(760) 323-4971
POST OFFICE BOX 1710 PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92264
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92263
1200 SOUTH GENE AUTRY TRAIL

# DESERT WATER AGENCY
# INITIAL STUDY AND
# DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
# FOR
# DWA/CVWD INTERCONNECTION NO. 2

**APRIL 2026**

Prepared by

KRIEGER & STEWART
Engineering Consultants
(951) 684-6900
Office: 3602 University Ave, Riverside, CA 92501
Mailing: 3890 Orange St #1509, Riverside, CA 92502

101-12.220
(REPORTS/CEQA/101-12P220)
VEM/blt

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**PAGE**

**PART 1 - PROJECT INFORMATION**
A. DESERT WATER AGENCY ..... 1
B. COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT ..... 1
C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION ..... 2
D. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING ..... 3
E. COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA ..... 4
F. LEAD AGENCY AND RESPONSIBLE AGENCY ..... 4
G. PUBLIC INFORMATION DOCUMENT ..... 5

**PART 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND CHECKLIST**
A. PROJECT INFORMATION ..... 6
B. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED ..... 8
C. DETERMINATION ..... 9
D. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ..... 10
E. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST ..... 12

**PART 3 - REFERENCES AND SOURCES** ..... 57

**FIGURES**

FIGURE 1 PROJECT VICINITY
FIGURE 2 PROJECT LOCATION

**APPENDICES**

A. DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

B. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
*Biological Resources Assessment Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District Interconnection No. 2 Project, Cathedral City, Riverside County, California*; by LSA Associates, Inc., February 2026

C. CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
CRM TECH Memorandum dated January 10, 2026: *Cultural Resources Study for DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 Project, City of Cathedral City, Riverside County, California (CRM TECH Project No. 4325)*

D. AIR QUALITY CALCULATIONS
*DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 Summary Report*, generated February 3, 2026 using CalEEMod Version 2022.1

## ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| ACBCI | Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians |
| Agency | Desert Water Agency |
| APE | area of potential effects |
| BMPs | Best Management Practices |
| CAAQS | California Ambient Air Quality Standards |
| CalEEMod | California Emissions Estimator Model |
| Cal/OSHA | California Division of Occupational Safety and Health |
| CDFW | California Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| CEQA | California Environmental Quality Act |
| CESA | California Endangered Species Act |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CNPS | California Native Plant Society |
| CO | carbon monoxide |
| $CO_2e$ | carbon dioxide equivalent |
| CVMSHCP | Coachella Valley Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plan |
| CVWD | Coachella Valley Water District |
| DTSC | California Department of Toxic Substances Control |
| DWA | Desert Water Agency |
| EIR | Environmental Impact Report |
| FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| FESA | Federal Endangered Species Act |
| FPVC | fusible polyvinylchloride |
| GHGs | greenhouse gases |
| gpm | gallons per minute |
| GWP | global warming potential |
| JD | Jurisdictional Delineation |
| Lead Agency | Desert Water Agency |
| LF | linear feet |
| MBTA | Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act |
| NAAQS | National Ambient Air Quality Standards |
| $NO_2$ | nitrogen dioxide |
| $O_3$ | ozone |

| | |
|---|---|
| $PM_{10}$ | particulate matter measuring greater than 2.5 microns and up to 10 microns in diameter |
| $PM_{2.5}$ | particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or less in diameter |
| Project (or the Project) | DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 |
| Regional Board | California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region |
| Responsible Agency | Coachella Valley Water District |
| SCAQMD | South Coast Air Quality Management District |
| SGMA | Sustainable Groundwater Management Act |
| $SO_2$ | sulfur dioxide |
| $SO_4$ | sulfates |
| SRA | state responsibility area |
| SSAB | Salton Sea Air Basin |
| Tribe | Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians |
| USEPA | United States Environmental Protection Agency |
| USFWS | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |

# PART 1
# PROJECT INFORMATION

# PART 1 - PROJECT INFORMATION

## A. DESERT WATER AGENCY

Desert Water Agency (DWA or the Agency) was formed in 1961 for the purposes of securing water supplies for, and providing water service to, residents of its service area. DWA's service area is generally bounded on the north (from west to east) by the intersection of Interstate 10 and Highway 111 to Chino Canyon and the Whitewater River, on the east by the Whitewater River and the Coachella Valley Water District, on the south by the rugged Santa Rosa Mountains, and on the west by the rugged San Jacinto Mountains.

DWA currently provides municipal water service to a total population of approximately 75,000 residents within its service area, which includes the City of Palm Springs, the southwest portion of the City of Cathedral City, and some unincorporated areas within Riverside County. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DWA is Lead Agency for the Project.

## B. COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) was formed in 1918 under the provisions of the County Water District Act to protect and conserve local water sources. CVWD's service area comprises approximately 1,000 square miles extending from Desert Hot Springs to the Salton Sea, mostly within the Coachella Valley within Riverside County, and also extending into small portions of Imperial and San Diego Counties.

CVWD delivers water for domestic consumption, landscape and agricultural irrigation, and fire protection within its service area., with a population of approximately 270,000. CVWD also collects and treats wastewater, serves non-potable water for landscape irrigation use, provides regional storm water protection, replenishes the groundwater basin, and promotes water conservation. Pursuant to CEQA, CVWD is a Responsible Agency for the Project.

## C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 1. Proposed Project

DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 (the Project) consists generally of constructing and operating a potable water pipeline between an existing CVWD pipeline and an existing DWA pipeline to facilitate the transfer of water from CVWD's potable water system to DWA's potable water system, at a capacity of up to 2,500 gallons per minute (gpm).

Project construction is anticipated to include the following:

- Fusing joints of approximately 1,450 linear feet (LF) of thermoplastic pipe (fusible polyvinylchloride, or FPVC) within a laydown area along Sarah Street and an existing 25-foot wide DWA easement between Sarah Street and the Cimarron Golf Resort;
- Installation of the fused FPVC pipe beneath the Whitewater River Channel at a location occupied by the Cimarron Golf Resort via horizontal directional drilling, with a total bore length of approximately 1,450 LF;
- Connection of the FPVC pipe to an existing 12-inch waterline at an existing CVWD well site, and installation of associated valves, piping, and appurtenances; and
- Connection of the FPVC pipe to an existing 12-inch waterline located within an easement held by DWA just north of an existing DWA well site and easterly of Sarah Street, and installation of associated piping, valves, and appurtenances.

Operation of the Project includes placing the new pipeline into service and using same for transferring water from CVWD's potable water system to DWA's potable water system, as coordinated and agreed by both DWA and CVWD.

### 2. Purpose

The purpose of the Project is to construct facilities for the transfer of domestic water from CVWD's potable water system to DWA's potable water system in the event of emergency or other circumstance deemed appropriate by both DWA and CVWD. The interconnection is intended to be used only during major fires, natural disasters, water main breaks, or other

unforeseen circumstances. The Project will improve DWA's ability to respond to emergencies and unexpected major water consumption.

## D. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

### 1. Location

The Project is located primarily belowground within the Cimarron Golf Resort, which is located within the Whitewater River Channel, north of Ramon Road and between Landau Boulevard to the east and Sarah Street to the west, in the City of Cathedral City, Riverside County, California. Project facilities will also be located within an existing CVWD well site located easterly of the Cimarron Golf Resort and within an existing easement held by DWA located westerly of the Cimarron Golf Resort and easterly of Sarah Street. Locations of the proposed facilities are depicted on **Figures 1 and 2** herein.

The existing street right-of-way of Sarah Street, as well as the DWA-held easement located between Sarah Street and the Cimarron Golf Resort, will be used for staging and pipe fusing, and, because the pipe will be installed using the horizontal directional drilling method, no surface disturbance within the Cimarron Golf Resort is anticipated. Some surface disturbance is expected both to the west and east of the Cimarron Golf Resort in order to connect to existing pipelines and to install associated piping, valves, and appurtenances.

### 2. Climate

Climate in DWA's service area is characterized by low humidity, high summer temperatures, and mild dry winters. The area normally receives an average annual precipitation of approximately 6 inches, most of which occurs during December through February (except for summer thundershowers).

Prevailing winds in the area are usually gentle, but occasionally increase to velocities as high as 50 to 60 miles per hour or more. Midsummer temperatures commonly exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), frequently reach 110°F, and periodically reach 120°F. The average winter temperature is approximately 60°F.

### 3. Land Use

Land use at the Project site consists of the existing golf course within the Cimarron Golf Resort, open space and a public street right-of-way to the west of the golf course, and open space and the existing well site to the east of the golf course.

The Project site is surrounded by open space and commercial uses to the west, residential and commercial uses to the east, and Ramon Road and the Whitewater River to the south of the golf course.

## E. COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA

This document has been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, codified in California Public Resources Code, Division 13, Section 21000 *et seq* (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq*), and the *2025 Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act for Desert Water Agency*. Pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, this Initial Study has been prepared to determine whether the Project may have a significant effect on the environment.

This Initial Study for the DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 project has been prepared by Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated under contract with DWA to comply with the provisions of CEQA.

## F. LEAD AGENCY AND RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

"Lead Agency" means the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. The Lead Agency will decide whether an EIR or Negative Declaration will be required for the project and will cause the document to be prepared (State CEQA Guidelines §15367). DWA is Lead Agency for the Project, as it is the public agency with the primary responsibility for preparing CEQA documents and for carrying out and approving the Project. Since DWA is responsible for the Project, it must comply with the requirements of CEQA.

DWA routinely constructs new facilities, maintains them, and replaces them as necessary to maintain adequate, reliable, and safe domestic water service to its customers. The Project is a continuation of the authority that DWA has exercised in the past.

"Responsible Agency" means a public agency which proposes to carry out or approve a project, for which a Lead Agency is preparing or has prepared an EIR or Negative Declaration. For the purposes of CEQA, the term "Responsible Agency" includes all public agencies other than the Lead Agency which have discretionary approval power over the project (State CEQA Guidelines §15381). CVWD is a Responsible Agency for the Project, as its approval of the project is required.

## G. PUBLIC INFORMATION DOCUMENT

This is a public information document prepared in accordance with CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, and the *2025 Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act for Desert Water Agency*. The purposes of this Initial Study are to provide DWA with information to use as a basis for identifying the potential environmental impacts of the Project, for determining the appropriate CEQA document to prepare for the Project, to facilitate environmental assessment of the Project, and to provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in the Project's CEQA document. Additionally, this document identifies mitigation intended to avoid or reduce any adverse environmental impacts of the Project to levels that are less than significant.

# PART 2
# ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND CHECKLIST

## PART 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND CHECKLIST

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**1. Project Title:**

DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2

**2. Lead Agency and Contact Person::**

Desert Water Agency

Adrian Biggs, Associate Engineer
1200 S. Gene Autry Trail
Palm Springs, CA 92264
(760) 323-4971 ext. 193
abiggs@dwa.org

**3. Responsible Agency:**

Coachella Valley Water District
75525 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92211

**4. Project Location:**

Refer to **Part 1.C.1** on **Page 3** herein. Refer also to **Figures 1 and 2** herein.

**5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**

Desert Water Agency
1200 S. Gene Autry Trail
Palm Springs, CA 92264

**6. General Plan Designation:**

Golf Course: Open Space – Watercourse
DWA Easement (between Sarah St./Golf Course): High-Density Residential (20-24 du/ac)
DWA Well Site: General Commercial
CVWD Well Site: Resort Residential (3-6.5 du/ac)

**7. Zoning:**

Golf Course: R3, Multiple Family Residential District
DWA Easement (between Sarah St./Golf Course): R3, Multiple Family Residential
DWA Well Site: R3, Multiple Family Residential District
CVWD Well Site: Resort Residential

**8. Description of Project:**

Refer to **Part 1.C**, beginning on **Page 2** herein.

**9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**

Refer to **Part 1.C.2** and **Part 1.C.3**, beginning on **Page 3** herein.

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

- Coachella Valley Water District (Responsible Agency/Encroachment Permit)
- State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (Amendment to Water Supply Permit)
- Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (Encroachment Permit)
- California Department of Water Resources (Funding Approval, Urban Community Drought Relief Grant)

**11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?**

DWA sent a formal notification letter to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI or the Tribe) on December 11, 2025 to notify the Tribe of the Project.

On December 30, 2025, DWA received a letter from a representative of the ACBCI, stating that the Project is located within the boundaries of the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. In the letter, ACBCI requested formal government-to-government consultation on the Project, copies of any cultural resource documentation and reports relating to the Project, and the presence of an Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor during ground-disturbing activities.

Consultation has commenced, with a consultation meeting held between DWA and the Tribe on February 9, 2026.

## B. 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
- ☐ Air Quality
- ☐ Cultural Resources
- ☐ Geology/Soils
- ☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- ☐ Land Use/Planning
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Public Services
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Utilities/Service Systems
- ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance
- ☐ Agriculture/Forestry Resources
- ☐ Biological Resources
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ☐ Hydrology/Water Quality
- ☐ Mineral Resources
- ☐ Population/Housing
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
- ☐ Wildfire
- ☒ None

**C. 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.

Simsa Saric
KRIEGER & STEWART, INCORPORATED
Agency Consulting Engineer
DESERT WATER AGENCY

04/17/2026
Date

## D. 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 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.

4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses", as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration

pursuant to 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 significant.

## E. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

### Issue I. Aesthetics

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project consists of belowground facilities (i.e. approximately 1,450 LF of pipeline) and low-lying structures (i.e., valves, piping, and appurtenances). The portion of Ramon Road located to the south of the Project site is within one of the City's Scenic Image Corridors, as depicted on "Exhibit CM-4 – Image Corridors" of the City of Cathedral City 2040 General Plan & Active Transportation Plan, adopted in 2021. Aboveground portions of the Project facilities will be unobtrusive and located within CVWD's existing well site, which is a fenced and maintained site located approximately 350 feet northerly of Ramon Road, and no substantial impacts to views in the area are expected once construction has been completed. Further, the Project site is not part of a scenic vista, and the proposed facilities will not obstruct public views of a designated scenic vista. For these reasons, the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*There are no "Officially Designated State Scenic Highways" within close proximity to the Project site. State Route 111, which is located approximately 0.6 mile westerly of the Project Site, is listed as an "Eligible State Scenic Highway". The nearest Officially Designated State Scenic Highway is State Route 62, which was designated in 1972 and is located approximately 4.5 miles northwesterly of the Project site, and continuing north from Interstate 10. The Project consists of low-lying and belowground facilities and would not substantially damage any scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway, and no mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issue I(a)*** *above.*

**Issue I. Aesthetics (continued)**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project Site is located within an urbanized area, as it is surrounded by a golf course and residential and commercial development, as well as some open space, as depicted on* ***Figure 2*** *herein. Project facilities include belowground and low-lying structures that will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project facilities will not conflict with applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality, and no mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issue I(a)*** *herein.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project does not include lighting; therefore, the Project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area. No mitigation is required.*

## Issue II. Agriculture and Forest Resources

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in forest protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Based on maps available from the State of California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resources Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, online at https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF, the Project site is located within an area of land categorized as "Urban and Built-Up Land", which is defined below.*

***Urban and Built-Up Land** is occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. Common examples include residential, industrial, commercial, institutional facilities, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, and water control structures.*

*There is no land categorized as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (collectively, Farmland) located on or adjacent to the Project site. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not convert Farmland to non-agricultural use, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project site is not zoned for agricultural use, and there are no Williamson Act contracts in effect on any of the parcels included in the Project site. For these reasons, the Project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or with a Williamson Act Contract, and not mitigation is required.*

**Issue II. <u>Agriculture and Forest Resources</u> (continued)**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Would the project 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))? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*There are no lands zoned for forest land or timberland located on or adjacent to the Project site. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project Site does not contain nor adjoin any forest land. Therefore, construction and operation of the Project will not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use, and no mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issue II.c*** *above.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| e) Would the project 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project does not involve changes in the existing environment that could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use, and no mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issues II(a) through II(d)****, above.*

## Issue III. Air Quality

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project is located within the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB), which encompasses all of Imperial County and the central part of Riverside County, extending from the San Jacinto Mountains on the west to the Little San Bernardino Mountains on the east. The Riverside County portion of the SSAB is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).*

*A project is considered to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan if it would result in population or employment growth that would exceed the estimates for such growth that are set forth in the applicable air quality plan.*

*The Project consists of an interconnection between the water systems of DWA and CVWD and will be operated as needed in order to transfer water from CVWD to DWA during emergencies or other unexpected conditions. The Project does not have the potential to result in an increase in population or employment growth in the area. For these reasons, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct any applicable air quality plan, and no mitigation is required.*

*Potential impacts related to greenhouse gases are described in **Issue VIII** herein.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project 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 threshold? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

*As described in **Issue III(a)** above, the Project is located within the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB). Air quality conditions in the SSAB are under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).*

*State and federal designations based on the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) and the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the Project area are listed below.*

*"Attainment" is the category given to an area that has had no CAAQS or NAAQS violations in the past 3 years. "Non-Attainment" is the category given to an area that has had one or more such violations in the past 3 years. An area is considered "Unclassified" when there is insufficient data.*

*Under the CAAQS, the Project area is classified as Non-Attainment for ozone ($O_3$) and for particulate matter measuring greater than 2.5 microns and up to 10 microns in diameter ($PM_{10}$). The Project area is classified as Attainment for particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or less in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$), for carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide ($NO_2$), sulfur dioxide ($SO_2$), sulfates ($SO_4$), and lead. Additional information about each of these pollutants and the CAAQS is available at the California Air Resources Board website at www.arb.ca.gov/resources/california-ambient-air-quality-standards.*

*Under the NAAQS, the Project area is classified as Non-Attainment for $O_3$, $PM_{10}$, and $PM_{2.5}$, and as Unclassified/Attainment for CO, $NO_2$, $SO_2$, and lead. Additional information about these pollutants and the NAAQS is available on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website at www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants.*

*Project construction air pollutant emissions were estimated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod, 2022.1). A copy of the CalEEMod report for the Project is included in **Appendix D** herein. A summary of peak day air pollutant emissions estimated to be generated during construction are set forth in **Table 1** below.*

**Table 1**
**Estimated Peak Day Construction Equipment Exhaust Emissions for Construction of DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2**

| | Pollutants (pounds/day[1]) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | VOC | $NO_X$ | CO | $SO_x$ | $PM_{10}$ | $PM_{2.5}$ |
| **Project Construction Emissions** | **1.09** | **7.44** | **11.8** | **0.02** | **0.26** | **0.24** |
| **SCAQMD Significance Thresholds[2]** | **75** | **100** | **550** | **150** | **150** | **55** |

*(1) Peak day*

*(2) Mass Daily Construction Thresholds (SCAQMD, March 2023)*

*Construction activities will result in a temporary increase in quantities of air pollutants in the Project area, including airborne dust, resulting from operation of construction vehicles and equipment. Where necessary, dust will be mitigated to the extent possible using dust palliatives (such as water) and best management practices (BMPs) specified in the construction contract documents for the Project. Air pollutant emissions resulting from Project construction are well below the significance thresholds established by SCAQMD and will be short-term.*

