newspapers, door hangers, notices on radio/TV, etc.) to allow motorists to select alternative routes in advance and identify alternate routing and detours around construction zones. Information signs will be placed at each end of the Project notifying the community of the Project and temporary delays in access, while mobilization occurs along local roadways.
- d) **Regional Trail Access:** Pursuant to Riverside County's Southwest Specific Plan Area, *Figure 8: Southwest Plan Trails and Bikeway System*, the traffic control plan must maintain safe and comfortable mobility for the regional trail access along local roadways within the community of DeLuz, which provides connectivity for urban and suburban areas.



18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.				
a) Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 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:	☐	☒	☐	☐
i. 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	☐	☒	☐	☐
ii. 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 § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Assembly Bill (AB) 52

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 became effective on July 1st, 2015, and requires lead agencies to provide notice to any California Native American tribes that have requested notice of projects. Upon the receipt of the notice, the tribe has 30 days to request consultation with the lead agency. AB 52 created a new category of resources formally known as “Tribal Cultural Resources”.

Public Resources Code 21074 defines “Tribal cultural resources as any of the following “Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either: (A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources and/or (B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1. This may include 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 Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.”



DISCUSSION

- a) Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 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:

- i. 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

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated: A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search was conducted with the NAHC. The results of the SLF search, received on February 27, 2024, were positive, indicating the presence of cultural resources in the APE (See **Appendix C**). Therefore, it was advised by the NAHC to contact the Pechanga Band of Indians (Pechanga Tribe) along with other tribes within the area. The tribes that responded to the District's scoping letters included the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) and the Pechanga Tribe. On June 24, 2024, the MBMI indicated the Project Site is not located within the boundaries of the ancestral territory or traditional use area of the Cahuilla and Serrano people of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Therefore, MBMI suggested contacting over tribes that had more significance to the land. Therefore, no further consultation between MBMI and the District was conducted.

The Pechanga Tribe was contacted prior to the field survey and performed the field survey along with BCR Consulting. On June 3, 2024, Pechanga Tribe requested consultation with RCWD pursuant to AB 52 since the Project Site is part of *Atáaxum* (Luiseño) territory and the Pechanga Tribe's aboriginal territory is evident by the existence of cultural features associated with religious practice and an extensive artifact record in the Local Vicinity. Tribal consultation took place on June 13, 2024, where Pechanga indicated a high probability of finding tribal resources at the Project Site. As a result of the cultural significance to the Pechanga Tribe and potential archeological discoveries, the Project will implement the Mitigation Measures for Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources that the Pechanga Tribe requested that District implement to avoid potentially significant impacts. **MM CUL-01: Archeological Monitoring, MM TRI-01: Native American Monitoring, MM TRI-02: Final Disposition, & MM TRI-03: Non-Disclosure** will require an archeologist and tribal monitor on-site during ground disturbing activities including the trenching; establish procedures including Preservation-In-Place, reburial, or contacting a Riverside County curation facility if Native American cultural resources are discovered; and implementation of a non-disclosure agreement for reburials.

In addition to formal consultation, Pechanga Tribe requested the receipt of public notices and circulation of all documents (i.e., environmental review, archeological reports, development plans); all other applicable documents pertaining to this Project; and notification of all public hearings and scheduled approvals. Formal Tribal Consultation between the District and the tribe ended on June 28, 2024, upon the receipt of the Pechanga Tribe's revisions to the Mitigation Measures, which have been included within this report.

Therefore, based on the results from the SLF and response received from the Pechanga Tribe, impacts to tribal cultural resources pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21074 and 5020.1(k) are less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures **MM CUL-01: Archeological Monitoring, MM TRI-01: Native American Monitoring, MM TRI-02: Final Disposition, & MM TRI-03: Non-Disclosure**.

- ii. 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 § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated See Response a) above. As mentioned in the Cultural Resources section (5.5), the APE is located within the traditional boundaries of Luiseño. This tribe along with others who are relatively close to the Project Site and were historically present within the region are believed to have knowledge of cultural resources in the Local Vicinity. Therefore, within the NAHC response letter from February 27, 2024, the NAHC suggested that affiliated tribes should be contacted for more information regarding known and recorded sites. The NAHC provided a list of Native American tribes that could assist in identifying potentially significant cultural resources due to these tribes' presence in the Local Vicinity.



The District initiated and carried out required AB52 Native American Consultation with the Pechanga Tribe on June 13, 2024, where the tribe indicated a high probability of finding tribal cultural resources at the Project Site. Therefore, Mitigation Measures for the protection of Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, which have been incorporated into this report including **MM CUL-01: Archeological Monitoring**, **MM TRI-01: Native American Monitoring**, **MM TRI-02: Final Disposition**, & **MM TRI-03: Non-Disclosure**. After the receipt of the revised Mitigation Measures, consultation between the District and the tribe ended on June 28, 2024.

As a result of the outcomes from the District's formal consultation process with the Pechanga Tribe, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant with Mitigation incorporated.

MITIGATION MEASURES

MM CUL-01: Archeological Monitoring. See Section 5.5- Cultural Resources for more information.

MM TRI-01: Native American Monitoring. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, RCWD shall secure agreement with the Pechanga Band of Indians for tribal monitoring. RCWD is also required to provide a minimum of 30 days advance notice to the tribes of all mass grading and trenching activities. The Native American Tribal Representatives shall have the authority to temporarily halt and redirect earth moving activities in the affected area in the event that suspected archaeological resources are unearthed.

MM TRI-02: Final Disposition. In the event that Native American cultural resources are discovered during the course of grading (inadvertent Finds), the following procedures shall be carried out for final disposition of the discoveries: a) One or more of the following treatments, in order of preference, shall be employed with the tribes. Evidence of such shall be provided to RCWD:

- I. Preservation-In-Place of the cultural resources, if feasible. Preservation in place means avoiding the resources, leaving them in the place where they were found with no development affecting the integrity of the resources.
- II. Reburial of the resources on the Project property. The measures for reburial shall include, at least, the following: Measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts in perpetuity. Reburial shall not occur until all legally required cataloging and basic recordation have been completed, with an exception that sacred items, burial goods, and Native American human remains are excluded. Any reburial process shall be culturally appropriate. Listing of contents and location of the reburial shall be included in the confidential Phase IV report. The Phase IV Report shall be filed with the District under a confidential cover and not subject to Public Records Request.
- III. If preservation in place or reburial is not feasible then the resources shall be curated in a culturally appropriate manner at a Riverside County curation facility that meets State Resources Department Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Resources ensuring access and use pursuant to the Guidelines. The collection and associated records shall be transferred, including title, and are to be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation. Evidence of curation in the form of a letter from the curation facility stating that subject archaeological materials have been received and that all fees have been paid, shall be provided by the Lead Archaeologist to the District. There shall be no destructive or invasive testing on sacred items, burial goods, and Native American human remains. Results concerning finds of any inadvertent discoveries shall be included in the Phase IV monitoring report. Evidence of compliance with this mitigation measure, if a significant archaeological resource is found, shall be provided to RCWD upon the completion of a treatment plan and final report detailing the significance and treatment finding.

MM TRI-03: Non-Disclosure. It is understood by all parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of Native American human remains or associated grave goods shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act. The Coroner, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 7927.000, parties, and Lead Agencies, will be asked to withhold public disclosure information related to such reburial, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 7927.000.



19. UTILITIES AND SERVICES

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the Project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation 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 regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

- a) **Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project is an approved CIP in the District's Water Master Plan consisting of installation of new equipment, water mains, electrical cabinets and appurtenant structures, a relocated transformer and antenna, and the removal of two tanks on an existing utility site; it does not propose to change the existing use or function of the Project Site or to relocate or construct other utilities. Therefore, the Project would not cause significant environmental effects from new or relocated utilities. Project-related improvements will be implemented fully within developed portions of the Project Site and would not directly or indirectly impact other utilities.



Storm Water Drainage

Storm water inlets are located on the west side of El Calamar Road, approximately 20 feet south of the base of the main access driveway to the Project Site; and south of the lower pad, of APN 933-050-036 (Project Site). Storm water flows are managed by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. This District ensures that flood protections are placed on areas of Western Riverside County, including the Project Site and adjacent parcels.

Electric Power

Overhead electrical lines and an existing transformer on the Project Site are operated and maintained by SCE. Electrical lines traverses the Project Site from the eastern property boundary to the existing transformer located southeast of the existing water tanks within the upper pad.

Water and Wastewater Treatment

At the Project Site, water services are provided by the RCWD; wastewater is not a requirement of the Project and, within the Local Vicinity, is collected via septic tanks. Project implementation requires the construction of approximately 600 linear feet of potable water main, which will connect to an existing pipeline along El Calamar Road. In addition to the proposed pipeline, the Project will involve the installation and replacement of existing pumps; and demolition of existing tanks, which is proposed to provide system redundancy and increase reliance within the District's 2550 Pressure Zone. Improvements to the water system have been identified within the District's Water Facilities Master Plan and 5-year CIP Plan, which identify, and quantify available water supplies, projected water use, maintenance needs, and system reliability pursuant to California Water Code Section 10610 et seq. (RCWD, 2023). The Project does not propose to develop infrastructure or public utility improvements that have not already been considered and approved by the District and Riverside County.