*Ongoing operation of the Project will not generate substantive quantities of air pollutant emissions, as there are no facilities that emit air pollutants included in the Project, and vehicle trips to the site during operation are expected to be infrequent since the facilities are intended only for occasional, emergency use. Therefore, Project operation would not result in an increase in vehicle trips or air pollutant emissions over existing conditions.*

*For the reasons described above, air pollutant emissions generated by construction and operation of the Project will be less than significant and will not result in an increase in $O_3$, $PM_{10}$, or $PM_{2.5}$ for which the Project area is designated Non-Attainment under the CAAQS and/or the NAAQS. Although air pollutant emissions generated by the Project would be less than significant, Mitigation Measure AQ-1 has been incorporated into the Project in order to avoid or reduce potential impacts of fugitive dust that may be generated during Project construction. Mitigation Measure AQ-1 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration in* ***Appendix A*** *herein.*

***Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Dust Control***

*Construction contract documents will require that dust control measures be implemented onsite during all surface disturbance operations, and that dust palliatives, such as water be applied as necessary to reduce fugitive dust to the extent practicable throughout Project construction.*

**Issue III. Air Quality (continued)**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

*The sensitive receptors nearest the Project Site are residences on to the north and northwest of the CVWD well site. Quantities of air pollutant emissions will temporarily increase during Project construction; however, as described in* ***Issue III.b*** *herein, said increases will be less than significant and short-term, with construction expected to last approximately five weeks and mitigation incorporated for dust control. Ongoing operation of the Project will not result in an increase in air pollutant emissions over current conditions. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue III. Air Quality (continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Project construction will not result in emissions other than those described above, and the Project will not result in odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people. Operation of the Project will not generate other emissions, including those leading to odors. For these reasons, the Project will not result in other emissions, such as those leading to odors, adversely affecting a substantial number of people, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue IV. Biological Resources

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

*Certain species of plants and animals have low populations, limited distributions, or both. Such species are vulnerable to further declines in population and distribution and may be subject to extirpation as the human population grows and the habitats these species occupy are converted to urban or other uses. State and federal laws, particularly the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) provide the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with mechanisms for conserving and protecting native plant and animal species. Many plants and animals have been formally listed as "Threatened" or "Endangered" under FESA, CESA, or both, while many others have been designated as candidates for such listing. Additionally, others have been designated as "Species of Special Concern" by CDFW, as "Species of Concern" by USFWS, or are on lists of rare, threatened, or endangered plants developed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Collectively, all of these listed and designated species are referred to as "special status species".*

*The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), codified in 50 CFR Section 10.13, makes it unlawful to "take" (i.e. harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect) migratory birds*

*or their nests, eggs, feathers, or any part thereof. With few exceptions, all native bird species are protected by the MBTA. Birds protected under the MBTA are also referred to as "special status species".*

*LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) performed a biological resources assessment of the Project site, the methods, results, and recommendations of which are set forth in the report titled, Biological Resources Assessment Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District Interconnection No. 2 Project, Cathedral City, Riverside County, California, dated January 2026 (Biological Report). A copy of the Biological Report is included in* ***Appendix B*** *herein. The following summary is based on the Biological Report.*

*In addition to nesting birds protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code, special status species that may occur on the Project Site include the Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus *var.* coachellae*), Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Each of these species, along with mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce impacts to a level less than significant, is described below.*

- ***Coachella Valley Milk-Vetch***

  *The Coachella Valley milk-vetch is federally listed as endangered and has a California Rare Plant Rank of "1B.2: rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere". Coachella Valley milk-vetch was not observed on the Project site during the biological survey conducted on the Project site on December 9, 2025; however, the creosote bush scrub habitat onsite, located westerly of the golf course, provides suitable habitat for this species. LSA has determined that Coachella Valley milk-vetch has a moderate probability of occurring on the Project site within the creosote bush scrub area depicted on Figure 2 of the Biological Report included in* ***Appendix B*** *herein. To avoid or reduce potential impacts on Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Mitigation Measure BIO-1 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration in* ***Appendix A*** *herein.*

- ***Crotch's Bumble Bee***

  *Crotch's bumble bee is a candidate species for State listing as endangered; it is not federally listed. The creosote bush scrub area and ornamental vegetation present on the Project site provide suitable habitat for this species. To avoid or reduce potential impacts to Crotch's bumble bee, Mitigation Measure BIO-2 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 is summarized below*

*and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration included in **Appendix A** herein.*

- ***Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard***

  *Coachella Valley fringe-towed lizard is federally listed as threatened and State listed as endangered. The area of creosote bush scrub, as shown on Figure 2 of the Biological Report included in **Appendix B** herein, contains marginally suitable habitat for this species. To avoid or reduce potential impacts to the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, Mitigation Measure BIO-3 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration included in **Appendix A**.*

- ***Burrowing Owl***

  *Burrowing owl is a State candidate for listing as endangered and is a federal bird of conservation concern. A burrowing owl was observed onsite at a burrow within the creosote bush scrub vegetation during the biological survey. The location of the burrowing owl is depicted on Figure 4 of the Biological Report, a copy of which is included in **Appendix B** herein. To avoid or reduce potential impacts on burrowing owl, Mitigation Measure BIO-4 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure BIO-4 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration included in **Appendix A** herein.*

- ***Nesting Birds***

  *The Project site provides suitable habitat for nesting bird species that are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the California Fish and Game Code, or both. To avoid or reduce potential impacts to nesting birds, Mitigation Measure BIO-5 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure BIO-5 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration included in **Appendix A** herein.*

*With incorporation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-5, which are summarized below, the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species.*

***Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Coachella Valley Milk-Vetch***

*Prior to any site disturbance, highly visible barrier fencing will be installed along the southern, western, and eastern boundaries of the creosote bush scrub habitat, which is located to the*

*north and east of Sarah Street and to the west of the Cimarron Golf Resort, as depicted on Figure 2 of the Biological Report. The fencing will include signage identifying the area as an "Environmentally Sensitive Area" and stating that entry is prohibited. Construction equipment and personnel are directed to remain outside the creosote bush scrub habitat at all times.*

*In the event that disturbance in the creosote bush scrub habitat becomes necessary, then prior to any such disturbance, a focused survey for Coachella Valley milk-vetch will be conducted to determine the presence or absence of the species and, if present, appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures will be developed. The survey will be conducted during the peak blooming period of February through April, or as recommended by a qualified biologist. If Coachella Valley milk-vetch is determined to be present on the Project site, then DWA will consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as appropriate.*

***Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Crotch's Bumble Bee***

*Prior to site disturbance or vegetation removal, a focused survey for Crotch's bumble bee, a State candidate for listing as endangered, will be conducted to determine the presence or absence of the species onsite, and to determine any appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The survey will be conducted in accordance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2023 Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species, dated June 6, 2023 or as amended. If Crotch's bumble bee is determined to be present, then DWA will consult with CDFW as appropriate.*

***Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard***

*Prior to any site disturbance, highly visible barrier fencing will be installed along the southern, western, and eastern boundaries of the creosote bush scrub habitat, which is located to the north and east of Sarah Street and to the west of the Cimarron Golf Resort, as depicted on Figure 2 of the Biological Report. The fencing will include signage identifying the area as an "Environmentally Sensitive Area" and stating that entry is prohibited. Construction equipment and personnel are directed to remain outside the creosote bush scrub habitat at all times.*

*In the event that disturbance in the creosote bush scrub habitat becomes necessary, then prior to any such disturbance, a focused survey for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard will be*

*conducted to determine the presence or absence of the species onsite and, if present, to determine appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The focused survey season for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard is May 1 through July 31. If the lizard is found to be present during the focused survey, then DWA will consult with CDFW and USFWS and will comply with the requirements of said agencies to avoid or reduce Project impacts on the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard.*

***Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Burrowing Owl***

*A wintering burrowing owl was found to be present on the Project site during the general biological survey conducted in December 2025. Burrowing owl is a State candidate for listing as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act and is a federal bird of conservation concern. Prior to commencement of construction, including vegetation removal or ground disturbance, DWA will consult with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to determine any appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures.*

*Additionally, to address potential Project effects on burrowing owl, a burrowing owl breeding season focused survey will be conducted prior to construction in accordance with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012 or most recent version). The breeding season focused survey includes a total of four site visits conducted during the breeding season: one visit between February 15 and April 15, and three visits, at least 3 weeks apart, between April 15 and July 15, with at least one of these visits made after June 15.*

*If required by CDFW, an incidental take permit will be obtained prior to commencement of construction, and the Project will comply with the conditions of said permit.*

***Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Nesting Birds***

*Regardless of the time of year that construction commences, a preconstruction nesting bird survey will be performed by a qualified biologist no less than 3 days and not greater than 7 days prior to construction, including vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities.*

*If no nesting birds or active nests are found during the preconstruction survey, then construction may commence within 7 days. If construction has not commenced within 7 days after the preconstruction survey, then another preconstruction survey must be performed*

*within the prescribed time period (between 3 and 7 days prior to construction) prior to commencement of construction.*

*If nesting birds or active nests are found during the preconstruction survey, then an exclusionary buffer will be established by the qualified biologist. The buffer will be clearly marked in the field by construction personnel under the guidance of the qualified biologist. No construction activities will be allowed within the exclusionary buffer area until the qualified biologist determines that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.*

## Issue IV. Biological Resources (continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project includes a pipeline that will be installed below the Cimarron Golf Resort, which is within the Whitewater River Channel. LSA conducted a jurisdictional delineation at the Project site, and the jurisdictional delineation report (JD Report) is included as Appendix C to the Biological Report cited in* ***Issue IV(a)*** *above. Based on the JD Report, the Whitewater River within the Project site flows intermittently from north to south within a low flow channel that is depicted on Figure 3 of the JD Report. The low flow channel does not contain any vegetation, is maintained within the golf course after storm events, and lacks riparian habitat. Additionally, based on the Biological Report cited above, the Project site does not contain any natural communities of concern. For these reasons, the Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Would the project 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project includes a pipeline that will be installed below the Cimarron Golf Resort, which is within the Whitewater River Channel. As depicted on Figures 2 and 3 and summarized in Table C of the JD Report, the Project site contains 0.49 acre of Nonwetland Waters of the United States subject to the*

*jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers, 0.49 acre of Wetland Waters of the State subject to the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and 10.57 acres of streambed, subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW.*

*Where the pipeline crosses the Cimarron Golf Resort within the Whitewater River Channel, it will be installed by horizontal directional drilling at depths of up to 50 feet below ground surface and will not impact any of the jurisdictional waters identified in the JD Report, nor will it impact the surface of the golf course. For these reasons, the Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands. If required, a Streambed Alteration Agreement with the CDFW will be obtained for the work beneath the Whitewater River. Refer also to* ***Issue IV.b*** *above.*

## Issue IV. Biological Resources (continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

*Based on the Biological Report cited in* ***Issue IV(a)*** *herein, the Project Site is not located within a designated regional wildlife movement corridor and does not contain any nursery sites. The Project site does provide for localized wildlife movement within the Whitewater River Channel and creosote bush scrub habitats. Because Project design includes installation of the pipeline using horizontal directional drilling, the Project will not impact any wildlife movement within the Whitewater River Channel. Potential impacts to wildlife movement within the creosote bush scrub area on the western portion of the Project site will be avoided or reduced by incorporation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-5, as described in* ***Issue IV(a)*** *herein and as set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program included in* ***Appendix A*** *herein. With incorporation of these mitigation measures, the Project would not 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.*

## Issue IV. Biological Resources (continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*As stated in the Biological Report cited in **Issue IV(a)** herein, the Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*As stated in the Biological Report cited in **Issue IV(a)** herein, the Project Site is located within the plan boundary of the Coachella Valley Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) but is not located within a CVMSHCP conservation area. Although DWA is not a signatory to the CVMSHCP and is not subject to compliance with the CVMSHCP, the Project would not conflict with the CVMSHCP as described herein and with incorporation of the mitigation measures included in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program included in **Appendix A** herein. No mitigation related to the CVMSHCP is required.*

## Issue V. Cultural Resources

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

*CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(3) states, in part, that "Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (Pub. Res. Code §5024.1, Title 14 CCR, §4852), including the following:*

> *"(A) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;*

*(B) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;*

*(C) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or*

*(D) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history."*

*Further, California Public Resources Code §5020.1(j) states that "a 'Historical resource' includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California."*

*CRM TECH performed a historical and archaeological resources study of the Project site, the methods, results, and recommendations of which are set forth in the memorandum titled, Cultural Resources Study for DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 Project, City of Cathedral City, Riverside County, California (CRM TECH Project No. 4325), dated January 10, 2026 (CRM TECH Report), a copy of which is included in* ***Appendix C*** *herein.*

*As part of its historical and archaeological resources study of the Project site, referred to in the CRM TECH Report as the Area of Potential Effects (or APE), CRM TECH reviewed previous cultural resources studies that covered most of the APE, conducted a cultural resources records search, initiated a Sacred Lands File search, contacted local Native American groups, pursued historical and geoarchaeological background research, and carried out an intensive-level field survey. The APE is depicted on Figure 2 of the CRM TECH Report.*

*Based on the CRM TECH Report, no historical or archaeological resources were found to be present on the Project site, and the subsurface sediments in the APE appear to be relatively low in archaeological sensitivity. Although resources are unlikely to be present below the surface, to avoid or reduce potential impacts on previously-undiscovered cultural resources that may be present in subsurface deposits during ground-disturbing activities, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration included in* ***Appendix A*** *herein. With incorporation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, the Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5.*

***Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Cultural Resources***

*In the event that any object uncovered during Project construction activities appears to be a historical or archaeological artifact (or appears to be older than 50 years), all work within fifty (50) feet of the discovery shall be immediately halted or diverted, and the following steps shall be taken:*

- *The construction contractor shall halt all work within a 50-foot radius of the discovery. Work outside the 50-foot radius may continue.*
- *The construction contractor shall immediately contact Adrian Biggs at DWA via telephone at (760) 323-4971, extension 193 to notify DWA of the find.*
- *DWA will contact a qualified archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards to evaluate the nature and significance of the find.*
- *If the qualified archaeologist determines that the find is not a significant historical or archaeological resource, then construction may resume with approval of DWA.*
- *If the qualified archaeologist determines that the find is a significant historical or archaeological resource, then construction shall not resume within the 50-foot radius of the discovery until a plan has been developed to preserve or protect the resource as appropriate and as determined by DWA in collaboration with the qualified archaeologist.*

## Issue V. Cultural Resources (Continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

*Refer to **Issue V(a)** above. With incorporation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, described in **Issue V(a)**, the Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5. Potential impacts upon tribal cultural resources are described in **Issue XVIII** herein.*

## Issue V. Cultural Resources (Continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

*There are no known cemeteries or burial grounds located on or adjacent to the Project site. To avoid or reduce potential impacts upon any human remains that may be inadvertently encountered during Project construction, Mitigation Measure CUL-2 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure CUL-2 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project, which attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration in* ***Appendix A*** *herein. Additionally, the Project will comply with the provisions of California Health and Safety Code §7050.5.*

***Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Human Remains***

*In the event that any human remains, or what appear to be human remains, are uncovered or encountered during Project construction, the construction contractor will halt or divert all work and will immediately notify the Riverside County Coroner's Office via telephone at (760) 863-8311. After notifying the County Coroner, the contractor will also notify Adrian Biggs at Desert Water Agency (DWA) via telephone at (760) 323-4971. In the event that the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, Desert Water Agency will contact the Native American Heritage Commission to determine the appropriate disposition of the remains. Construction activities will not resume in the area of the find until DWA notifies the construction contractor to proceed. California Health and Safety Code §7050.5 will be enforced for the duration of the Project.*

## Issue VI. Energy

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The primary energy resource that will be consumed during construction of the Project is fuel needed by the construction contractor for operating construction equipment and vehicles. Operation of the Project does not have an energy demand, as the water level elevation at the CVWD well site is higher than that*

*of the existing DWA pipeline that Project facilities will connect to. No pumping is required, and no pumping facilities are included in the Project. For these reasons, the Project will not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during Project construction or operation.*

## Issue VI. Energy (continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Construction and operation of the Project will not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Refer also to* ***Issue VI(a)*** *above.*

## Issue VII. Geology and Soils

| a) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*i) A geotechnical study of the Project site was conducted by Verdantas Inc. the findings and recommendations of which are set forth in the report titled, Geotechnical Report DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 Design, Desert Water Agency (DWA), Cathedral City, California, by Verdantas Inc., dated November 2025 (Geotechnical Report).*

*Based on the Geotechnical Report, the Project site is not located within an Earthquake Fault Zone or designated earthquake hazard zone according to Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Maps or Riverside County hazard maps. The earthquake fault nearest the Project site*

*is the Coachella Segment of the San Andreas Fault Zone, located northeasterly of the Project site. Further, the chance of ground rupture at the Project site is considered very low. For these reasons, the Project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, and no mitigation is required.*

*ii) Being located in a seismically-active region, the Project site is subject to strong seismic ground shaking. The Project does not include any structures intended for human occupancy, and Project facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with the recommendations provided in the Geotechnical Report cited in* ***Issue VII(a)(i)*** *above. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project is not expected to directly or indirectly cause potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking, and no mitigation is required.*

*iii) Based on the Geotechnical Report cited in* ***Issue VII(a)(i)*** *above, the probability for seismically-induced dynamic settlement, including liquefaction, and lateral spreading is considered low; therefore, the Project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, and no mitigation is required.*

*iv) The Project site is located in a relatively flat area that is not known to be susceptible to landslides. Based on information available in the online maps titled "Reported California Landslides" and "Landslide Inventory (Beta)", both provided by the California Geological Survey, no landslides have been mapped in the vicinity of the Project site. Construction and operation of the Project facilities would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue VII. <u>Geology and Soils</u> (Continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project includes constructing and operating a potable water pipeline between an existing CVWD water pipeline (within the CVWD well site) and an existing DWA water pipeline, along with some*

*aboveground appurtenances located within the CVWD well site. A majority of the pipeline will be installed using the horizontal directional drilling method. Besides the areas occupied by aboveground facilities within the CVWD well site, disturbed ground surfaces will be returned to near-preconstruction conditions after Project construction, and no erosion related to the Project is expected to occur after completion of construction and final site stabilization. During construction, standard erosion control measures will be employed by the construction contractor. For these reasons, and because the Project site is relatively flat, the Project would not result in substantial soil erosion or substantial impacts related to the loss of topsoil, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue VII. Geology and Soils (Continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Based on the Geotechnical Report cited in **Issue VII(a)(i)** herein, subsurface materials at the Project site consist of artificial fill and topsoil underlain by alluvial deposits consisting generally of medium dense to dense silty sand to poorly graded sand and hard sandy silt. The Project does not include facilities whose construction and operation are capable of causing on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, liquefaction, or collapse. Soils at the Project site have very low to low expansion potential, and construction of the Project is considered feasible and practical. Groundwater was not encountered to the depth explored (31.5 feet below ground surface), and the site is not located within an earthquake fault zone. The Project would not result in an impact related to substantial soil erosion, loss of topsoil, unstable or expansive soils, or soils incapable of adequately supporting the proposed facilities or the equipment used for construction. For these reasons, the Project will not expose people or critical structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death, involving unstable geologic units or soils, and no mitigation is required. Refer also to **Issue VII(a)** above.*

**Issue VII. Geology and Soils (Continued)**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*According to the Geotechnical Report cited in **Issue VII(a)(i)** herein, soils at the Project site have very low to low expansion potential, and construction of the Project is considered feasible and practical. Groundwater was not encountered to the depth explored (31.5 feet below ground surface), and the site is not located within an earthquake fault zone. The Project would not result in an impact related to substantial soil erosion, loss of topsoil, unstable or expansive soils, or soils incapable of adequately supporting the proposed facilities or the equipment used for construction. For these reasons, the Project will not create substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property related to expansive soil, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project does not include septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

*Federal, state, and local regulations and policies provide protection for paleontological resources. These include, but are not limited to, the federal Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-011, Title VI, Subtitle D) and California Public Resources Code §30244.*

*Because soils on the Project site consist of alluvial deposits, the area is not sensitive for paleontological resources, and no paleontological resources are known or expected to be present on the Project site.*

*Further, the Project site does not contain any unique geologic features. For these reasons, no impacts to unique paleontological resources or unique geological features are anticipated.*

*To prevent an adverse impact upon any previously undiscovered paleontological resource that may be present in subsurface soil deposits, Mitigation Measure PALEO-1 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure PALEO-1 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project, attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration in* ***Appendix A*** *herein. With incorporation of PALEO-1, construction and operation of the Project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or geological feature.*

***Mitigation Measure PALEO-1: Paleontological Resources***

*The following measures will be implemented to protect any paleontological resources uncovered during ground disturbance at the Project site:*

- *If any potential paleontological resources are uncovered during Project construction, all work in the vicinity of the discovery shall be halted until a qualified paleontologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.*
- *If a qualified paleontologist determines that a specimen uncovered during Project construction is potentially significant, then all future ground-disturbing actions associated with the Project will be monitored by a qualified paleontological monitor.*
- *Specimens recovered from the Project site by the qualified paleontological monitor will be, in accordance with standard paleontological practice, identified and curated at a repository with permanent retrievable storage that will allow for additional research in the future.*

## Issue VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

*Gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere are referred to as greenhouse gases (GHGs). GHGs that are emitted due to human activities, primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels (e.g. gasoline in motor vehicles), are carbon dioxide ($CO_2$), methane ($CH_4$), and nitrous oxide ($N_2O$). The most common GHG that results from human activities is $CO_2$, followed by $CH_4$ and $N_2O$, respectively.*

*To quantify and combine these three GHGs into a single figure, each gas is converted to "carbon dioxide equivalent" ($CO_2e$) units. $CO_2e$ is defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as, "A metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential (GWP)…The carbon dioxide equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the tons of the gas by the associated GWP." The GWPs for carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide are 1, 25, and 298, respectively.*

*The Project is expected to generate GHGs during construction in the form of those emitted by operating construction vehicles and equipment and from workers' vehicles commuting to and from the Project site. Estimated quantities of GHGs that would be generated during Project construction total approximately 2,692 metric tons of $CO_2e$ for the duration of construction, as determined by a report generated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod, Version 2022.1). A copy of the CalEEMod output report is included in* ***Appendix D*** *herein. No GHGs are anticipated to result from Project operation.*

*Although SCAQMD has not yet established a GHG significance threshold for construction activities or for other types of facilities, it has established a significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons of $CO_2e$ per year for operation of an industrial facility. Project construction GHG emissions totaling 2,692 metric tons of $CO_2e$ is not considered significant. Further, said construction GHG emissions are temporary and will not continue after completion of construction.*

*For the reasons described above, the Project will not generate GHG emissions that would, either directly or indirectly, have a significant impact on the environment, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue VIII. <u>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</u> (Continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*As described in* ***Issue VIII(a)*** *above, construction of the Project would generate insignificant quantities of GHGs, while operation of the Project would not result in an increase in GHG emissions over existing conditions. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not conflict with any plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Small quantities of fuel, lubricants, adhesives, paint, and coatings will be used during construction of the Project. Said use will be short-term and strictly controlled, and waste materials will be properly disposed of. Such materials will not be allowed to enter any drainage, including the Cimarron Golf Resort within the Whitewater River Channel. Operation of Project facilities does not involve the transport, use, or disposal of any hazardous materials. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project includes constructing and operating a potable water pipeline and associated appurtenances for use in transferring water from CVWD's water system to DWA's water system under emergency or other unforeseen circumstances; therefore, the Project does not have the potential to 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, and no mitigation is required. Refer also to* **Issue IX(a)** *above.*

## Issue IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*There are no existing or proposed schools located within one-quarter mile of the Project site. The nearest school is located approximately 0.40 mile to the north of the CVWD well site; therefore, Project construction and operation will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project site is not located on a site included on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. According to maps and data available to the public on the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database located online at http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public, the hazardous materials site located closest to the Project site is the former Palm Springs Landfill, located at the intersection of Gene Autry Trail and Ramon Road, approximately 0.45 mile westerly of the westernmost extension of the proposed pipeline. The former landfill site is currently developed as a shopping center known as "The Springs". The Project does not have the potential to impact the former landfill site. For these reasons, the Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment related to a hazardous materials site, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The nearest airport is the Palm Springs International Airport, located approximately a half mile westerly of the Project site. According to maps included in the Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Policy Document (adopted March 2005 by the Riverside County Airport Land Use*

*Commission), the Project site does not lie within a noise compatibility zone of the airport, and is located within Compatibility Zone D, which allows for residential and commercial development. The Project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise related to proximity to an airport, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Transportation corridors will remain open during Project construction, and no lane or road closures are expected, beyond the use of the Sarah Street cul-de-sac for staging and pipe fusing. Once construction is complete, no additional vehicle trips to the Project site over existing conditions are expected as a result of the Project. Therefore, construction and operation of the Project will not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

*Based on "Exhibit S-7 – Fire Hazard Zones Map" of the City of Cathedral City 2040 General Plan & Active Transportation Plan, adopted 2021, the Project site is not located in, or adjacent to, an area designated as a moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zone. There is a slight risk of fire occurring during Project construction; however, the risk is less than significant and short-term. Additionally, construction contract documents for the Project will require construction contractors to comply with safety standards specified in Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations and that any equipment or machinery that poses a risk of emitting sparks or flame be equipped with an arrestor, thereby further limiting potential impacts. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue X. Hydrology and Water Quality

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project includes constructing and operating a potable water pipeline and appurtenances to facilitate the transfer of water from CVWD's potable water system to DWA's potable water system. Construction and operation of the Project will comply with all applicable water quality standards, waste discharge requirements, and all of the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Regional Board). For these reasons, the Project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Project facilities are intended to be used to transfer water from CVWD's potable water system to DWA's potable water system during major fires, natural disasters, water main breaks, or other unforeseen circumstances in order to improve DWA's ability to respond to emergencies and other major unexpected water consumption. This Project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the groundwater basin, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue X. Hydrology and Water Quality (Continued)

| c) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| iv) Impede or redirect flood flows? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*i) A majority of the proposed pipeline will be installed using the horizontal directional drilling method, with open-trench installation and installation of aboveground appurtenances taking place within the CVWD well site. The Project does not include any paving, and impervious surfaces are limited to aboveground valves and piping, the area of which is insignificant. Construction and operation of the Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, alter the course of a stream or river, or add impervious surfaces that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. No mitigation is required.*

*ii) The Project does not include any paving, and aboveground facilities, consisting of valves, piping, and appurtenances, included in the Project would result in minimal impervious areas. The Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, alter the course of a stream or river, or add impervious surfaces that would substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site. No mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issue X(c)(i)*** *above.*

*iii) The Project would not create or contribute any runoff water or result in stormwater runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. No mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issues X(c)(i)*** *and* ***X(c)(ii)*** *above.*

*iv) Project facilities do not have the potential to impede or redirect flood flows, and no mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issues X(c)(i)*** *through* ***X(c)(iii)*** *above.*

**Issue X. Hydrology and Water Quality (Continued)**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map No. 06065C1578G, effective 08/28/2008, the portion of the Project site located within the Cimarron Golf Resort is mapped as within a "Regulatory Floodway", while the areas of the Project site located to the east and west of the golf course are mapped as "Areas with Reduced Flood Risk Due to Levee". Based on the California Official Tsunami Inundation Maps available on the California Department of Conservation website at https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/tsunami/maps, there are no tsunami inundation areas mapped within Riverside County. There are no water bodies of sufficient size located near the Project site that would put the site at risk of a seiche. The majority of the Project facilities will be located belowground, and because the Project consists of potable water facilities that do not use or store any materials, the Project does not have the potential to release pollutants in the event that facilities are inundated. No mitigation is required*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The water quality control plan applicable to the Project area is the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region, amended through January 8, 2019. The Project does not include features that will conflict with or obstruct water quality policies or objectives, and will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the water quality control plan cited above.*

*The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) document applicable to the Project area is the 2022 Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Alternative Plan, dated December 2021 and approved by the California Department of Water Resources on June 27, 2024. The Project does not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the provisions set forth in said SGMA alternative document.*

*For the reasons described above, the Project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue XI. Land Use and Planning

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project physically divide an established community? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Project facilities are located mostly belowground, with aboveground portions located within the CVWD well site; therefore, the Project does not have the potential to physically divide an established community, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Project construction and operation will take place within an easement held by DWA, below the Cimarron Golf Resort, and within an existing CVWD well site, and will not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. No mitigation is required.*

## Issue XII. Mineral Resources

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project site is not known to contain any mineral resources that would be of value to the region or to the residents of the state. The Project would not impact the availability of any known mineral resources or mineral resource recovery sites. For these reasons, the Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue XII. Mineral Resources (Continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. No mitigation is required Refer also to* ***Issue XII(a)*** *above.*

## Issue XIII. Noise

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

*The Project will generate noise during construction of Project facilities as a result of operating construction equipment and from workers' vehicles commuting to and from the Project site. The Project facilities will not generate noise during operation. Pursuant to Section 11.96.060(K) of the Cathedral City Code of Ordinances, public works projects are exempt from the noise control provisions; however, construction is anticipated to take place during daytime hours and will be short-term, anticipated to be completed in about five weeks. To avoid or reduce the potential for disturbances resulting from temporary increases in ambient noise levels generated by construction activities, Mitigation Measure NOISE-1 is incorporated into the Project, is summarized below, and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration in* ***Appendix A*** *herein. With implementation of Mitigation Measure NOISE-1, the Project will not result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in excess of standards established for the area.*

***Mitigation Measure NOISE-1: Noise***

*Construction contract documents will include the following provisions to avoid or reduce noise resulting from Project construction:*

- *Contractor shall use only such equipment 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 the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA).*
- *Contractor shall comply with the most restrictive of the following: (1) Cathedral City sound control and noise level rules, regulations, and ordinances and (2) the requirements contained in the construction contract documents, including those pertaining to hours of operation.*
- *No internal combustion engine shall be operated as part of construction activities 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 that equipment to the Project site until the device is repaired or replaced.*
- *Noise and vibration level requirements shall apply to all equipment on the Project site or related to Project construction, including but not limited to, trucks, transit mixers, or transit equipment that may or may not be owned by the contractor.*

**Issue XIII. Noise (continued)**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project is not expected to result in excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise during Project construction or operation. Any groundborne vibration or groundborne noise generated during Project construction would be temporary and short-term, and are not expected to be perceptible at any of the nearby residences. Ongoing Project operation will not generate groundborne vibration or groundborne noise. For these reasons, the Project will not result in the generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels, and no mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issue XIII(a)*** *above.*

**Issue XIII. Noise (continued)**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The airport nearest the Project site is the Palm Springs International Airport, located approximately a half mile westerly of the Project site. Based on maps included in the Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Policy Document (adopted March 2005 by the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission), the Project site does not lie within a noise compatibility contour of the Palm Springs International Airport. Further, Project operation will not generate noise. For these reasons, the Project will not expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels related to airports, and no mitigation is required.*

**Issue XIV. Population and Housing**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of road or other infrastructure)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project is intended to improve DWA's ability to respond to emergencies and other unforeseen circumstances, such as major fires, natural disasters, and water main breaks by facilitating the transfer of water from CVWD's water system to DWA's water system during such conditions. The Project does not provide an additional water supply and would not induce substantial unplanned growth in the area. Further, the Project would not result in a need for DWA to hire additional employees. For these reasons, the Project does not have the potential to induce population growth in the area, either directly or indirectly, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue XIV. Population and Housing (Continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project is located primarily belowground, with aboveground portions located within CVWD's existing well site. The Project does not include the construction or destruction of any housing, and does not have the potential to displace any existing people or housing. No mitigation is required.*

## Issue XV. Public Services

| a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| i) Fire protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| ii) Police protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| iii) Schools? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| iv) Parks? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| v) Other public facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*i) The Project does not include any features or facilities that would require additional or unusual fire protection resources, and no mitigation is required.*

*ii) The Project does not include any features or facilities that would require enhanced levels of police protection, and no mitigation is required.*

*iii) The Project does not have the potential to increase or decrease the area's population and would therefore not result in a greater or lesser demand for schools. The Project will not adversely impact any school and no mitigation is required.*

*iv) The Project does not have the potential to increase or decrease the area's population, and therefore will not result in a greater or lesser demand for parks. The Project will not adversely impact any park, and no mitigation is required*

*v) The Project will not adversely affect other public facilities, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue XVI. Recreation

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Construction and operation of the Project do not have the potential to increase or decrease the area's population, and would therefore not result in increased or decreased use of parks or other recreational facilities. No mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issue XIV(a)*** *herein.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*While a majority of the proposed pipeline will be installed below the Cimarron Golf Resort, the Project will not impact the golf course. The Project does not include recreational facilities and will not require the construction or expansion of any recreational facilities, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue XVII. Transportation

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

*Minor, temporary impacts to traffic may occur during construction of the Project due to workers' vehicles and construction vehicles and equipment at the Project site; however, said impacts will be less than significant and short-term. In order to avoid or reduce potential traffic impacts during construction, Mitigation Measure TRAFFIC-1 is included in the Project, as summarized below and set*

*forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration in **Appendix A** herein.*

***Mitigation Measure TRAFFIC-1: Construction Traffic***

*To avoid or reduce adverse traffic impacts during Project construction, the construction contract will require the contractor to comply with all local traffic regulations, including those of CVWD when working within and around the CVWD well site. The contractor will be responsible for implementing safe and effective traffic control measures at all times during construction activities.*

*Operation of the Project will not increase vehicle trips in the area above existing conditions because the Project facilities are intended for use during emergencies or other unforeseen events. For these reasons, and with incorporation of Mitigation Measure TRAFFIC-1, construction and operation of the Project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system.*

**Issue XVII. Transportation (Continued)**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

*Construction of the Project is expected to result in up to ten workers' vehicles traveling to and from the Project site per day. For the purposes of this analysis, we have assumed that workers will commute a total of 40 miles per day each, round-trip, which results in a total of 400 vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per day during construction. This amount of daily VMT will only occur during Project construction and is not significant considering the existing traffic levels in the area and the short-term nature of construction. Operation of the Project is not expected to require any measurable vehicle trips, since Project facilities are intended for use during emergencies and other unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, no increase in VMT will result from operation of the Project. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3(b), and no mitigation is required.*

**Issue XVII. Transportation (Continued)**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project does not include any road improvements, and aboveground portions of the Project will be located within the existing CVWD well site; therefore, the Project will not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses, and no mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Project facilities will be located primarily belowground, with some aboveground features located within the existing CVWD well site, and will not result in inadequate emergency access at the Project site or in the local vicinity. No mitigation is required.*

## Issue XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: | | | | |
| 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 section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

*i) Based on the cultural resources report prepared by CRM TECH, cited in **Issue V(a)** herein and included in **Appendix C**, there are no known tribal cultural resources or other cultural resources on the Project site that are 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). Therefore, construction and operation of the Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is 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), and no mitigation is required. Refer also to **Issue V(a)** herein.*

*ii) DWA sent formal notification of the Project to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI or the Tribe) on December 11, 2025. On December 30, 2025, DWA received a letter from a representative of ACBCI, stating that the Project is located within the boundaries of the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. In the letter, ACBCI requested formal government-to-government consultation on the Project, copies of any cultural resource documentation and reports relating to the Project, and the presence of an Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor during ground-disturbing activities. Consultation has commenced, and a consultation meeting between DWA and the Tribe was held on February 9, 2026.*

*In order to avoid or reduce potential impacts upon tribal cultural resources that may be present onsite but not yet discovered, Mitigation Measure TCR-1 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure TCR-1 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project, a copy of which is included in* ***Appendix A*** *herein.*

***Mitigation Measure TCR-1: Tribal Cultural Resources***

*DWA will allow a tribal monitor approved by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to be present on the Project site during ground-disturbing activities, including trenching and the first 10 feet of drilling operations. In the event that any potential tribal cultural resource is discovered during ground-disturbing activities pursuant to the Project, DWA will contact a qualified archaeologist, meeting Secretary of the Interior's standards, to assess the find and determine the appropriate next steps. DWA will consult in good faith with the archaeologist and with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians on the disposition and treatment of any artifacts or other cultural materials encountered during activities pursuant to the Project.*

## Issue XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project 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 relocation or construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project consists of construction and operation of a potable water pipeline between an existing CVWD pipeline and existing DWA pipeline, as described in* ***Part 1(C)*** *herein. The Project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, and no mitigation is required.*

**Issue XIX. Utilities and Service Systems (Continued)**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Water needed during construction, such as for dust control, will be available from DWA's existing water supplies, and construction water demand will be less than significant and short-term. Operation of the Project will involve the transfer of water from CVWD's potable water system to DWA's potable water system as needed during emergencies or other unforeseen conditions. Project facilities will be operated in a manner that will not result in disruption of water service to existing CVWD or DWA customers. For these reasons, the Project would not result in insufficient water supplies being available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Would the project 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project will not generate sanitary wastewater. No mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Would the project 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

*Project operation will not generate solid waste. Small quantities of solid waste may be generated during Project construction; however, said quantities of solid waste would be minimal and would be recycled or accommodated by a local landfill. For these reasons, the project will not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure. Further, the Project will not otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. No mitigation is required.*