Throughout Project construction, pursuant to the standard application and plan check process coordination with utility purveyors will be performed; therefore, relocation or construction of new expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relations of which could cause significant environmental impacts are not anticipated. In addition, BMPs within Project plans intend to reduce potential conflicts with existing utilities which may include Project Contractor investigations (exploratory excavations); verification of underground utilities prior to excavation performed by the Project Contractor pursuant to *Article 5. Existence of Utilities at the Work Site* outlined within the District's 2024 "General Provisions".

As a result, less than significant impacts are anticipated. Therefore, no Mitigation Measures are required.

- b) **Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. Due to the scope of Project improvements and length of the schedule, construction is expected to temporarily increase water consumption; however, it is not expected to result in significant consumption of water exceeding available existing or future water supplies. The proposed Project is consistent with RCWD's Water Facilities Master Plan and would not induce growth in population or development directly or indirectly beyond what is currently approved in the County's General Plan. The Project will improve the function of the District's water infrastructure according to planned buildout of the District's Water Facilities Master Plan and the approved land use and density in the County's General Plan. Therefore, the Project does not propose to develop infrastructure that would result in permanent changes to water demand leading to insufficient water supplies in the future.

As a result, no impacts are foreseen, as the Project is not anticipated to substantially modify demand for water supplies, in the short-term or long-term. No impacts would occur as a result of Project implementation on water supplies that serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal and multiple dry years. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

- 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?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. Wastewater flows at the Project Site and Local Vicinity are collected via septic tanks. The proposed Project does not anticipate an increase in the generation of wastewater over the short-or long-term; therefore, additional septic tanks do not need to be added at the Project Site or adjacent land uses to account for increased capacity due to Project



activities. As a result, changes to the facilities existing commitments are not anticipated. No impacts are anticipated, and Mitigation Measures are not required for the Project.

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?**

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant Impact. The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) oversees, manages, and tracks waste generated within California. Assembly Bill (AB) 939 and Senate Bill 1322 shaped the CIWMB and required that all California cities and counties implement programs to reduce, recycle, and compost at least 50 percent of wastes by 2000 (PRC Section 41780). To remain compliant with CIWMB, cities and counties track diverted waste by counting the materials disposed at landfills and subtracting that amount from the base-year amount.

The Project does not propose to permanently increase population or density either at the Project Site, in the Local Vicinity, or within the region. Therefore, waste management services or submittal of an approved Waste Management and Recycling Plan for the Project Site is not necessary. The Project will install new equipment and infrastructure at the existing pump station that may result in disposal of some debris during construction. The Project will also remove two existing water tanks, and this is expected to result in approximately 1,000 tons of debris generated during construction. The Contractor will be required comply with RCWD's 2024 "General Provisions" outlined in *Article 19. Diversion of Recycled Waste Materials/ Disposal of Waste Material*; and implement minimum housekeeping practices according to the California Stormwater BMPs Handbook pursuant to Standard Condition **SC UTL-01: Waste Management Plan** for the Project, which will include temporary lidded bin at the Project Site for collection, disposal, recycling, and transport of construction waste.

Upon completion of construction, no waste is expected to result after Project construction; regular disposal agreements/ methods are not required. However, during Project construction Standard Condition **SC UTL-01: Waste Management Plan** will be implemented to prevent minimize impacts throughout Project construction. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

e) **Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The Project will implement required recycling and disposal requirements during construction and during long-term operations and maintenance. The Project will not increase the amount of solid waste generated at the Project Site over the long term since the Project does not propose to convert the land use from a water utility to development. No impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required. Temporary construction activities will comply with the District's Standard Specifications for waste management referenced in Section 19. d).

STANDARD CONDITION

SC UTL-01: Waste Management Plan- Prior to Project construction, the District's Engineering Department shall ensure Project specifications include standards implementing good housekeeping practices during construction. The District's standard plan check and review process will ensure the following measures are included in Project Specifications and maintain throughout active construction within the APE:

1. **Site Clean Up:** The Contractor shall designate a Construction Supervisor, who will conduct regular daily inspections and will keep the Project Site clean and free of dust, mud, and debris resulting from the Contractor's operations. Daily clean up throughout the Project shall be required as the Contractor progresses with the work. Extra precautions and cleanup efforts shall be made prior to weekends, holidays and predicted weather events such as storms and high winds.
2. **Continuous Street Sweeping:** Contractor implementation of street sweeping shall be implemented throughout active construction and verified by the District Inspector. Spillage of earth, gravel, concrete, asphalt, or other materials resulting from hauling operations along or across any public traveled way shall be removed immediately by the Contractor at his expense. If site is not kept sufficiently clean, the District will take measures to clean it and back charge the Contractor.
3. **Solid Waste Management:** Contractor implementation of solid waste management throughout construction activities shall be verified by the Construction Supervisor and the District's Inspector. Refer to CASQA Factsheet WM-5 and WM-6.