## Issue XIX. Utilities and Service Systems (Continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| e) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project will comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, and no mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issue XIX(d)*** *above.*

## Issue XX. Wildfire

If the Project is located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*Based on maps available on the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection State Responsibility Area Viewer, the Project Site is not located within a state responsibility area (SRA) or a very high fire hazard severity zone. The Project is not located in or near any state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones and does not have the potential to substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. No mitigation is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, or other factors, would the project exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project does not include habitable structures, and there would be no project occupants. Further, construction and operation of the Project will not exacerbate wildfire risks. No mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issue XX(a)*** *above.*

## Issue XX. Wildfire (Continued)

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Would the project 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project does not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that will exacerbate fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment related to fire risk. No mitigation is required. Refer also to* ***Issue XX(a)*** *above.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslide, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*The Project site is relatively flat and, after completion of construction, disturbed surfaces not containing aboveground facilities will be returned to preconstruction conditions. Construction and operation of the Project will not expose people or structures to significant risks as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes, and no mitigation is required.*

## Issue XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

- ***Biological Resources***

  *As described in* ***Issue IV*** *herein, the Project site contains suitable or marginally suitable habitat for four special status species, namely, Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Crotch's bumble bee, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, and burrowing owl. The site also contains suitable habitat for nesting birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, California Fish and Game Code, or both.*

*Potential Project impacts to Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Crotch's bumble bee, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, burrowing owl, and nesting birds will not be significant with incorporation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-5, which are set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project, attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration included in* ***Appendix A*** *herein.*

- ***Archaeological and Historical Resources***

  *As described in* ***Issue V*** *herein, a historical/archaeological resources assessment was conducted at the Project site. Based on the assessment, there are no resources present on the Project site that meet the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or qualify as a historical or archaeological resource under CEQA. Construction and operation of the Project is not expected to eliminate known important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory; however, in order to avoid or reduce potential impacts upon any previously undiscovered historical or archaeological resources that may be present in subsurface deposits, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 is incorporated into the Project and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program included in* ***Appendix A*** *herein. With incorporation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, the Project would not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.*

- ***Paleontological Resources***

  *As described in* ***Issue VII(f)*** *herein, there are no known paleontological resources present on the Project Site. To avoid adverse impacts upon any previously undiscovered paleontological resources that may be present in subsurface soils at the Project Site, Mitigation Measure PALEO-1 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure PALEO-1 is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project, a copy of which is included in* ***Appendix A*** *herein. With incorporation of Mitigation Measure PALEO-1, the Project will not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California prehistory.*

**Issue XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance (Continued)**

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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.) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*None of the impacts or potential impacts of the Project are cumulatively considerable, and no mitigation for cumulatively considerable impacts is required.*

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

*As described herein, none of the environmental effects of the Project will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, and no mitigation is required.*

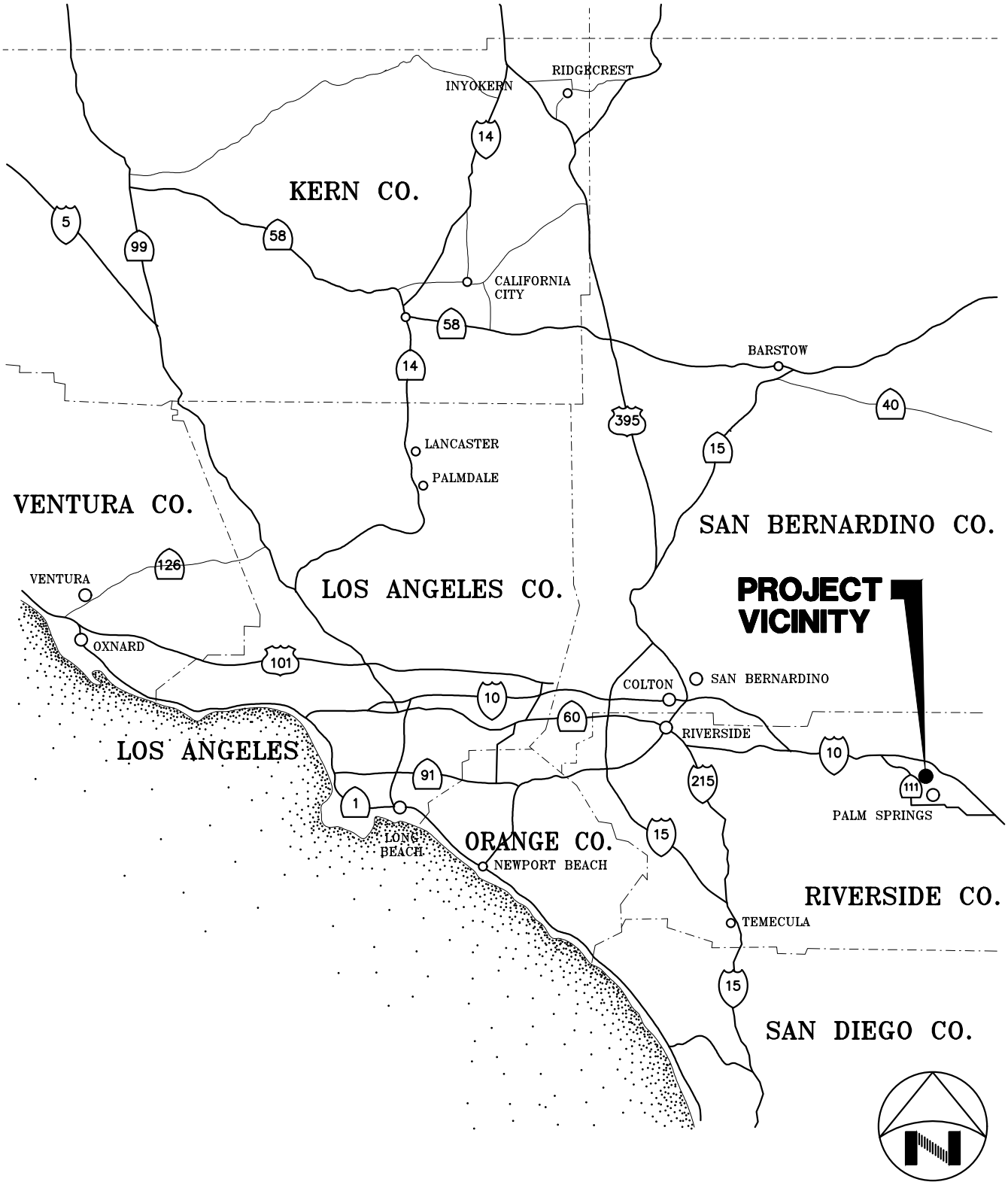
# PART 3
# REFERENCES AND SOURCES

**PART 3 - REFERENCES AND SOURCES**


- 2020 Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan; Water Systems Consulting, Inc., June 30, 2021
- 2025 Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act for Desert Water Agency; Best Best & Krieger, LLC, 2025
- California Air Resources Board Website for California Ambient Air Quality Standards, ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/california-ambient-air-quality-standards
- California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resources Protection, California Important Farmland Finder, https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF
- California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3; Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15000 *et seq;* as amended December 28, 2018
- California Department of Conservation Landslide Maps Website, www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/landslides
- California Department of Conservation Tsunami Program Website, conservation.ca.gov/cgs/tsunami/maps
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control Website, EnviroStor Database, www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public
- California Department of Transportation California Scenic Highway Mapping System Website, www.dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways
- California Emissions Estimator Model® (CalEEMod) Software, Version 2022.1, available online at caleemod.com
- Cathedral City Code of Ordinances, current through July 9, 2025, accessed online at www.ecode360.com/CA4914
- City of Cathedral City 2040 General Plan & Active Transportation Plan; City of Cathedral City Community Development Department and Terra Nova Planning & Research, Inc., Adopted 2021
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Service Center Website, www.msc.fema.gov
- Federal Emergency Management Agency National Flood Hazard Layer Viewer, www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-hazard-layer
- Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer, Fire Resource and Assessment Program, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, https://frap.fire.ca.gov
- Geotechnical Report DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 Design, Desert Water Agency (DWA), Cathedral City, California; Verdantas Inc., November 2025
- Google Earth Pro, Version 7.3.6.10441
- Office of the State Fire Marshal Website, osfm.fire.ca.gov

- Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Policy Document; Mead & Hunt and Coffman Associates, October 14, 2004, as amended
- South Coast Air Quality Management District Website, www.aqmd.gov
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Groundwater Management Website, water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management
- United States Environmental Protection Agency Website for National Ambient Air Quality Standards, www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants

**FIGURES**




KRIEGER & STEWART
Engineering Consultants
3602 University Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501
www.kriegerandstewart.com • 951 · 684 · 6900

# DESERT WATER AGENCY

## DWA/CVWD INTERCONNECTION No.2
## PROJECT VICINITY

FIGURE
1
OF 2

SCALE: N.T.S. DATE: 12/05/25 DRAWN BY: TMW CHECKED BY: VEM W.O.: 101-12.220

IS_101-12p220_f1.dwg

**VERIFY SCALES**

BAR IS ONE INCH ON ORIGINAL DRAWING

0 1"

IF NOT ONE INCH ON THIS SHEET, ADJUST SCALES ACCORDINGLY

KRIEGER & STEWART
Engineering Consultants
3602 University Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501
www.kriegerandstewart.com • 951 · 684 · 6900

# DESERT WATER AGENCY

## DWA/CVWD INTERCONNECTION No.2 PROJECT LOCATION

FIGURE 2 OF 2

SCALE: 1"=300' DATE: 12/05/25 DRAWN BY: TMW CHECKED BY: VEM W.O.: 101-12.220

IS_101-12p220_f2.dwg

# APPENDIX A

## DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
## AND
## MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

# MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name or description of project: | DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 (the Project) consists generally of constructing and operating a potable water pipeline between an existing Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) pipeline and an existing Desert Water Agency (DWA) pipeline to facilitate the transfer of water from CVWD's potable water system to DWA's potable water system at a capacity of up to 2,500 gallons per minute. The Project includes approximately 1,450 linear feet of thermoplastic pipe installed beneath the Whitewater River Channel at a location occupied by the Cimarron Golf Resort, connection of the pipe to an existing CVWD 12-inch waterline at an existing CVWD well site, connection of the pipeline to an existing DWA 12-inch waterline located within an easement held by DWA, and installation of associated valves, piping, and appurtenances. Project facilities will be operated as needed to transfer water from CVWD's potable water system to DWA's potable water system, as coordinated and agreed by both DWA and CVWD. A more detailed description of the Project is included in the Initial Study prepared for the Project, which is available for review at the location cited below. |
| 2. Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name): | The Project is located primarily belowground within the Cimarron Golf Resort, which is within the Whitewater River Channel, north of Ramon Road and between Landau Boulevard to the east and Sarah Street to the west. The Project also extends to an existing CVWD well site located easterly of the Cimarron Golf Resort and within an existing easement held by DWA and located westerly of the Cimarron Golf Resort and easterly of Sarah Street, all within the City of Cathedral City, Riverside County, California. |
| 3. Entity or Person undertaking project: | |
| A. Entity | |
| (1) Name: | Desert Water Agency |
| (2) Address: | 1200 S. Gene Autry Trail<br>Palm Springs, CA 92264 |
| B. Other (Private) | |
| (1) Name: | |
| (2) Address: | |

The Lead Agency, having reviewed the Initial Study of this proposed project, having reviewed the written comments received prior to the public meeting of the Lead Agency, and having reviewed the recommendation of the Lead Agency's Staff, does hereby find and declare that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A brief statement of the reasons supporting the Lead Agency's findings are as follows:

Construction and operation of the Project will not result in significant adverse impacts upon any threatened or endangered species of plants or animals, nor will it result in damage to or destruction of any significant examples of California history or prehistory. Potential impacts upon Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Crotch's bumble bee, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, burrowing owl, nesting birds, archaeological and historical resources, paleontological resources, tribal cultural resources, air quality, noise, and traffic will be avoided or reduced by adhering to the terms of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (see Exhibit A, attached, which is incorporated herein by reference) prior to and during construction of the Project.

The Lead Agency hereby finds that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects its independent judgment. A copy of the Initial Study may be viewed at the offices of Desert Water Agency at the address listed below.

DRAFT

The location and custodian of the documents and any other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Lead Agency based its decision to adopt this Mitigated Negative Declaration are as follows:

Desert Water Agency
1200 South Gene Autry Trail
Palm Springs, CA 92264
(760) 323-4971

_____
Date

_____
Kristin Bloomer
President, Board of Directors
DESERT WATER AGENCY

DRAFT

**DWA/CVWD INTERCONNECTION NO. 2**
**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

**EXHIBIT A TO THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

## Section I – Introduction

Section 21081.6 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that a mitigation monitoring program be prepared prior to the approval of any project which incorporates mitigation measures as a condition of approval. Mitigation measures are generally adopted to reduce the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts of a project to a level that is less than significant. The mitigation monitoring program must ensure compliance with mitigation measures during project construction (and, if applicable, during project operation). Since the project considered by the Initial Study for Desert Water Agency's DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 (the Project) incorporates mitigation measures as a condition of approval, this mitigation monitoring and reporting program has been prepared and incorporated into the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project.

DRAFT

## Section II – Air Quality Mitigation Measure and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

As discussed in Issue III of the Project Initial Study, a temporary increase in air pollutant emissions in the Project area is anticipated to result during construction activities, particularly fugitive dust. The following mitigation measure (**AQ-1**) will be implemented to ensure that construction of Project facilities does not result in a significant adverse impact upon sensitive receptors and others in the area as a result of fugitive dust during Project Construction. The measure is attended by a notation of the party responsible for its implementation and of the period for which it will be in effect.

**AQ-1: Dust Control**

Construction contract documents will require that dust control measures be implemented onsite during all surface disturbance operations, and that dust palliatives, such as water, be applied as necessary to reduce fugitive dust to the extent practicable throughout Project construction.

**Responsible Party: Construction Contractor and DWA Project Manager**

**Implementation Period: Throughout Project Construction**

**Section III – Biological Resources Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

As discussed in Issue IV of the Project Initial Study, there is potential for certain special-status species to be present on the Project site, including Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*), Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), and nesting birds. Without mitigation, the Project could potentially result in significant adverse impacts upon such species and birds, if present onsite. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is intended to reduce potential impacts by the Project upon biological resources, particularly Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Crotch's bumble bee, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, burrowing owl, and nesting birds, by specifying methods and procedures for avoiding or reducing such impacts.

The following mitigation measures (**BIO-1 through BIO-5**) will be implemented in order to ensure that construction of Project facilities does not result in a significant adverse impact upon Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Crotch's bumble bee, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, burrowing owl, and nesting birds. Each measure is attended by a notation of the party responsible for its implementation and of the period for which it will be in effect.

DRAFT

**BIO-1: Coachella Valley Milk-Vetch**

Prior to any site disturbance, highly visible barrier fencing will be installed along the southern, western, and eastern boundaries of the creosote bush scrub habitat, which is located to the north and east of Sarah Street and to the west of the Cimarron Golf Resort, as depicted on the attached **Map 1**, excerpted from the biological resources assessment report for the Project (LSA Figure 2). The fencing will include signage identifying the area as an "Environmentally Sensitive Area" and stating that entry is prohibited. Construction equipment and personnel are directed to remain outside the creosote bush scrub habitat at all times.

In the event that disturbance in the creosote bush scrub habitat becomes necessary, a focused survey for Coachella Valley milk-vetch will be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine the presence or absence of the species and, if present, any appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures will be developed. The survey will be conducted during the peak blooming period of February through April, or as recommended by a qualified biologist. If Coachella Valley milk-vetch is determined to be present on the Project site, then DWA will consult with the United States Fish and

Wildlife Service (USFWS), as appropriate, to avoid or reduce impacts to Coachella Valley milk-vetch and to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act.

**Responsible Party: DWA Project Manager**

**Implementation Period: Prior to, and potentially during, Project Construction**

**BIO-2: Crotch's Bumble Bee**

Prior to site disturbance or any vegetation removal, including both the creosote bush scrub and ornamental vegetation, a focused survey for Crotch's bumble bee, a State candidate for listing as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), will be conducted to determine the presence or absence of the species onsite, and to determine any appropriate avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures. The survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist in accordance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) *2023 Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species*, dated June 6, 2023 or most recent version. If Crotch's bumble bee is determined to be present, then DWA will consult with CDFW as appropriate to avoid or reduce impacts to Crotch's bumble bee and to comply with CESA.

**Responsible Party: DWA Project Manager**

**Implementation Period: Prior to, and potentially during, Project Construction**

DRAFT

**BIO-3: Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard**

Prior to any site disturbance, highly visible barrier fencing will be installed along the southern, western, and eastern boundaries of the creosote bush scrub habitat, which is located to the north and east of Sarah Street and to the west of the Cimarron Golf Resort, as depicted on the attached **Map 1**, excerpted from the biological resources assessment report for the Project (LSA Figure 2). The fencing will include signage identifying the area as an "Environmentally Sensitive Area" and stating that entry is prohibited. Construction equipment and personnel are directed to remain outside the creosote bush scrub habitat at all times.

In the event that disturbance in the creosote bush scrub habitat becomes necessary, a focused survey for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard will be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine the presence or absence of the species onsite and, if present, to determine appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The focused survey season for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard is May 1 through July 31. If the lizard is found to be present during the focused survey, then DWA will consult with CDFW and USFWS and will comply with the requirements of said agencies to

avoid or reduce Project impacts on the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, in compliance with FESA and CESA.

**Responsible Party: DWA Project Manager**
**Implementation Period: Prior to, and potentially during, Project Construction**

**BIO-4: Burrowing Owl**

A wintering burrowing owl was found to be present on the Project site during the general biological survey conducted in December 2025. Burrowing owl is a candidate species for listing as endangered under CESA and is a federal bird of conservation concern. Prior to commencement of construction, including vegetation removal or ground disturbance, DWA will consult with CDFW to determine any appropriate avoidance and minimization measures.

Additionally, a burrowing owl breeding season focused survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to construction in accordance with the CDFW *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (2012 or most recent version). The breeding season focused survey includes a total of four site visits conducted during the breeding season: one visit between February 15 and April 15, and three visits, at least three weeks apart, between April 15 and July 15, with at least one of these visits made after June 15. If required by CDFW, an incidental take permit will be obtained prior to commencement of construction, and the Project will comply with the conditions of said permit.

**Responsible Party: DWA Project Manager**
**Implementation Period: Prior to, and potentially during, Project Construction**

**BIO-5: Nesting Birds**

Regardless of the time of year when construction will commence, a preconstruction nesting bird survey will be performed by a qualified biologist no less than three (3) days and not greater than seven (7) days prior to construction, including vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities.

If no nesting birds or active nests are found, during the preconstruction survey, then construction may commence within seven (7) days. If construction has not commenced within 7 days after the preconstruction survey, then another preconstruction survey must be performed within the prescribed time period (between 3 and 7 days prior to construction) prior to commencement of construction.

If nesting birds or active nests are found during the preconstruction survey, then an exclusionary buffer will be established by the qualified biologist. The buffer will be clearly marked in the field by construction personnel under the guidance of the qualified biologist. No construction activities will be

DRAFT

allowed within the exclusionary buffer area until the qualified biologist determine that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

**Responsible Party: DWA Project Manager**

**Implementation Period: Prior to, and potentially during, Project Construction**

## Section IV – Cultural Resources Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

As discussed in Issue V of the Project Initial Study, the Project would not result in an adverse impact upon any known historical or archaeological resources (cultural resources). This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is intended to avoid or reduce the potential for impacts by the Project upon previously-undiscovered cultural resources that may be present in subsurface soil deposits by specifying methods and procedures for avoiding or reducing such impacts.

The following mitigation measures (**CUL-1 and CUL-2**) will be implemented in order to ensure that construction of Project facilities does not result in significant adverse impacts upon any previously-undiscovered cultural resources that may be uncovered during Project construction. Each measure is attended by a notation of the party responsible for its implementation and of the period for which it will be in effect.

DRAFT

**CUL-1: Cultural Resources**

In the event that any object uncovered during Project construction activities appears to be a historical or archaeological artifact (or appears to be older than 50 years), all work within fifty (50) feet of the discovery shall be immediately halted or diverted, and the following steps shall be taken:

- The construction contractor shall halt all work within a 50-foot radius of the discovery. Work outside the 50-foot radius may continue.
- The construction contractor shall immediately contact Adrian Biggs at Desert Water Agency via telephone at (760) 323-4971, extension 193 to notify the agency of the find.
- Desert Water Agency will contact a qualified archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards to evaluate the nature and significance of the find.
- If the qualified archaeologist determines that the find is not a significant historical or archaeological resource, then construction may resume with approval of Desert Water Agency.

- If the qualified archaeologist determines that the find is a significant historical or archaeological resource, then construction shall not resume within the 50-foot radius of the discovery until a plan has been developed to preserve or protect the resource as appropriate and as determined by the Desert Water Agency in collaboration with the qualified archaeologist.

**Responsible Party: Construction Contractor and DWA Project Manager**
**Implementation Period: During Ground Disturbing Activities**

**CUL-2: Human Remains**

In the event that any human remains, or what appear to be human remains, are uncovered or encountered during Project construction, the construction contractor will halt or divert all work and will immediately notify the Riverside County Coroner's Office via telephone at (760) 863-8311. After notifying the County Coroner, the contractor will also notify Adrian Biggs at Desert Water Agency via telephone at (760) 323-4971, extension 193. In the event that the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, Desert Water Agency will contact the Native American Heritage Commission to determine the appropriate disposition of the remains. Construction activities will not resume in the area of the find until Desert Water Agency notifies the construction contractor to proceed.

**Responsible Party: Construction Contractor and DWA Project Manager**
**Implementation Period: During Ground Disturbing Activities**

DRAFT

## Section V – Paleontological Resources Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

As discussed in Issue VII of the Project Initial Study, the Project would not result in an adverse impact upon any known paleontological resources. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is intended to avoid or reduce the potential for impacts by the Project upon previously-undiscovered paleontological resources that may be present in subsurface soil deposits by specifying methods and procedures for avoiding or reducing such impacts.

The following mitigation measure (**PALEO-1**) will be implemented in order to ensure that construction of Project facilities does not result in significant adverse impacts upon any previously-undiscovered paleontological resources that may be uncovered during Project construction. The measure is attended by a notation of the party responsible for its implementation and of the period for which it will be in effect.

**PALEO-1: Paleontological Resources**

The following measures will be implemented to protect any paleontological resources uncovered during ground disturbance at the Project site:

- If any potential paleontological resource is uncovered during Project construction, all work in the vicinity of the discovery shall be halted until a qualified paleontologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.
- If a qualified paleontologist determines that a specimen uncovered during Project construction is potentially significant, then all future ground-disturbing actions associated with the Project will be monitored by a qualified paleontological monitor.
- Specimens recovered from the Project site by the qualified paleontological monitor will be, in accordance with standard paleontological practice, identified and curated at a repository with permanent retrievable storage that will allow for additional research in the future.

**Responsible Party: DWA Project Manager**

**Implementation Period: During Ground Disturbing Activities**

## Section VI – Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

DRAFT

As discussed in Issue XVIII of the Project Initial Study, there are no known tribal cultural resources or other cultural resources on the Project site, and the Project would not result in an adverse impact upon any known tribal cultural resources. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is intended to avoid or reduce the potential for impacts by the Project upon previously-undiscovered tribal cultural resources that may be present in subsurface soil deposits by specifying methods and procedures for avoiding or reducing such impacts.

The following mitigation measure (**TCR-1**) will be implemented in order to ensure that construction of Project facilities does not result in significant adverse impacts upon any previously-undiscovered tribal cultural resources that may be uncovered during Project construction. The measure is attended by a notation of the party responsible for its implementation and of the period for which it will be in effect.

**TCR-1: Tribal Cultural Resources**

Desert Water Agency will allow a tribal monitor approved by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to be present on the Project site during ground-disturbing activities, including trenching and the first 10 feet of drilling operations. In the event that any potential tribal cultural resource is

discovered during ground-disturbing activities pursuant to the Project, Desert Water Agency will contact a qualified archaeologist, meeting Secretary of the Interior's standards, to assess the find and determine the appropriate next steps. The District will consult in good faith with the archaeologist and with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians on the disposition and treatment of any artifacts or other cultural materials encountered during activities pursuant to the Project.

**Responsible Party: DWA Project Manager**
**Implementation Period: During Ground Disturbing Activities**

## Section VII – Noise Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

As discussed in Issue XIII of the Project Initial Study, the Project will generate noise during construction activities, particularly resulting from operation of equipment during drilling for pipeline installation. The following measure (**NOISE-1**) will be implemented in order to ensure that construction activities do not result in a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels in excess of standards established for the area. The measure is attended by a notation of the party responsible for its implementation and of the period for which it will be in effect.

**NOISE-1: Noise**

Construction contract documents will include the following provisions to avoid or reduce noise resulting from Project construction:

- Contractor shall use only such equipment 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 the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA).
- Contractor shall comply with the most restrictive of the following: (1) Cathedral City sound control and noise level rules, regulations, and ordinances and (2) the requirements contained in the construction contract documents, including those pertaining to hours of operation.
- No internal combustion engine shall be operated as part of construction activities 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

DRAFT

promptly remove the equipment and shall not return that equipment to the Project site until the device is repaired or replaced.

- Noise and vibration level requirements shall apply to all equipment on the Project site or related to Project construction, including but not limited to, trucks, transit mixers, or transit equipment that may or may not be owned by the contractor.

**Responsible Party: Construction Contractor and DWA Project Manager**
**Implementation Period: Throughout Project Construction**

**Section VIII – Traffic Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

As discussed in Issue XVII of the Project Initial Study, the Project minor, temporary impacts to traffic may occur during Project construction. The following measure (**TRAFFIC-1**) will be implemented in order to ensure that construction activities do not result in a substantial adverse impact upon traffic in the area. The measure is attended by a notation of the party responsible for its implementation and of the period for which it will be in effect.

**TRAFFIC-1: Construction Traffic**

To avoid or reduce adverse traffic impacts during Project construction, the construction contract will require the contractor to comply with all local traffic regulations, including those of CVWD when working within and around the CVWD well site. The contractor will be responsible for implementing safe and effective traffic control measures at all times during construction activities.

**Responsible Party: Construction Contractor and DWA Project Manager**
**Implementation Period: Throughout Project Construction**

DRAFT

# Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program - Map 1

LSA

Project Location

Photograph Locations

Whitewater River Low Flow Channel

Vegetation/Land Use

Creosote Bush Scrub (1.50 acres)

Developed/Disturbed (12.76 acres)

FIGURE 2

N

0 130 260

FEET

SOURCE: Nearmap (9/30/2025); U.S. Census Bureau (USCB)

*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District Interconnection No. 2 Project*

Vegetation, Land Use and Photograph Locations

I:\2025\20252562\GIS\Pro\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project.aprx (BRA Fig 2 - Vegetation, Land Use and Photograph Locations)
1/19/2026 12:07 PM

# APPENDIX B

# BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

# BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

## DESERT WATER AGENCY/COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT INTERCONNECTION NO. 2 PROJECT

## CATHEDRAL CITY, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

LSA

February 2026

# BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

## DESERT WATER AGENCY/COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT INTERCONNECTION NO. 2 PROJECT

## CATHEDRAL CITY, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for:

Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated
3890 Orange Street, Suite 1509
Riverside, California 92502

Prepared by:

LSA Associates, Inc.
1500 Iowa Avenue, Suite 200
Riverside, California 92507
(951) 781-9310

LSA Project No. 20252562

February 2026

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated, retained LSA to prepare a Biological Resources Assessment for the Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District Interconnection No. 2 Project (project) in Cathedral City, Riverside County, California. This report has been prepared for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The project site contains habitat for four federally/State listed species, the Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*), Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). The burrowing owl was found to be present, and a breeding season survey and consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are required to determine any necessary mitigation measures. For any project effects to Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Crotch's bumble bee, and Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard habitat, focused surveys would be required for these species to determine their presence/absence and any necessary mitigation measures.

The project is not anticipated to have substantial effects on non-listed special-status species.

The project site provides habitat for nesting birds. To avoid potential effects to nesting birds, prior to construction activities, a preconstruction nesting bird survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist no less than 3 days and not more than 7 days prior to any construction activities and vegetation removal.

The project site contains jurisdictional waters within the Whitewater River. Any project effects to the Whitewater River would be subject to the regulatory authority of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, or the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... i
TABLE OF CONTENTS ..... ii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS ..... iv
**INTRODUCTION ..... 1**
**METHODS ..... 3**
Literature Review ..... 3
Field Survey ..... 3
Reconnaissance Field Survey ..... 3
Jurisdictional Delineation ..... 3
**RESULTS ..... 4**
Existing Site Conditions ..... 4
Topography and Soils ..... 4
Vegetation ..... 4
Wildlife ..... 4
Special-Status Species ..... 9
Threatened/Endangered Species ..... 9
Non-Listed Special-Interest Species ..... 10
Critical Habitat ..... 10
Nesting Birds ..... 12
Jurisdictional Waters ..... 12
**IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ..... 15**
Threatened and Endangered Species ..... 15
Coachella Valley Milk-Vetch ..... 15
Crotch's Bumble Bee ..... 15
Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard ..... 15
Burrowing Owl ..... 15
Critical Habitat ..... 16
Non-Listed Special-Interest Species ..... 16
Nesting Birds ..... 16
Jurisdictional Waters ..... 16
Wildlife Movement, Corridors, and Nursery Sites ..... 16
Natural Communities of Concern ..... 17
Local Policies and Ordinances ..... 17
Adopted Habitat Conservation Plan ..... 17
**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ..... 18**
**REFERENCES ..... 19**

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Project Location ..... 2
Figure 2: Vegetation, Land Use, and Photograph Locations ..... 5
Figure 3: Site Photographs ..... 6
Figure 4: Burrowing Owl Observation ..... 11
Figure 5: Jurisdictional Delineation Results ..... 14

## TABLES

Table A. Jurisdictional Delineation Results ..... 13

## APPENDICES

A: PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES OBSERVED
B: SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES SUMMARY
C: JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION

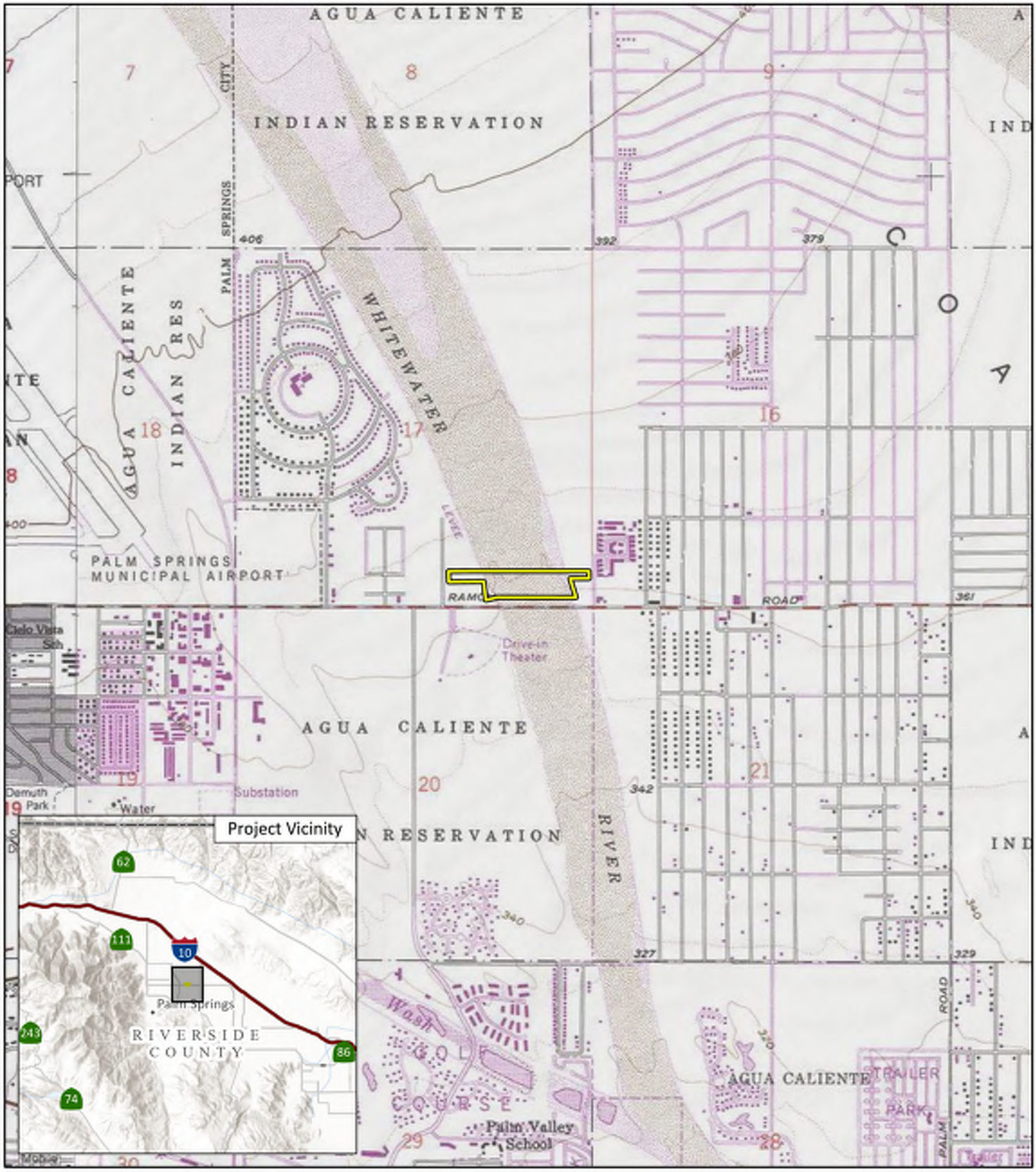
# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| CDFW | California Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| CEQA | California Environmental Quality Act |
| CESA | California Endangered Species Act |
| CNPS | California Native Plant Society |
| CVAG | Coachella Valley Association of Governments |
| CVMSHCP | Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan |
| CVWD | Coachella Valley Water District |
| CWA | federal Clean Water Act |
| DWA | Desert Water Agency |
| FESA | Federal Endangered Species Act |
| OHWM | ordinary high water mark |
| project | Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District Interconnection No. 2 Project |
| RWQCB | Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| USACE | United States Army Corps of Engineers |
| USFWS | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |
| USGS | United States Geological Survey |
| WOTS | waters of the State |
| WOTUS | waters of the United States |

# INTRODUCTION

Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated, retained LSA to prepare a Biological Resources Assessment for the Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District (DWA/CVWD) Interconnection No. 2 Project (project). The 14.26-acre project site consists of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 677-620-023, -090, -091, 677-420-016, -021, -057, and -060, and a portion of Sarah Street right-of-way. The project site is generally located westerly of the intersection of Ramon Road and the Whitewater River in Cathedral City, Riverside County, California. Figure 1 shows the project location on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Cathedral City, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle within Section 17, Township 4 South and Range 5 East.

The project proposes construction of a domestic water interconnection pipeline between CVWD and DWA, utilizing horizontal directional drilling under the Whitewater River.




LSA

Project Location

FIGURE 1

0 1000 2000
FEET

*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District*
*Interconnection No. 2 Project*

Project Location

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad - *Cathedral City (1981), CA*

I:\2025\2025-2562\GIS\Pro\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project.aprx (BRA Fig 1 - Project Location)
1/19/2026 12:10 PM

# METHODS

## LITERATURE REVIEW

LSA conducted a literature review to assist in determining the existence or potential occurrence of special-interest plant and animal species within the project site and in the project vicinity. A record search of the *Cathedral City, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Seven Palms Valley* 7.5-minute quadrangles was conducted on December 8, 2025 using Rarefind 5 (California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] 2025). Current and historical aerial photographs were also reviewed using Google Earth (Google Earth Pro 2025). The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC System, Critical Habitat Mapper, and National Wetland Inventory were also queried (USFWS 2025a, 2025b, 2025c). Soil types were determined using the WebSoil Survey (Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey version 3.4.0 [NRCS n.d.]). In addition, the Final Recirculated Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) (Coachella Valley Association of Governments [CVAG] 2007) and CVMSHCP modeled habitat (CVMSHCP Open Data Portal 2025) were also reviewed.

## FIELD SURVEY

### Reconnaissance Field Survey

LSA Biologists Denise Woodard and Dr. Stanley Spencer conducted a general reconnaissance level field survey of the project site on December 9, 2025, between 8:00 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. Weather conditions during the survey consisted of clear skies, temperatures ranging from 58 to 79 degrees Fahrenheit, and winds ranging from 1 to 3 miles per hour. The entire project site was surveyed on foot, and notes were taken on general site conditions, vegetation, and suitability of habitat for various special-interest elements. All plant and animal species observed or otherwise detected during this field survey were noted.

### Jurisdictional Delineation

LSA Biologists Denise Woodard and Dr. Stanley Spencer conducted a jurisdictional delineation during the general reconnaissance field survey. The jurisdictional delineation was conducted and evaluated according to the most current federal and/or State regulatory criteria and guidance. The guidance included the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (Version 2.0) (USACE 2008), the *Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual* (USACE 1987), and the recent Supreme Court ruling of *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*. In the recent Supreme Court decision of *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* on May 25, 2023, the Supreme Court ruled that the Clean Water Act extends only to wetlands that have a continuous surface connection with waters of the United States (WOTUS) (i.e., they must be a relatively permanent body of water connected to traditional interstate navigable waters and wetlands must have a continuous surface connection to another WOTUS to be considered an adjacent wetland).