- a. Select designated waste collection areas onsite.
 - b. Inform trash-hauling contractors that you will accept only watertight dumpsters for onsite use. Inspect dumpsters for leaks and repair any dumpster that is not watertight.
 - c. Locate containers in a covered area or in a secondary containment.
 - d. Provide an adequate number of containers with lids or covers that can be placed over the container to keep rain out or to prevent loss of wastes when it is windy.
 - e. Cover waste containers at the end of each workday and when it is raining.
 - f. Plan for additional containers and more frequent pickup during the demolition phase of construction.
 - g. Collect site trash daily, especially during rainy and windy conditions.
 - h. Remove this solid waste promptly since erosion and sediment control devices tend to collect litter.
 - i. Make sure that toxic liquid wastes (used oils, solvents, and paints) and chemicals (acids, pesticides, additives, curing compounds) are not disposed of in dumpsters designated for construction debris.
 - j. Do not hose out dumpsters on the construction site. Leave dumpster cleaning to the trash hauling contractor.
 - k. Arrange for regular waste collection before containers overflow.
 - l. Clean up immediately if a container does spill.
 - m. Make sure that construction waste is collected, removed, and disposed of only at authorized disposal areas.
4. **Material Storage and Delivery Area:** Refer to CASQA Factsheet WM-1.
 - a. Materials Storage and Delivery Areas shall be posted with proper signage.
 - b. Chemicals must be stored in watertight containers with appropriate secondary containment or in a storage shed.
 - c. Temporary storage areas should be located away from vehicular traffic.
 - d. Material delivery and storage areas should be located away from waterways, if possible.
 - e. Employees and subcontractors should be trained on the proper material delivery and storage practices.
5. **Concrete Waste Management:** Refer to CASQA Factsheet WM-8.
 - a. Store dry and wet materials under cover, away from drainage areas. Refer to WM-1, Material Delivery and Storage for more information.
 - b. Perform washout of concrete trucks in designated areas only, where washout will not reach stormwater.
 - c. Do not wash sweepings from exposed aggregate concrete into the street or storm drain. Collect and return sweepings to aggregate base stockpile or dispose in the trash.
6. **Spill Prevention and Control:** Refer to CASQA Factsheet WM-3.
 - a. Protect all stockpiles from stormwater runoff using temporary diversion of surface flows away from stockpiles with sandbags.
 - b. Ensure that stockpile coverings are installed securely to protect from wind and rain.
 - c. Locate stockpiles away from potential drainage.
7. **Erosion Control:**
 - a. temporary perimeter sediment barriers such as compost berms (SE-13), temporary silt dikes (SE-12), fiber rolls (SE-5), silt fences (SE-1), sandbags (SE-8), gravel bags (SE-6), or biofilter bags (SE-14).
8. **Temporary Sanitary Waste Facilities:** Refer to CASQA WM-10
 - a. Instruct employees and subcontractors how to safely differentiate between non-hazardous liquid waste and potential or known hazardous liquid waste.
 - b. Instruct employees, subcontractors, and suppliers that it is unacceptable for any liquid waste to enter any storm drainage device, waterway, or receiving water.
 - c. Educate employees and subcontractors on liquid waste generating activities and liquid waste storage and disposal procedures. Hold regular meetings to discuss and reinforce disposal procedures (incorporate into regular safety meetings).



20. WILDFIRE

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

2019 CEQA Guidelines

In 2019, CEQA Guidelines were amended to address the need to evaluate wildfire impacts since it has worsened in recent history.

While wildfires have been prevalent throughout California's history and more acres of California have burned in the past decade than in the previous 90 years (CALFIRE, Top 20 Largest California Wildfires 2022). Wildfires are caused from natural sources, such as lightening or meteors, and from human activities such as downed powerlines, electrical sources, associated with development (CA Attorney General 2022). As development expands, there is greater potential for wildland fire to occur at wildland-urban interfaces. Approximately one-third of California's housing units are currently located within these areas (CA Attorney General 2022). As a result of the increased risk to wildfire risks within the state of California, CEQA recognizes best practices to disclose, analyze, and mitigate wildfire impacts can be found within local jurisdictions by utilizing general plan documents, in particular the Safety Element of the General Plan.

CALFIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones

The CALFIRE Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZs) is "a mapped area that designated zones (based on factors such as fuel, slope, and fire weather) with varying degrees of fire hazard" (CALFIRE 2022). CALFIRE released a FHSZ Viewer that identifies areas where wildfires are prone to occur (CALFIRE FHSZ Viewer, 2022). The utilization of this tool is meant to limit wildfire damage in preliminary phases of planning to mitigate and prevent activities or land uses that would cause greater risk for a wildfire. According to CALFIRE's FHSZ Viewer and the County's General Plan, the Project Site is within designated Fire Hazard Severity Zones (CALFIRE FHSZ Viewer; Riverside County General Plan, *Figure 7- Fire Hazard Severity Zones (West County) and Emergency Services Facilities*). The closest lands that are categorized as "Very High" severity are located approximately 50 feet north, 100 feet west, and 0.3 miles east of the Project Site. The Project Site is located on a zone designated for moderate fire severity.



California Fire Codes and Wildland-Urban Interface Codes

In 2005, the California Building Commission adopted the Wildland-Urban Interface Codes, which established provisions for ignition-resistant construction standards in WUI areas. These standards ensure that materials used in WUI areas provide a reasonable level of exterior wildfire exposure protection from buildings in WUI areas. The WUI Codes include requirements that enforce the following:

1. **Structure density and location:** number of structures allowed in areas at risk from wildfire, plus setbacks (distance between structures and distance between other features such as slopes);
2. **Building materials and construction:** roof assembly and covering areas, eaves, vents, gutters, exterior walls, windows, non-combustible building materials, and non-combustible surfaces (CBC 705A.1-4/R337.5.1-4);
3. **Vegetation management:** tree thinning, spacing, limbing, and trimming; removal of any vegetation growing under tree canopies (typically referred to as “ladder fuels”) surface vegetation removal, and brush clearance; vegetation conversion, fuel modifications, and landscaping;
4. **Emergency vehicle access:** driveways, turnarounds, emergency access roads, making of roads, and property address maker;
5. **Water supply:** approved water sources and adequate water supply;
6. **Fire protection:** automatic sprinkler system, spark arresters, and propane tank storage.

DISCUSSION

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project will involve construction activities that will require temporary transport and use of trucks and large equipment at the Project Site. The Project will be implemented within the existing developed footprint of the Carancho Pump Station that is designated as moderate severity for fire hazard. The Contractor will be responsible for implementing safety standards during construction activities that are aligned with safety, prevention and fire response standards established under CAL-OSHA requirements as well as local and state fire standards. In addition, the Project Contractor and the District shall implement Standard Condition **SC WILD-01: Fire Code Standards** pursuant to County Ordinance No. 787- Fire Code Standards for fire hazard reduction regulations including assurance of emergency access; preservation of evacuation routes; and enforcement of WUI Fire Building Standards. Slower moving trucks along Rancho California Road, El Calamar Road, Carancho Road, and De Luz Road are anticipated as a result of the various construction activities proposed within the Project Site over an eighteen (18) month period. As mentioned within Section 9. Hazards and Hazardous Waste, Response e), the Project will implement a Traffic Control Plan pursuant to Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan** to ensure emergency access throughout construction activities are maintained.

According to CALFIRE and RCFD, designated evacuation routes are dependent on the location and severity of threat. However, due to Carancho Road, Del Luz Road, and Rancho California Road being well-connected to regional transportation route I-15, in the east, these roadways have the potential to double as evacuation routes in the event of an eminent threat at the Project Site. Due to the Project Site’s proximity to these routes, Project implementation is not anticipated to involve significant impacts to evacuation routes and emergency response plans within vulnerable, fire-prone areas. An emergency at the Project Site will be served by Riverside County Fire Department Station 12, located approximately 11.9 miles east from the Project Site; and CAL FIRE Station 16, located approximately 8 miles southwest from the Project Site. Fire stations closest to the Project Site will also assist in providing access to evacuation routes during disasters according to Riverside County’s Emergency Operations Plan and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Coordination for emergency response is handled through Riverside County’s Emergency Command Center (ECC); the ECC determines which Station will provide emergency response to the Project Site.

Due to required implementation of Cal-OSHA standards for worker safety and safety requirements outlined in the District’s Standard Specifications including maintenance of emergency first aid treatment, and availability of medical services (Standard Specification Article No. 39 *Labor/ Employment Safety*), the Project is not anticipated to require additional or unique emergency response services.

As a result of the reasons above, the Project will implement Project Standard Condition **SC WILD-01: Fire Code Standards** and Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan** during Project construction to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.



- 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?