# RESULTS

## EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

The project site is primarily within the leveed limits of the Whitewater River. The Whitewater River within the project site is developed by a golf course. The project site also extends east and west of the Whitewater River levees. The portion of the project site east of the Whitewater River levee is developed by a CVWD facility and a portion of a residential lot. The portion of the project site west of the Whitewater River levee includes undeveloped open space, a DWA facility, and a portion of the Sarah Street right-of-way. Surrounding land uses include the Whitewater River developed by a golf course on the north, Whitewater River on the south, commercial and residential on the east, and commercial, residential, and undeveloped open space on the west.

### Topography and Soils

The project site is relatively flat, and the elevation of the site is approximately 360 feet above mean sea level.

The predominant soil on the project site consists of Riverwash within the Whitewater River. Other mapped soils on the project site include Carsitas gravelly sand (0 to 9 percent slopes), Carsitas fine sand (0 to 5 percent slopes), and Myoma fine sand (0 to 5 percent slopes).

### Vegetation

The vegetation in the developed portions of the project site (12.76 acres) consists of ornamental turf grasses, trees, and shrubs. The developed portions of the project site also contain unvegetated areas. Creosote bush scrub vegetation (CNPS 2025) consists of 1.5 acres, is present on the northwest portion of the project site, and is disturbed by adjacent development. The ornamental plant species identified include nonnative mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), Palo verde (*Parkinsonia* sp.), and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.). Dominant creosote bush scrub species identified include creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and common Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*).

Figure 2 shows vegetation, land use, and photograph locations, and Figure 3 shows site photographs. A complete list of plant species observed is provided in Appendix A, and wildlife species are discussed below.

### Wildlife

Wildlife species observed within the project site are consistent with the existing setting and include greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), and California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*). A complete list of animal species observed is provided in Appendix A.

LSA

Project Location
Photograph Locations
Whitewater River Low Flow Channel

Vegetation/Land Use
Creosote Bush Scrub (1.50 acres)
Developed/Disturbed (12.76 acres)

FIGURE 2

0 130 260
FEET

SOURCE: Nearmap (9/30/2025); U.S. Census Bureau (USCB)

I:\2025\20252562\GIS\Pro\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project.aprx (BRA Fig 2 - Vegetation, Land Use and Photograph Locations)
1/19/2026 12:07 PM

*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District*
*Interconnection No. 2 Project*

Vegetation, Land Use and Photograph Locations

**Photo 1:** View of golf course and general site conditions from Whitewater River east levee top.

**Photo 2:** View of east levee top.

**Photo 3:** View of golf course and general site conditions from north Whitewater River levee top.

**Photo 4:** View of Coachella Valley Water District facility.

LSA

FIGURE 3
Page 1 of 3

*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District Interconnection No.2 Project*
Site Photographs

**Photo 5:** View of Whitewater River low flow channel.

**Photo 6:** View of Whitewater River low flow channel.

**Photo 7:** View of golf course and general site conditions from Whitewater river west levee top.

**Photo 8:** View of creosote bush scrub vegetation.

LSA

FIGURE 3
Page 2 of 3

*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley*
*Water District Interconnection No.2 Project*
Site Photographs

**Photo 9:** View of creosote bush scrub vegetation.

**Photo 10:** View of burrowing owl at its burrow.

LSA

FIGURE 3


*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley*
*Water District Interconnection No.2 Project*
Site Photographs

## SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

This section discusses special-status species observed or potentially occurring within the limits of the project site. Legal protection for special-interest species varies widely, from the comprehensive protection extended to listed threatened/endangered species to no legal interest at present. The CDFW, the USFWS, local agencies, and special-interest groups such as the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) publish watch lists of declining species. Species on watch lists can be included as part of the special-interest species assessment. The special-interest species list includes species that are candidates for State and/or federal listing and species on watch lists. Inclusion of species described in the special-interest species analysis is based on the following criteria:

- Direct observation of the species or its sign within the project site or immediate vicinity during previous biological studies;
- Sighting by other qualified observers;
- Records reported by the California Natural Diversity Database, published by the CDFW;
- Presence or location information for specific species provided by private groups (e.g., CNPS); and/or
- Project site lies within known distribution of a given species and contains appropriate habitat.

The special-interest species analysis revealed 67 special-interest species that are known to occur in the project area. Appendix B lists these species with a data summary and determination of the likelihood of each species occurring on the project site.

### Threatened/Endangered Species

Under provisions of Section 7(a)(2) of the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), a federal agency that permits, licenses, funds, or otherwise authorizes a project activity must consult with the USFWS to ensure that its actions would not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed threatened or endangered species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. The USFWS designates as threatened or endangered, species that are at risk of extinction and may also adopt recovery plans that identify specific areas that are essential to the conservation of a listed species. Critical habitat areas that may require special management considerations or protections can also be designated.

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) is administered by the CDFW and prohibits the “take” of plant and animal species identified as either threatened or endangered in the State of California by the Fish and Game Commission (Fish and Game Code Sections 2050 to 2097). “Take” is defined as hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill. Sections 2091 and 2081 of the CESA allow the CDFW to authorize exceptions to the prohibition of “take” of State listed threatened or endangered plant and animal species for purposes such as public and private development. The CDFW requires formal consultation to ensure that a proposed project’s actions would not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or destroy or adversely affect listed species’ habitats.

As identified in Appendix B, there are 14 federally/State listed species, including species proposed for listing and Candidate species, with probability to occur on the project site. Of these 14 species, three species, Coachella Valley milk-vetch (*Atragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*), Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), and Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*), have potential to occur on the project site. One species, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), is present on the project site. These species are discussed below.

#### *Coachella Valley Milk-Vetch*

The Coachella Valley milk-vetch is federally listed as endangered and has a California Rare Plant Rank of 1B.2, plants that are rare, threatened, and endangered in California and elsewhere. This plant species has a moderate probability to occur on the project site. Creosote bush scrub provides suitable habitat for the species on the project site.

#### *Crotch's Bumble Bee*

The Crotch's bumble bee is a State Candidate for listing as endangered. This species has a low probability of occurring within the ornamentally landscaped areas and creosote bush scrub within the project limits.

#### *Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard*

The Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard is federally listed as threatened and State listed as endangered. This species has a low probability of occurring within the creosote bush scrub area of the project site. The CVMSHCP classifies the creosote bush scrub on the project site as modeled habitat for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard.

#### *Burrowing Owl*

The burrowing owl is a State Candidate for listing as endangered and is a federal bird of conservation concern. The burrowing owl was observed at a burrow within the creosote bush scrub vegetation on the project site, as shown in Figure 4.

### Non-Listed Special-Interest Species

Of the 53 non-listed special-interest species identified in Appendix B, 30 are not expected to occur based on lack of suitable habitat. Species with probability of occurring include 23 species with a low probability of occurrence.

## CRITICAL HABITAT

The project site is not within any federally designated critical habitat.

LSA

Project Location

Burrowing Owl Observation

FIGURE 4

0 130 260
FEET

SOURCE: Nearmap (9/30/2025)

I:\2025\20252562\GIS\Pro\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project.aprx (BRA Fig 4 - Burrowing Owl Observation)
1/19/2026 12:12 PM

*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District*
*Interconnection No. 2 Project*

Burrowing Owl Observation

## NESTING BIRDS

The project site provides suitable nesting habitat for a special-status nesting bird species as identified above, and other non-special-status bird species. Nesting bird species with potential to occur within the project site are protected by California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800, and by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 United States Code 703–711). These laws regulate the take, possession, or destruction of the nest or eggs of any migratory bird or bird of prey.

## JURISDICTIONAL WATERS

The USACE regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. These waters include wetlands and nonwetland bodies of water that meet specific criteria, including a direct or indirect connection to interstate commerce. The USACE regulatory jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) is founded on a connection, or nexus, between the water body in question and interstate commerce. This connection may be direct (through a tributary system linking a stream channel with traditional navigable waters used in interstate or foreign commerce), or it may be indirect (through a nexus identified in the USACE regulations). To be considered a jurisdictional wetland under Section 404, an area must possess three wetland characteristics, each with its unique set of mandatory wetland criteria: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology.

The CDFW, under Sections 1600 through 1616 of the California Fish and Game Code, regulates alterations to lakes, rivers, and streams (defined by the presence of a channel bed and banks, and at least an intermittent flow of water) where fish or wildlife resources may be adversely affected.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is responsible for the administration of Section 401 of the CWA. Typically, the areas subject to jurisdiction of the RWQCB coincide with those of the USACE (i.e., waters of the United States, including any wetlands). The RWQCB may also assert authority over “waters of the State” under waste discharge requirements pursuant to the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

The jurisdictional delineation (Appendix C) determined that the Whitewater River is a jurisdictional feature that would be subject to the regulatory authority of the USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW. The Whitewater River is a leveed, intermittent feature that is tributary to the Salton Sea, which is a USACE traditional navigable water. The Whitewater River has a distinct low flow channel. A USACE ordinary high water mark (OHWM) was present in the low flow channel and displayed sediment and drift deposits, but the low flow channel does not support hydric vegetation. CDFW bed and bank (levee to levee) were present. CDFW riparian habitat was absent. The low flow channel was devoid of vegetation, and adjacent areas within the levees were primarily vegetated by ornamental turf grass, shrubs, and trees. The soil within the Whitewater River consists of Riverwash, which is classified as a hydric soil. Therefore, the low flow channel meets the State definition of a two-parameter (hydric soils and hydrology) wetland.

The Whitewater River is considered a USACE nonwetland water of the U.S. (WOTUS), a CDFW streambed, and an RWQCB two-parameter wetland water of the State (WOTS). Figure 5 and Table A provide the jurisdictional delineation results.

## Table A. Jurisdictional Delineation Results

| Feature | USACE Nonwetland WOTUS (acres) | RWQCB Wetland WOTS (acres) | CDFW Streambed (acres) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Whitewater River | 0.49 | 0.49 | 10.57 |

Source: Compiled by LSA (2026).
CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife
RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board
USACE = United States Army Corps of Engineers
WOTUS = Waters of the U.S.
WOTS = Waters of the State

LSA

Project Location

Jurisdictional Delineation

CDFW Streambed (10.57 acres)

USACE Nonwetland/RWQCB Wetland (0.49 acre)

0 130 260
FEET

SOURCE: Nearmap (9/30/2025); U.S. Census Bureau (USCB)

I:\2025\20252562\GIS\Pro\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project.aprx (BRA Fig 5 - Jurisdictional Delineation Results)
1/19/2026 3:12 PM

FIGURE 5

*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District*
*Interconnection No. 2 Project*

Jurisdictional Delineation Results

# IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a discussion of potential disturbances and recommendations for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures per applicable local, State, and federal policy.

## THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

### Coachella Valley Milk-Vetch

Suitable habitat is present on the project site for the Coachella Valley milk-vetch, a federally listed as endangered species. For any project effects to the creosote bush scrub habitat on the project site, a focused survey is required to determine its presence/absence, and any avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The focused survey season for the Coachella Valley milk-vetch is February through May. If the species is determined to be present, consultation with the USFWS may be required.

### Crotch's Bumble Bee

Suitable habitat is present on the project site for the Crotch's bumble bee, a State Candidate for listing as endangered. For any project impacts to ornamental and creosote bush scrub vegetation on the project site, a focused survey is required to determine the presence/absence of this species on the project site and any avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The survey season for the Crotch's bumble bee is April through July. If the species is determined to be present, consultation with CDFW would be required.

### Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard

Suitable habitat is present on the project site for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, a federally listed as threatened and State listed as endangered species. For any project effects to the creosote bush scrub habitat on the project site, a focused survey is required to determine the presence/absence of this species and any avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The focused survey season for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard is May 1 through July 31. If the species is determined to be present, consultation with the USFWS and CDFW would be required.

### Burrowing Owl

A wintering burrowing owl, a State Candidate for listing as endangered, was found to be present within the creosote bush scrub habitat on the project site. The creosote bush scrub and other developed/disturbed portions of the project site provide suitable habitat for this species. Consultation with CDFW is required to determine any appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. Please note, a CDFW incidental take permit is anticipated to be required for any project effects to the burrowing owl.

In addition, to fully address potential project effects to the burrowing owl, CDFW survey protocol (CDFG 2012) requires a breeding season survey to adequately address potential project effects to nesting burrowing owl per the following:

- A preconstruction burrowing owl survey will be conducted in accordance with CDFW's 2012 survey protocol. Four site visits will be conducted during the breeding season: one between February 15 and April 15, and three, at least 3 weeks apart, between 15 April and 15 July, with at least one of these after June 15.

## CRITICAL HABITAT

No USFWS designated critical habitat occurs on the project site. Therefore, the project will have no effects on designated critical habitat.

## NON-LISTED SPECIAL-INTEREST SPECIES

Twenty-three non-listed special-status species were identified with probability for occurrence on the project site. These species have a limited population distribution in Southern California, and development is further reducing their ranges and numbers. These species have no official State or federal protection status but require consideration under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project is anticipated to avoid direct effects on the Whitewater River with the use of horizontal directional drilling under the Whitewater River. Any effects to creosote bush scrub (1.5 acres) is not considered substantial with implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures identified in this document and through compliance with State/federal endangered species acts. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to have substantial effects on non-listed special-status species.

## NESTING BIRDS

The project site contains suitable habitat for nesting bird species. To avoid potential effects to nesting birds, implementation of the following measure would be required:

- Prior to construction activities, including vegetation removal, a preconstruction nesting bird survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist no less than 3 days and not more than 7 days prior to any construction activities and vegetation removal. Should nesting birds be found, an exclusionary buffer will be established by the qualified biologist. The buffer will be clearly marked in the field by construction personnel under guidance of the qualified biologist. No construction activities will be allowed within this zone until the qualified biologist determines that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

## JURISDICTIONAL WATERS

The project will utilize horizontal directional drilling under the Whitewater River and is not anticipated to affect the Whitewater River. However, any project effects to the Whitewater River would be subject to the regulatory authority of the USACE, the CDFW, or the RWQCB.

## WILDLIFE MOVEMENT, CORRIDORS, AND NURSERY SITES

Wildlife movement includes seasonal migration along corridors and daily movements for foraging. Migration corridors may include areas of unobstructed movement of deer, riparian corridors providing cover for migrating birds, routes between breeding waters and upland habitat for amphibians, and areas between roosting and feeding areas for birds.

The project site is not within a designated regional wildlife movement corridor but does provide for localized wildlife movement within the Whitewater River and creosote bush scrub habitats. The project site is primarily developed, as well as adjacent areas. In addition, the project is anticipated to avoid effects on the Whitewater River with the use of horizontal directional drilling under the river. Also, any project effects to 1.5 acres of creosote bush scrub is not considered substantial with implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures identified in this document and through compliance with State/federal endangered species acts. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to result in a substantial effect on regional wildlife movement.

No nursery sites occur on the project site. Therefore, the project will have no effects on nursery sites.

## NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN

No natural communities of concern are present. Therefore, the project would have no effects on natural communities of concern.

## LOCAL POLICIES AND ORDINANCES

The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances.

## ADOPTED HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

The project site is within the CVMSHCP plan boundary but is not within a CVMSHCP conservation area. The DWA is not signatory to the CVMSHCP and is not subject to compliance with the CVMSHCP. Although DWA is not signatory to the CVMSHCP, the project would not conflict with the CVMSHCP through implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures identified in this document, and through compliance with State/federal endangered species acts.

# CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

According to Section 15130 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, "cumulative impacts" refers to incremental effects of an individual project when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects, and probable future projects. Project construction is not anticipated to substantially affect habitats on the project site. The project may contribute to the incremental loss of habitats in the region, including potential habitat for special-status species. Cumulative impacts potentially include habitat fragmentation, increased edge effects, reduced habitat quality, and increased wildlife mortality. Cumulative impacts are not considered substantial with the implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures identified in this document and through compliance with State/federal endangered species acts.

# REFERENCES

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2012. Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. Sacramento: The Resources Agency. March.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2025. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), RareFind 5 Version 5.3.0. Records of occurrence for the USGS *Cathedral City, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Seven Palms Valley* 7.5-minute quadrangle maps. Sacramento, CA. Website: https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/rarefind/view/RareFind.aspx (accessed December 2025).

California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2025. A Manual of California Vegetation, Online edition. Website: http://www.cnps.org/cnps/vegetation/ (accessed December 2025). California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA.

Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG). 2007. Final Recirculated Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. September.

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) Open Data Portal. 2025. Website: https://mshcp-cvag.hub.arcgis.com (accessed December 2025).

Google Earth Pro. 2025. Aerial photographs of the project site and surrounding areas.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). n.d. Web Soil Survey (Version 3.4.0). United States Department of Agriculture. Website: https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/ (accessed December 2025).

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 1987. *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual*. Technical Report Y-87-1, Department of the Army Environmental Laboratory. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Wetlands Research Program, Vicksburg, MS.

_____. 2008. *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region*. Version 2.0. September 2008. ERDC/EL TR-08-28. Department of the Army Environmental Laboratory. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Wetlands Research Program, Vicksburg, MS.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2025a. Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). Website: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/ (accessed December 2025).

_____. 2025b. Critical Habitat Mapper. Website: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77 (accessed December 2025).

_____. 2025c. National Wetland Inventory. Website: https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper (accessed December 2025).

# APPENDIX A

# PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES OBSERVED

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|---|---|
| **EUDICOT FLOWERING PLANTS** | |
| **Apocynacecae** | **Dogbane family** |
| *Funastrum cynanchoides* | Fringed twinevine |
| **Asteraceae** | **Sunflower family** |
| *Ambrosia salsola* | Common burrobrush/cheesebush |
| *Baccharis sarothroides* | Broom baccharis |
| *Dicoria canescens* | Desert twinbugs |
| *Encelia farinosa* | Brittlebush |
| *Palafoxia arida* var. *arida* | Desert palafox |
| *Pluchea sericea* | Arrow-weed |
| **Boraginaceae** | **Borage family** |
| *Tecoma stans* | Yellow trumpetbush |
| **Brassicaceae** | **Mustard family** |
| *Brassica tournefortii** | Sahara mustard |
| *Sisymbrium irio** | London rocket |
| **Caryophyllaceae** | **Pink family** |
| *Achyronychia cooperi* | Onyx flower, frost-mat |
| **Chenopodiaceae** | **Saltbush family** |
| *Atriplex canescens* | Four-wing saltbush |
| *Salsola tragus** | Prickly Russian thistle |
| **Ehretiaceae** | **Ehretia family** |
| *Tiquilia plicata* | Fan-leaved tiquilia |
| **Fabaceae** | **Pea family** |
| *Melilotus indicus** | Sourclover |
| *Neltuma* sp.* | Mesquite (nonnative) |
| *Parkinsonia* sp.* | Palo verde (ornamental hybrid) |
| *Psorothamnus emoryi* | Dyebush |
| **Lamiaceae** | **Mint family** |
| *Lamium amplexicaule** | Henbit |
| **Myrtaceae** | **Myrtle family** |
| *Eucalyptus* sp.* | Eucalyptus |
| **Solanaceae** | **Nightshade family** |
| *Nicotiana glauca** | Tree tobacco |
| **Tamaricaceae** | **Tamarisk family** |
| *Tamarix ramosissima** | Saltcedar |
| **Zygophyllaceace** | **Caltrop family** |
| *Larrea tridentata* | Creosote bush |
| **MONOCOT FLOWERING PLANTS** | |
| **Cyperaceae** | **Sedge family** |
| *Cyperus involucratus** | Umbrella plant |
| **Poaceae** | **Grass family** |
| *Cynodon dactylon** | Bermuda grass |
| *Pennisetum setaceum** | African fountain grass |
| *Schismus barbatus** | Common Mediterranean grass |

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|---|---|
| **BIRDS** | |
| **Columbidae** | **Pigeons and Doves** |
| *Columba livia** | Rock pigeon |
| **Cuculidae** | **Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis** |
| *Geococcyx californianus* | Greater roadrunner |
| **Picidae** | **Woodpeckers and Allies** |
| *Dryobates scalaris* | Ladder-backed woodpecker |
| **Tyrannidae** | **Tyrant Flycatchers** |
| *Myiarchus cinerascens* | Ash-throated flycatcher |
| *Sayornis nigricans* | Black phoebe |
| *Sayornis saya* | Say's phoebe |
| *Pyrocephalus rubinus* | Vermilion flycatcher |
| **Fringillidae** | **Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies** |
| *Haemorhous mexicanus* | House finch |
| **Passerellidae** | **New World Sparrows** |
| *Zonotrichia leucophrys* | White-crowned sparrow |
| **Parulidae** | **Wood Warblers** |
| *Setophaga coronata* | Yellow-rumped warbler |
| **Passerellidae** | **New World Sparrows** |
| *Zonotrichia leucophrys* | White-crowned sparrow |
| **Parulidae** | **Wood Warblers** |
| *Setophaga coronata* | Yellow-rumped warbler |
| **MAMMALS** | |
| **Leporidae** | **Rabbits and Hares** |
| *Sylvilagus audubonii* | Desert cottontail |
| **Procyonidae** | **Raccoons and Allies** |
| *Procyon lotor* | Northern raccoon |
| **Sciuridae** | **Squirrels** |
| *Spermophilus beecheyi* | California ground squirrel |

* = nonnative species

# APPENDIX B

# SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES SUMMARY

# Special-Status Species Summary

| Species | Status | Habitat and Distribution | Activity Period | Occurrence Probability |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Plants** | | | | |
| *Abronia villosa* var. *aurita*<br><br>**Chaparral sand-verbena** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 1B | Sandy areas (generally flats and benches along washes) in chaparral and coastal sage scrub, and improbably in desert dunes or other sandy areas, below 1,600 meters (5,300 feet) in elevation. In California, reported from Riverside, San Diego, Imperial, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties. Believed extirpated from Orange County. Also reported from Arizona and Mexico (Baja California). Plants reported from desert communities are likely misidentified. | Blooms mostly March through August (annual or perennial herb) | **Not expected:** No chaparral or coastal sage scrub vegetation. In addition, the project site is affected by existing and surrounding development. |
| *Almutaster pauciflorus*<br><br>**Alkali marsh aster** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 2B.2 | Alkaline soils in meadows and seeps. In California, known from Inyo, Kern, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. | Blooms June through October (perennial herb) | **Not expected:** No alkaline soil or suitable habitat (meadows and seeps). |
| *Astragalus hornii* var. *hornii*<br><br>**Horn's milk-vetch** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 1B.1 | Alkaline playas and lake margins from 60 to 850 meters (200 to 2,800 feet) in elevation. In California, known only from Inyo and Kern counties. Believed extirpated from San Bernardino County. Also occurs in Nevada. | Blooms May through October (annual herb) | **Not expected:** The project site is outside the known range of this species. |
| *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *borreganus*<br><br>**Borrego milk-vetch** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 4.3 | Sandy flats and semi-stabilized dunes in desert scrub at 30 to 270 meters (100 to 900 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. Also occurs in Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico. | Blooms February through May (annual herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (sandy areas in creosote bush scrub) is present. |
| *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*<br><br>**Coachella Valley milk-vetch** | US: FE<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 1B.2 | Sandy areas, typically in coarse sands in active sand fields, adjacent to dunes, along roadsides in dune areas, or along the margins of sandy washes, in Sonoran Desert scrub at 60 to 655 meters (200 to 2,150 feet) in elevation. Known only from Riverside County in the Coachella Valley between Cabazon and Indio, and in the Chuckwalla Valley northeast of Desert Center. | Blooms February through May (annual or perennial herb) | **Moderate:** There are CNDDB occurrences of this species from 1998, on the project site and within the Whitewater River, prior to the golf course development. The on-site creosote bush scrub vegetation provides suitable habitat for this species. |
| *Atriplex parishii*<br><br>**Parish's brittlescale** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 1B.1 | Alkali soils in meadows, vernal pools, chenopod scrub, and playas. Usually on drying alkali flats with fine soils. In California, known from Riverside and San Diego counties. Also occurs in Mexico. Believed extirpated from Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties. | Blooms June through October (annual herb) | **Not expected:** No alkali soils occur. |
| *Ayenia compacta*<br><br>**California ayenia** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 2B.3 | Rocky canyons and sandy and gravelly washes from 150 to 1,095 meters (500 to 3,600 feet) in elevation in desert scrub. In California, occurs in Providence Mountains, Eagle Mountains, and west edge of Sonoran Desert. | Blooms March through April (subshrub) | **Not expected:** No rocky canyons and the Whitewater River is developed within the project site. |

## Special-Status Species Summary

| Species | Status | Habitat and Distribution | Activity Period | Occurrence Probability |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Caulanthus simulans*<br><br>**Payson's jewel-flower** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 4.2 | Recently burned areas or disturbed sites such as streambeds in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian areas, and grassland at 60 to 2,200 meters (200 to 7,200 feet) in elevation. Known from San Diego County (Collections in western Riverside County misidentified, are *C. heterophyllus* var. *pseudosimulans*). | Blooms (February) March through May (June) (annual herb) | **Not expected:** No suitable vegetation. |
| *Chorizanthe leptotheca*<br><br>**Peninsular spineflower** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 4.2 | Chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest. On granitic soils, in alluvial fans. 300 to 1,900 meters (980 to 6,240 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. Also known from Baja California. | Blooms May through August (annual herb) | **Not expected:** The project site is outside the elevational range of this species and does not have suitable vegetation. |
| *Chorizanthe parryi* var. parryi<br><br>**Parry's spineflower** | US: -<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 1B.1 | Sandy or rocky soils in chaparral, coastal scrub, oak woodlands, and grassland at 40 to 1,705 meters (100 to 5,600 feet) in elevation. Known only from Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. | Blooms April through June (annual herb) | **Not expected:** No suitable vegetation. |
| *Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*<br><br>**White-bracted spineflower** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 1B.2 | Sandy to gravelly places in Mojave desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, or coastal scrub in the Transverse and Peninsular Ranges and desert edge foothills at 300 to 1,200 meters (980 to 3,900 feet) in elevation in coastal southern California and adjacent desert areas. Known only from Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties, California. | Blooms April through June (annual herb) | **Not expected:** The project site is outside the elevational range of this species. |
| *Cuscuta californica* var. *apiculata*<br><br>**Pointed dodder** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 3 | Sandy sites in Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub at 0 to 500 meters (0 to 1,600 feet) in elevation. In California, known only from Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Also occurs in Nevada and Mexico. | Blooms February through August (annual parasitic vine) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) is present. |
| *Ditaxis claryana*<br><br>**Glandular ditaxis** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 2B.2 | Sandy soils in creosote bush scrub of the Sonoran and Mojave deserts at 0 to 465 meters (0 to 1,500 feet) in elevation. Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties, and Arizona and northern Mexico. | Blooms October through March (perennial herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub is present. |
| *Dodecahema leptoceras*<br><br>**Slender-horned spineflower** | US: FE<br>CA: SE<br>CRPR: 1B.1 | In the Vail Lake area, occurs in gravel soils of Temecula arkose deposits in openings in chamise chaparral. In other areas, occurs in sandy cobbly riverbed alluvium in alluvial fan sage scrub (usually late seral stage), on floodplain terraces and benches that receive infrequent overbank deposits from generally large washes or rivers, where it is most often found in shallow silty depressions dominated by leather spineflower (*Lastarriaea coriacea*) and other native annual species, and is often associated with cryptogamic soil crusts composed of bryophytes, algae, and/or lichens. Occurs at 200 to 760 meters (600 to 2,500 feet) in elevation. Known only from Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties, California. | Blooms April through June (annual herb) | **Not expected:** The project site is outside the known range of this species. |

## Special-Status Species Summary

| Species | Status | Habitat and Distribution | Activity Period | Occurrence Probability |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Euphorbia abramsiana*<br><br>**Abrams' spurge** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 2B.2 | Sandy areas of desert scrub below 1,000 meters (3,300 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. Also occurs in Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico (Baja California and Sonora). | Blooms mostly September through November following late summer rains (annual herb) | **Not expected:** The project site is outside the elevational range of this species. |
| *Euphorbia arizonica*<br><br>**Arizona spurge** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 2B.3 | Sandy soils 50 to 300 meters (200 to 1,000 feet) in Sonoran Desert scrub in Riverside and San Diego (and Imperial?) counties. Also occurs in Arizona and Mexico. | Blooms March through April (perennial herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Euphorbia platysperma*<br><br>**Flat-seeded spurge** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 1B.2 | Dunes or similar sandy places in desert scrub from 60 to 100 meters (200 to 330 feet) in elevation. In California, occurs in San Diego, Imperial, and Riverside counties, and possibly also in San Bernardino County. Also known from Arizona and Mexico (Sonora). | Blooms February through September (annual herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Galium pumilum*<br><br>**Slender bedstraw** | US: -<br>CA: -<br>CRPR: 4.2 | Occurs in Joshua tree woodland and Sonoran desert scrub habitat that are granitic and rocky. | Blooms April through June/July (perennial herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Horsfordia newberryi*<br><br>**Newberry's velvet-mallow** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 4.3 | Rocky sites in Sonoran Desert scrub from 3 to 800 meters (10 to 2,600 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego counties. Also occurs in Arizona and Mexico. | Blooms February through December (perennial shrub) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Johnstonella costata*<br><br>**Ribbed cryptantha** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 4.3 | Sandy and gravelly sites in desert dunes and desert scrub below 500 meters (1,640 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Imperial, Inyo, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. Also occurs in Arizona and Mexico. | Blooms February through May (annual herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Johnstonella holoptera*<br><br>**Winged cryptantha** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 4.3 | Desert scrub at 100 to 1,690 meters (320 to 5,540 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Imperial, Inyo, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. Also occurs in Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico. | Blooms March through April (annual herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Juncus acutus* ssp. *leopoldii*<br><br>**Southwestern spiny rush** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 4.2 | Mesic coastal dunes, alkali seeps, and coastal salt marshes at 3 to 900 meters (10 to 3,000 feet) in elevation. In California, known from Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Barbara, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties. Also occurs in Arizona, Nevada, Mexico, and South America. | Blooms March through June (perennial herb) | **Not expected:** No suitable habitat present (coastal dunes, alkali seeps, and coastal salt marshes). |

## Special-Status Species Summary

| Species | Status | Habitat and Distribution | Activity Period | Occurrence Probability |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Linanthus maculatus* ssp. *maculatus*<br><br>**Little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 1B.2 | Loose, well-aerated sand on wash-margin benches with few or no competing species and void of large shrubs or trees, in areas of desert dune, desert scrub, and Joshua tree woodland at 195 to 2,075 meters (600 to 6,800 feet) in elevation. Loosely associated shrubs include creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), burro bush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), cheesebush (*Hymenoclea salsola*), and desert catalpa (*Chilopsis linearis*). Not found in loose sands away from washes, nor in dense stands of weedy annuals. Known only from Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Known only from edges of washes associated with the San Bernardino Mountains (north and east sides), the Little San Bernardino Mountains, and the northern part of the Coachella Valley. | Blooms March through May (annual herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Lycium torreyi*<br><br>**Torrey's box-thorn** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 4.2 | Rocky and sandy areas in washes and on streambanks in Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub from -50 to 1,220 meters (-165 to 4,005 feet) in elevation. According to the California Native Plant Society, plants in California outside the vicinity of the Colorado River are likely misidentifications. Known in California only from Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Santa Barbara counties. Also occurs in other western states and Texas, and Mexico. | Blooms (January) March through June (November) (shrub) | **Not expected:** Not likely to occur outside the vicinity of the Colorado River. |
| *Nemacaulis denudata* var. *gracilis*<br><br>**Slender cottonheads** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 2B.2 | Coastal or desert dunes, sandy mesquite hummocks, or similar sandy sites at -50 to 400 (560) meters (-160 to 1,300 [1,800] feet) in elevation. Known from Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties in California, and from Arizona and Mexico. | Blooms mostly late March to mid-May (annual herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (sandy sites) occurs on the project site. |
| *Pelazoneuron puberulum* var. *sonorense*<br><br>**Sonoran maiden fern** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 2B.2 | Seeps and along streams in meadows at 50 to 610 meters (170 to 2,000 feet) in elevation. Known from western Riverside, southwest San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles counties. | Blooms January through September (perennial herb) | **Not expected:** No suitable habitat (seeps, streams, and meadows) occurs on the project site. |
| *Penstemon clevelandii* var. *conatus*<br><br>**San Jacinto beardtongue** | US: -<br>CA: -<br>CRPR: 4.3 | Occurs within chaparral, pinyon and juniper woodland, and Sonoran desert scrub habitat that is rocky. | Blooms March through May (perennial herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Petalonyx linearis*<br><br>**Narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 2B.3 | Occurs within Mojavean desert scrub, and Sonoran desert scrub, growing at elevations from -25 to 1,115 meters (-80 to 3,660 feet). Known in Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties, California. Also known in Arizona, Baja California, and Sonora, Mexico. | Blooms March through May (perennial shrub) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Selaginella eremophila*<br><br>**Desert spike-moss** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 2B.2 | Shaded sites in gravelly soils and among rocks or in crevices from 200 to 900 (2,425?) meters (700 to 3,000 [8,000?] feet) in elevation in Sonoran desert scrub. | Reproductive mostly in June (perennial herb) | **Not expected:** No suitable habitat (seeps, streams, and meadows) occurs on the project site. |

## Special-Status Species Summary

| Species | Status | Habitat and Distribution | Activity Period | Occurrence Probability |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Senna covesii*<br><br>**Coves's cassia** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 2B.2 | Dry, sandy desert washes and slopes in Sonoran desert scrub at 200 to 1,070 meters (700 to 3,500 feet) in elevation. In California, known only from Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. | Blooms March through June (perennial herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Stemodia durantifolia*<br><br>**Purple stemodia** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 2B.1 | Sonoran Desert scrub, mostly in mesic sandy areas, at 180 to 300 meters (600 to 1,000 feet) in elevation. In California, known from San Diego and possibly Riverside counties. Also occurs in Arizona, Texas, Mexico, and South America. | Blooms January through December (perennial herb) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Xylorhiza cognata*<br><br>**Mecca-aster** | US: –<br>CA: –<br>CRPR: 1B.2 | Steep slopes of arid canyons in sandstone and clay in Sonoran desert scrub at 20 to 400 meters (70 to 1,300 feet) in elevation. Known only from Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial counties, California, principally in the Indio and Mecca hills of Riverside County. | Blooms January through June (perennial herb) | **Not expected:** No suitable habitat (arid canyons in sandstone and clay) occurs on the project site. |
| **Arachnids** | | | | |
| *Calileptoneta oasa*<br><br>**Andreas Canyon leptonetid spider** | US: –<br>CA: SA | Known only from the type locality: Andreas Canyon, Palm Springs, Riverside County. | Secretive year-round | **Not expected:** This species is only known from Andreas Canyon in Palm Springs. |
| **Invertebrates** | | | | |
| *Bombus crotchii*<br><br>**Crotch's bumble bee** | US: –<br>CA: SCE | Inhabits scrub (including chaparral) and grassland with high floral diversity from coastal California to the crest of Sierra-Cascade and in desert edge areas, south into Mexico. Suitable bumble bee habitat requires the continuous availability of flowers suitable for foraging and in quantities sufficient to sustain the colony throughout its duration (spring through summer), as well as sites suitable for colony nesting and for overwintering of the new queens. Preferred foraging plants include milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.), phacelias (*Phacelia* spp.), sages (*Salvia* spp.), vetches (*Vicia* spp.), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), lupines (*Lupinus* spp.), and poppies (*Eschscholzia* spp.) (Robert Thorpe et al., 1983, Bumble Bees and Cuckoo Bumble Bees of California). Usually nests underground in abandoned rodent burrows but may also nest in similar environments such as cavities in fallen logs, thatched grasses, or rock piles (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act [CESA] Candidate Bumble Bee Species). Overwintering habitat is poorly understood and therefore CDFW does not recommend surveys for it. Sloping areas insulated with moss or leaf litter under trees have been found to support overwintering gynes (ibid.). | Spring and summer | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (floral resources in the form of creosote bush scrub and ornamental trees within the golf course) occurs on the project site. |