RESPONSE:

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project site is an unmanned water storage and distribution facility that requires periodic inspection and maintenance by one to five workers every few months. Project construction would temporarily increase traffic and activity on an intermittent basis at the Project Site and along local roadways including El Calamar Road, Carancho Road, and De Luz Road; at Carancho Pump Station and in the Local Vicinity. The Project will install new equipment with secondary equipment and safety features and will add one more pump and a generator to the Project Site. New equipment will be installed pursuant to manufacturer specifications will not substantially increase inspection or maintenance requirements, population or construct buildings for habitation or occupancy at the Project Site. There will be no change in the land use and activities over the long-term will remain unchanged. There will be no impacts related to permanently modified occupancy or level of activities at the Project Site.

The Project will install state of the art equipment, which is intended to enhance emergency water provision in an area with moderate to high fire risk, with slopes and prevailing winds that are generally in a south/ southwest direction. Equipment selections will be made according to the location of the Project Site and the objectives of the Project to avoid and reduce risk. Due to winds and slopes in the APE, there would be an elevated risk that the construction crew could be exposed to wildfire risks; should a fire occur in this area during work hours during construction, the Contractor and construction crew that is expected to consist of approximately 10 workers and will implement the following safety measures throughout Project construction, onsite fire extinguishers, gear for fire protection, fire safety training, and periodic drills for emergency response pursuant to Standard Condition **SC WILD-01: Fire Code Standards**. With the implementation of mitigation measures and BMPs for the Project, impacts related to pollutants from a wildfire or uncontrolled spread of a wildfire are not expected to be significant.

The Project Site is accessible via El Calamar Road through a vehicular driveway, which contains a steep slope up to the upper pad of the Project Site; resulting in a 150-foot elevation change from El Calamar Road to the upper pad. These steep slopes may exacerbate wildfire risks, however, mitigation measures for the Project have been proposed to reduce impacts from Project implementation; therefore the Project does not pose as a significant wildfire risk. The Project does not propose to change the terrain from pre-existing conditions; therefore, impacts from natural terrain and slopes are less than significant. Since the Project Site is within a CALFIRE-designated area for moderate fire potential, BMPs throughout construction activities will be implemented to ensure safety at the job site and facilitate emergency response through training, proper materials and equipment storage and handling, and regular inspections of equipment on-site, performed to ensure flammable gasoline is not leaking. In addition, Mitigation Measure **MM PUB-01: Coordination with Fire Protection Agencies**, requiring coordination with the appropriate fire protection agencies during plan check and inspections will reduce project impacts to less than significant levels.

Therefore, the impacts due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors related to wildfire are less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

- 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?

RESPONSE:

No Impact. The Project is intended to improve reliability and redundancy of the District's 2550 Pressure Zone, to ensure water is available during high use summer months and potential emergency events and will not require installation of additional infrastructure that could exacerbate fire risk. Project plans indicate open trench construction, concrete work, and paving are anticipated to occur throughout onsite improvements. The Project will be restored and stabilized with paved and non-flammable surfaces. Throughout Project construction, the Contractor will be required to implement Cal-OSHA standards for worker safety which will manage continuous access, emergency response, and fire risk during construction pursuant to the MMRP for the Project. Therefore, Project construction is not expected to substantially exacerbate fire risk.

Permanent, long-term substantial changes in required maintenance activities due to Project implementation would not be needed. On-site inspections may occur at the Project Site in substantial conformance with existing inspections and would not interfere with existing land use and activities in the Local Vicinity beyond existing conditions as well as what



has already been approved and considered by RCWD's 5-year CIP Plan and Water Facilities Master Plan; and County of Riverside General Plan documents.

For the reasons above, no impacts are anticipated. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

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?

RESPONSE:

No Impact. Refer to Response 20. c). The District's Standard Specifications pertaining to worker safety and Cal-OSHA standards will be implemented to reduce short-term localized temporary and intermittent risks during construction related to fire, drainage, runoff and soil instability. According to CALFIRE's Fire Hazard Safety Zone Map, the area is designated as a State Responsibility Area for fire safety. The Project Site is in an area with unique features or elevated risk from wildfire and has the potential for slope failure, and landslides after a fire event. The Project Site is currently developed and will not be substantially modified in a manner that will increase risks associated with fire and slope instability. The Project will not result in drainage changes. The Project Site and existing Carancho Pump Station (APN 933-050-036) is well-maintained by the District and contains developed utilities located on flat pads surrounded vegetation buffers and defensible space supporting fire response via existing vehicle access and the design of the existing upper and lower concrete pads.

In addition, the Project would not substantively change long-term level of activity, topography, or land use patterns at the Project Site or in the Local Vicinity. The prevailing land use to within the Local Vicinity is rural, open space, and the Project Site is currently used for a public utility on a District-owned parcel. The Project does not propose to change existing land use or change existing topography via grading. Upon Project completion, the Project Site will return to pre-Project conditions. The Project is consistent with the County's Municipal Code and will be verified during the standard application of the District and County plan check and inspection process prior to and during construction.

For these reasons, no impacts are anticipated. No Mitigation Measures are needed.

STANDARD CONDITIONS

SC WILD-01: Fire Code Standards. Pursuant to Riverside County's *Ordinance No. 787- Fire Code Standards*, the District will ensure that requirements and standards for fire hazard reduction regulations are implemented during Project construction by the Project Contractor; and by the District throughout maintenance of the Project Site. The ordinance will require the following:

- A. **Emergency Access:** Project plans must be checked via the County and Riverside Fire Department to assure that structural and nonstructural architectural elements of the building do not impede emergency egress for fire safety staffing/ personnel, equipment, and apparatus;
- B. **Evacuation Routes.** Project plans must be checked via the County and Riverside Fire Department to assure that structural and nonstructural architectural elements of the building do not hinder evacuation from fire, including potential blockages to El Calamar Road; De Luz Road; and Carancho Road.
- C. **WUI Fire Area Building Standards.** Prior to the final approval of the Project plans, the County and District shall ensure that the following WUI Area Building Standards are implemented into the Project design to ensure a reasonable level of exterior exposure protection from buildings in the WUI areas:
 - 1. **Structure density and location:** The number of structures allowed in areas at risk from wildfire shall be revised by the County and Riverside County Fire Department;
 - 2. **Building materials and construction:** A list of equipment and materials used for the Project shall be shared to the appropriate fire agencies, including Riverside County Fire Department to ensure that roof assembly and covering areas, eaves, vents, gutters, exterior walls, non-combustible building materials, and non-combustible surfaces abide by WUI Fire Codes;
 - 3. **Vegetation management:** tree thinning, spacing. Limbing, and trimming; removal of any vegetation growing under tree canopies (typically referred to as "ladder fuels") surface vegetation removal, and brush clearance; vegetation conversion, fuel modifications, and landscaping;
 - 4. **Water supply:** The Project Site shall maintain an approved water sources and adequate water supply.
- D. **Ongoing Fire Protection.** The District shall ensure that the installation and continuous maintenance of an onsite fire extinguisher; fire safety training; and periodic drills for emergency response is included within a maintenance plan prior to final approval of the Project Plans.



MITIGATION MEASURES

See Section 5.17 Transportation for Mitigation Measure **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan.**



21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. Would the Project:				
a) Does the Project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

DISCUSSION

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

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Due to the limited scope of the Project, within an existing developed site, and required implementation of standards and conditions by RCWD as well as mitigation measures for the Project, substantial degradation of environmental quality, habitat, wildlife populations, plants or animals would not result either directly or indirectly.

Due to its location within RCWD's existing parcel, on developed land, the Project has very limited potential to result in direct significant impacts on wildlife, habitat, rare, or endangered plant or animal communities; implementation of BMPs, Standard Conditions, and Mitigation Measures for the Project will reduce indirect impacts on the environment to less than significant levels. Mitigation Measures **MM BIO-01: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Clearance Survey** has been incorporated in this ISMND to require preconstruction surveys and nest protections if needed and will reduce direct impacts on nesting migratory birds which are protected under federal and state regulations and may be found in proximity with Project construction. Less than significant impacts with mitigation would occur.



The Project is anticipated to be implemented within areas that have been previously disturbed and within engineered fill. Mitigation measures requiring preconstruction training for cultural resources and treatment protocols for buried resources, should they be encountered, have been included in this document. Therefore, direct impacts on major periods of California history or prehistory would be avoided and/or reduced to a less than significant levels by implementation of mitigation measures **MM CUL-01: Archeological Monitoring**, **MM CUL-02: Worker Environmental Awareness Training**, and **MM CUL-03: Discovery of Human Remains**.

Project impacts on air quality, water quality that could impact the environment and indirectly impact wildlife and plants, will be reduced to less than significant levels with the implementation of measures listed in the MMRP, to reduce indirect impacts from emissions of dust, pollution, and hazardous materials and potential for emergencies during construction: **SC AQ-01: Compliance with SCAQMD Rules**, **SC HAZ-01: Disposal of Hazardous Waste Materials**, **MM HAZ-01: Hazardous Materials Manifest and Plan**, **BMP HYDRO-01: Water Quality BMPs**, **BMP NOI-01- Noise Best Management Practices**, **MM PUB-01: Coordination with Fire Protection Agencies**, **MM PUB-01: Coordination with Police and Traffic Unit for Traffic Control.**, **MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan**, **SC UTL-01: Waste Management Plan** and **SC WILD-01: Fire Code Standards**.

- 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.)

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project is of limited scope, involving equipment upgrades and removal of water storage tanks that are not in use, resulting in incremental Project-related impacts that will be reduced to less than significant with mitigation measures. Most potentially significant Project-related impacts are temporary and short-term and expected to occur during the 18-month construction period. The Project would improve long-term system reliability, water quality and fire flow to the 2550 Pressure Zone during summer months. It will not change level of maintenance activity required to operate the District’s water delivery system as a whole. The Project has been designed to accommodate existing and planned future growth that has been identified and approved in the County’s General Plan. Therefore, the Project is consistent with the planned buildout of the General Plan and the RCWD Water Facilities Master Plan; therefore, the Project would not induce growth or contribute incrementally to significant direct or indirect impacts, that are cumulatively considerable environmental impacts, beyond what has already been evaluated and approved in the County’s General Plan EIR.

As the preceding sections identify, the Project would not require increased ongoing operations and maintenance-related activity, that would differ materially from what is now occurring, or result in cumulative impacts beyond what was previously reviewed and evaluated in the General Plan EIR. The Project would improve system reliability to the 2550 Pressure Zone, it would likely decrease the level of maintenance activity required to operate the District’s wastewater collection system as a whole.

Potentially significant impacts have been identified for ten resources in the Project vicinity: aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazardous materials, hydrology, and transportation. Project impacts will be reduced to less than significant levels with the implementation of recommended mitigation measures identified herein: aesthetics (**MM AES-01: Construction Lighting Plan**), biological resources (**MM BIO-01: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Clearance Survey**), cultural resources (**MM CUL-01: Archeological Monitoring**, **MM CUL-02: Worker Environmental Awareness Training**, and **MM CUL-03: Discovery Of Human Remains**), hazardous materials (**MM HAZ-01: Hazardous Materials Manifest**), hydrology (**MM HYDRO-01: Stormwater BMPs throughout Project Construction**), transportation and wildfire (**MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan**).

For the reasons stated above, the Project does not have the potential to result in cumulatively considerable impacts.

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

RESPONSE:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Required implementation of the MMRP will reduce potential indirect and direct adverse effects on human beings due to the following required measures: Air quality (**SC AQ-01: Compliance with SCAQMD Rules**, hazardous materials), (**SC HAZ-01: Disposal of Hazardous Waste Materials**, **MM HAZ-01: Hazardous Materials Manifest and Plan**), water quality (**BMP HYDRO-01: Water Quality BMPs**), noise (**BMP NOI-01- Noise Best Management Practices**), and aesthetics (**MM AES-01: Construction Lighting Plan**) and coordination on public services



and utilities (MM PUB-01: Coordination with Fire Protection Agencies, MM PUB-01: Coordination with Police and Traffic Unit for Traffic Control., MM TRAF-01: Traffic Control Plan, SC UTL-01: Waste Management Plan and SC WILD-01: Fire Code Standards) .

The Project would have substantial benefits to the community by modernizing and improving the reliability of the District's water infrastructure within Pressure Zone 2550; reducing overall maintenance needs and costs; and substantially reducing the potential for failures that can result in major repairs and/or service deficiencies. Proposed installation of new equipment and the removal of unused tanks is intended to increase safety and enhance long-term performance within the District's water system.



6.0 REPORT PREPARATION

This section lists those individuals who contributed to the preparation of this Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration.

6.1 RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT

Dan Ruiz	District Engineer
Phillip Dauben	Principal Engineer

6.2 AGENCIES OF PERSONS CONTACTED

The following agencies or persons were contacted during the preparation of this document.

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Kate Wilson	Ganddini
Roma Stromberg	Ganddini



7.0 REFERENCES

The following references were utilized during preparation of this Initial Study/ Environmental Checklist.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Final Report for Carancho Pump Station- Final Planning & Preliminary Design Report, prepared for Rancho California Water District by Wood Rodgers, Inc., February 2023.
2. 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (FY 2024- 2028), Rancho Water District, Adopted June 8, 2023, <https://www.ranchowater.com/DocumentCenter/View/7426/RCWD-5-Year-CIP---FY-2024-2028?bidId=>
3. CEQA Guidelines 2022, Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act, Prepared for Rancho California Water District By Best & Krieger LLP
4. Riverside County General Plan, Riverside County Planning Department, December 8, 2015, <https://planning.rctlma.org/general-plan-and-zoning/riverside-county-general-plan>
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8.0 APPENDICIES

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