## Special-Status Species Summary

| Species | Status | Habitat and Distribution | Activity Period | Occurrence Probability |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Bombus pensylvanicus*<br><br>**American bumble bee** | US: –<br>CA: SA | Inhabits open farmland and fields throughout the United States. Also occurs in Canada and Mexico. Primarily nests at the ground surface in tall grass, but occasionally underground. Suitable bumble bee habitat requires the continuous availability of flowers on which to forage throughout the duration of the colony (spring through fall), colony nest sites, and overwintering sites for the queens. | Spring and summer | **Not expected:** No suitable habitat (farmlands and fields) occurs on the project site. |
| *Danaus plexippus plexippus* pop. 1<br><br>**Monarch - California overwintering population** | US: FPT<br>CA: – | Overwintering habitat is located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, Monterey cypress) with nectar and water sources nearby. The majority of the overwintering habitat sites are located within 1.5 miles of the Pacific Ocean or San Francisco Bay. Sites are typically found at low elevations (200 to 300 feet) and situated on slopes oriented to the south, southwest, or west, or in shallow canyons or gullies. The sites need to have dappled sunlight, high humidity, fresh water, and an absence of freezing temperatures or high winds. Monarchs breed only where milkweeds are found. They forage on a wide variety of flowers. | September through March at overwintering sites | **Not expected:** No suitable habitat (wind-protected tree groves) occurs on the project site. |
| *Dinacoma caseyi*<br><br>**Casey's June beetle** | US: FE<br>CA: SA | Associated with alluvial sediments, typically in Carsitas gravelly sand (CdC), riverwash, or possibly Carsitas cobbly sand (ChC) of broad, gently sloping alluvial fans at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains. Known distribution is an area of less than 800 acres (324 hectares) in southern Palm Springs within the Palm Canyon alluvial floodplain and eastward to East Palm Canyon Drive. | Spring (late March through June) | **Not expected:** Although riverwash and Carsitas soils occur on the project site, they are highly disturbed by existing and surrounding development. In addition, the project site is outside the known range of this species. |
| *Macrobaenetes valgum*<br><br>**Coachella giant sand treader cricket** | US: –<br>CA: SA | Wind-swept sand dune ridges, spring-dampened sandy areas. Restricted to Coachella Valley. | March through May | **Not expected:** No suitable habitat (wind-swept sand dune ridges, spring-dampened sandy areas) occurs on the project site. |
| *Oliarces clara*<br><br>**Cheeseweed moth owlfly (Cheeseweed moth lacewing)** | US: –<br>CA: SA | Associated with creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) in desert scrub. Known in California from Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. This species is rarely observed in the field due to the short flight season of adults (up to 3 or 4 days) and the indeterminate timing of adult emergence. | Mid-April to mid-May | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Stenopelmatus cahuilaensis*<br><br>**Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket** | US: –<br>CA: SA | Inhabits a small segment of the sand and dune areas of the Coachella Valley, in the vicinity of Palm Springs; found in large, undulating dunes piled up at the north base of Mt. San Jacinto. | Winter months after rain events | **Not expected:** No suitable habitat (large, undulating dunes) occurs on the project site. |

## Special-Status Species Summary

| Species | Status | Habitat and Distribution | Activity Period | Occurrence Probability |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fish** | | | | |
| *Cyprinodon macularius*<br><br>**Desert pupfish** | US: FE<br>CA: SE | Desert backwater areas, springs, streams, and pools. In California, found in the Salton Sea and some of its tributaries (San Felipe Creek, San Sebastian Marsh, and Salt Creek) in Riverside and Imperial counties. | Year-round | **Not expected:** No suitable habitat (desert backwater areas) occurs on the project site. |
| **Amphibians** | | | | |
| *Rana draytonii*<br><br>**California red-legged frog** | US: FT<br>CA: SSC | Deep, quiet pools of streams, marshes, and occasionally ponds, with dense, shrubby vegetation at edges, usually below 1,200 meters (4,000 feet) in elevation. Foothills surrounding the Sacramento Valley and coastal streams from Marin County to northwestern Baja California; believed to be extirpated between Los Angeles County and the Mexican border. | December through April | **Not expected:** No suitable habitat (water resources) occurs on the project site. |
| **Reptiles** | | | | |
| *Crotalus ruber*<br><br>**Red diamond rattlesnake** | US: –<br>CA: SSC | Desert scrub, thornscrub, open chaparral, and woodland; occasional in grassland and cultivated areas. Prefers rocky areas and dense vegetation. Morongo Valley in San Bernardino and Riverside counties to the west and south into Baja California. | Primarily mid-spring through mid-fall | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Gopherus agassizii*<br><br>**Desert tortoise** | US: FT<br>CA: ST | Historically found throughout most of the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts into Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. Believed to have been extirpated from the western and southern portions of the Antelope Valley. Found in creosote bush scrub, saltbush scrub, thornscrub (in Mexico), and Joshua tree woodland. Found in the open desert as well as in oases, riverbanks, washes, dunes, and occasionally rocky slopes. | Spring, and again in early fall in areas of summer rains, with brief periods of activity at other times | **Not expected:** Although creosote bush scrub occurs on the project site, desert tortoise is not known from the sandy valley floor of the Coachella Valley in the project vicinity. In addition, the project is not within CVMSHCP modeled habitat for this species. |
| *Phrynosoma mcalli*<br><br>**Flat-tailed horned lizard** | US: –<br>CA: SSC | Fine sand in desert washes and flats with vegetative cover and ants, generally below 180 meters (600 feet) in elevation in Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial counties. | May be active year-round in mild weather, but peak activity occurs in spring, early summer, and fall | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. The creosote bush scrub is within CVMSHCP modeled habitat for this species. |
| *Uma inornata*<br><br>**Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard** | US: FT<br>CA: SE | Fine, loose, windblown sand (dunes), interspersed with hardpan and widely spaced desert shrubs; known only from the Coachella Valley. | April through October (May is peak) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. The creosote bush scrub is within CVMSHCP modeled habitat for this species. |

## Special-Status Species Summary

| Species | Status | Habitat and Distribution | Activity Period | Occurrence Probability |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Birds** | | | | |
| *Aimophila ruficeps canescens*<br><br>**Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow** | US: –<br>CA: SA | Dry, open, rocky hillsides with scattered shrubs. | Year-round | **Not expected:** No suitable habitat (dry, open, rocky hillsides) occurs on the project site. |
| *Aquila chrysaetos*<br>(nesting & wintering)<br><br>**Golden eagle** | US: –<br>CA: – | Generally open country of the Temperate Zone worldwide. Nesting primarily in rugged mountainous country. Uncommon resident in southern California. | Year-round | **Not expected:** Suitable nesting habitat is not present, but this species may use the project site during foraging activities. |
| *Athene cunicularia*<br>(burrow sites & some wintering sites)<br><br>**Burrowing owl** | US: BCC<br>CA: SCE | Open, treeless areas with low, sparse vegetation, usually on flat or gently sloping terrain, including grasslands, sparse scrub (cover less than 30 percent), farmland, airfields, airports, road embankments, cemeteries, urban vacant lots, desert areas, and other open habitat. They usually occupy ground squirrel burrows but may also utilize man-made structures such as culverts or debris piles, usually temporarily. | Year-round | **Present:** This species was observed during the December 2025 field survey in the creosote bush scrub vegetation. Suitable habitat is present for the burrowing owl within the creosote bush scrub and developed/disturbed areas. |
| *Cypseloides niger*<br>(nesting)<br><br>**Black swift** | US: –<br>CA: – | Most frequently seen in the air feeding on tiny airborne insects. Usually seen near cliffs in mountainous regions; occasionally coastal. Nests in crevices in deep canyon cliffs near waterfalls or in sea cliffs. In California, breeds very locally in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range, the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains, and in coastal bluffs and mountains from San Mateo County south to probably San Luis Obispo County. Apparently winters primarily in South America. | April to September | **Not expected:** Suitable habitat (cliffs and mountainous regions) is not present on the project site. |
| *Empidonax traillii extimus*<br><br>**Southwestern willow flycatcher** | US: FE<br>CA: SE | Rare and local breeder in extensive riparian areas of dense willows or (rarely) tamarisk, usually with standing water, in the southwestern United States and possibly extreme northwestern Mexico. Winters in Central and South America. Below 6,000 feet in elevation. | May through September | **Not expected:** Suitable habitat (extensive riparian areas) is not present on the project site. |
| *Falco mexicanus*<br>(nesting)<br><br>**Prairie falcon** | US: –<br>CA: SA | Nests in cliffs and bluffs; forages in open areas, including grasslands, scrub, and occasionally in agricultural areas. Resident throughout most of California. | Year-round | **Low:** No nesting habitat is present, but this species may use the project site during foraging activities. |
| *Polioptila californica californica*<br><br>**Coastal California gnatcatcher** | US: FT<br>CA: SSC | Inhabits coastal sage scrub in low-lying foothills and valleys up to about 500 meters (1,640 feet) in elevation in cismontane southwestern California and northwestern Baja California. | Year-round | **Not expected:** Suitable habitat (coastal sage scrub) is not present on the project site. |

## Special-Status Species Summary

| Species | Status | Habitat and Distribution | Activity Period | Occurrence Probability |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Polioptila melanura*<br><br>**Black-tailed gnatcatcher** | US: –<br>CA: SA | Nests in wooded desert wash habitat containing mesquite, palo verde, ironwood, and acacia. May also occur in areas with salt cedar, especially when adjacent to native wooded desert wash habitat. Also occurs in desert scrub habitat in winter. | Year-round | **Low:** Marginally suitable wintering habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Toxostoma crissale*<br><br>**Crissal thrasher** | US: –<br>CA: SSC | Dense thickets of shrubs or low trees in desert riparian and desert wash habitats. Southeastern California to Texas and northern Mexico. | Year-round | **Not expected:** Suitable habitat (dense thickets of shrubs or low trees) is not present on the project site. |
| *Toxostoma lecontei*<br><br>**Le Conte's thrasher** | US: –<br>CA: – | Prefers desert and arid habitats with saltbush. Known in southern California, Nevada, Arizona, and Mexico. | Year-round | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. |
| *Vireo bellii pusillus*<br><br>**Least Bell's vireo** | US: FE<br>CA: SE | Riparian forests and willow thickets. The most critical structural component of least Bell's vireo habitat in California is a dense shrub layer 2 to 10 feet (0.6 to 3.0 meters) above ground. Willows usually dominant. Nests from central California to northern Baja California Sur. Winters primarily in Baja California Sur. | March through September | **Not expected:** Suitable habitat (riparian forests and willow thickets) is not present on the project site. |
| **Mammals** | | | | |
| *Chaetodipus fallax pallidus*<br><br>**Pallid San Diego pocket mouse** | US: –<br>CA: SA | Found in sandy herbaceous areas, usually associated with rocks or coarse gravel in desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent scrub, pinyon-juniper woodlands, etc. in desert border areas of southern California into Mexico. | Nocturnal, active year-round | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush) occurs on the project site. |
| *Neotoma albigula venusta*<br><br>**Colorado Valley woodrat** | US: –<br>CA: SA | Occurs in low-lying desert areas in southeastern California. Closely associated with beaver-tail cactus and mesquite. Feeds mainly on succulents. | Year-round | **Not expected:** Suitable habitat (beaver-tail cactus and mesquite) is not present on the project site. |
| *Neotoma lepida intermedia*<br><br>**San Diego desert woodrat** | US: –<br>CA: SSC | Found in desert scrub and coastal sage scrub habitat, especially in association with cactus patches. Builds stick nests around cacti, or on rocky crevices. Occurs along the Pacific slope from San Luis Obispo County to northwest Baja California. | Year-round, mainly nocturnal, occasionally crepuscular and diurnal | **Not expected:** Suitable habitat (cactus patches) is not present on the project site. |
| *Ovis canadensis nelsoni*<br><br>**Desert bighorn sheep** | US: –<br>CA: CFP | Occurs in open, rocky, steep areas with available water and herbaceous forage; widely distributed from the White Mountains in Mono County to the Chocolate Mountains in Imperial County. | Year-round | **Not expected:** Suitable habitat (open, rocky, steep areas) is not present on the project site. |
| *Ovis canadensis nelsonii* pop. 2<br><br>**Peninsular bighorn sheep** | US: FE<br>CA: ST/CFP | Occurs on open desert slopes below 1,220 meters (4,000 feet) in elevation from San Gorgonio Pass south into Mexico; optimal habitat includes steep-walled canyons and ridges bisected by rocky or sandy washes, with available water. | Year-round | **Not expected:** Suitable habitat (steep-walled canyons and ridges bisected by rocky or sandy washes) is not present on the project site. |

## Special-Status Species Summary

| Species | Status | Habitat and Distribution | Activity Period | Occurrence Probability |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Perognathus longimembris bangsii*<br><br>**Palm Springs pocket mouse** | US: –<br>CA: SSC | Primary habitat in the Coachella Valley is dunes and mesquite hummocks associated with honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa* var. *torreyana*) and to a lesser extent dunes and hummocks associated with creosote (*Larrea tridentata*) or other vegetation. Its range in the Coachella Valley extends from Joshua Tree National Park southward, west to San Gorgonio Pass, and south to Borrego Springs and the east side of San Felipe Narrows, in Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial counties. Results of recent morphological and genetic studies indicate that this species also ranges northward at least to Hinkley Valley and Death Valley in San Bernardino County. | Spring through fall | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. CVMSHCP modeled habitat also occurs within creosote bush scrub and within the Whitewater River on the project site. |
| *Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*<br><br>**Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel** | US: –<br>CA: SSC | Desert succulent scrub, desert wash, desert scrub, alkali scrub; will burrow in man-made levees; prefers open, flat, grassy areas in fine textured, sandy soil. Restricted to Coachella Valley. | February through August (hibernates September through January) | **Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) occurs on the project site. CVMSHCP modeled habitat also occurs within the creosote bush scrub vegetation on the project site. |
| *Lasiurus xanthinus*<br><br>**Western yellow bat** | US: –<br>CA: SSC | Found mostly in desert and desert riparian areas of the southwest US, but also expanding its range with the increased usage of native and non-native ornamental palms in landscaping. Individuals typically roost amid dead fronds of palms but have also been documented roosting in cottonwood trees. Forages over many habitats. | Year-round; nocturnal | **Not expected:** Suitable habitat (desert riparian areas or palms) is not present on the project site. |
| *Nyctinomops femorosaccus*<br><br>**Pocketed free-tailed bat** | US: –<br>CA: SSC | Distribution appears to be limited to southern California. Roosts in crevices in a variety of habitats, but usually associated with high cliffs and rugged rock outcrops. Colonial. Colony sizes usually number fewer than 100 individuals. Diet consists primarily of large moths (probably *Sphingidae*), but also crickets, grasshoppers, flying ants, froghoppers, and leafhoppers. Migratory, but documented year-round in southern California. | Year-round; nocturnal | **Not expected:** Suitable roosting habitat (associated with high cliffs and rugged rock outcrops) is not present, but may use the project site during foraging activities. |
| *Nyctinomops macrotis*<br><br>**Big free-tailed bat** | US: –<br>CA: SSC | Relatively few roosts of this species have been found, but it is known to roost in rock crevices in high cliffs as well as in buildings and mines. Highly associated with arid, rocky habitats. Diet consists primarily of large moths, but occasionally crickets, grasshoppers, and flying ants are consumed. Migratory, but documented year-round in southern California. | Probably year-round | **Not expected:** Suitable roosting habitat (rock crevices in high cliffs as well as in buildings and mines) is not present, but may use the project site during foraging activities. |

Source: California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2025).
*Table footnotes continued on following page*

CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CNNDB = California Natural Diversity Database
CVMSHCP = Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
US = United States

**US: Federal Classifications**

| | |
|---|---|
| FE | Listed as Endangered. |
| FT | Listed as Threatened. |
| FPE | Proposed for listing as Endangered. |
| FPT | Proposed for listing as Threatened. |
| FPD | Proposed for delisting. |
| FC | Candidate for listing as Threatened or Endangered. |
| BCC | Bird of Conservation Concern. |
| D | Delisted. |

**CA: State Classifications**

| | |
|---|---|
| SE | State-listed as Endangered. |
| ST | State-listed as Threatened. |
| SR | State-listed as Rare. |
| SCE | Candidate for State-listing as Endangered. |
| SCT | Candidate for State-listing as Threatened. |
| SC | Candidate for State-listing as Threatened or Endangered. |
| SSC | Species of Special Concern. Refers to animals with vulnerable or seriously declining populations. |
| CFP | California Fully Protected. Refers to animals protected from take under Fish and Game Code sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515. |
| SA | Special Animal. Refers to any other animal monitored by the California Natural Diversity Database, regardless of its legal or rarity status. |
| CRPR | California Rare Plant Rank |
| 1A | Presumed extinct in California. |
| 1B (.1-3) | Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. |
| 2B (.1-3) | Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere. |
| 3 (.1-3) | A review list of plants about which more information is needed. |
| 4 (.1-.3) | A watch list of plants of limited distribution or infrequent throughout a broader area in California. |

# APPENDIX C

# JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION

# JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION REPORT

## DESERT WATER AGENCY/COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT INTERCONNECTION NO. 2 PROJECT

## CATHEDRAL CITY, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

LSA

February 2026

# JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION REPORT

## DESERT WATER AGENCY/COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT INTERCONNECTION NO. 2 PROJECT

## CATHEDRAL CITY, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for:

Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated
3890 Orange Street, Suite 1509
Riverside, California 92502

Prepared by:

LSA Associates, Inc.
1500 Iowa Avenue, Suite 200
Riverside, California 92507
(951) 781-9310

LSA Project No. 20252562

February 2026

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS ..... i
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS ..... ii
**INTRODUCTION ..... 1**
Site Description ..... 1
**REGULATORY BACKGROUND ..... 3**
United States Army Corps of Engineers ..... 3
Wetland Waters of the United States ..... 6
Hydrophytic Vegetation ..... 7
Hydric Soils ..... 8
Wetland Hydrology ..... 8
Deepwater Aquatic Habitat ..... 9
California Department of Fish and Wildlife ..... 9
Regional Water Quality Control Board ..... 10
Wetland Waters of the State ..... 11
**METHODOLOGY ..... 12**
**RESULTS ..... 13**
National Wetlands Inventory ..... 13
USDA Soil Survey ..... 13
Delineated Features ..... 13
**CONCLUSIONS ..... 14**
United States Army Corps of Engineers ..... 14
California Department of Fish and Wildlife ..... 14
Regional Water Quality Control Board ..... 14
Disclaimer ..... 14
**REFERENCES ..... 15**

## TABLES

Table A: Hydrophytic Vegetation Ratings ..... 7
Table B: Mapped Soils Classifications ..... 13
Table C: Jurisdictional Delineation Results ..... 14

## APPENDICES

A: FIGURES

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| °F | degrees Fahrenheit |
| 1987 Manual | 1987 *Wetlands Delineation Manual* |
| CDFW | California Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| CEQA | California Environmental Quality Act |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CVWD | Coachella Valley Water District |
| CWA | Clean Water Act |
| DWA | Desert Water Agency |
| EPA | United States Environmental Protection Agency |
| FAC | Facultative |
| FACW | Facultative Wetland |
| JDSA | Jurisdictional Delineation Study Area |
| NETRonline | Nationwide Environmental Title Research Online |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| NWI | National Wetlands Inventory |
| OBL | Obligate Wetland |
| OHWM | ordinary high water mark |
| Porter-Cologne Act | Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act |
| Procedures | *State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State* |
| project | Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District Interconnection No. 2 Project |
| Rapanos | consolidated cases *Rapanos v. United States* and *Carabell v. United States* |

| | |
|---|---|
| Regional Supplement | *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (Version 2.0) |
| RWQCB | Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| Sackett | *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* |
| SWRCB | State Water Resources Control Board |
| USACE | United States Army Corps of Engineers |
| USDA | United States Department of Agriculture |
| USFWS | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |
| USGS | United States Geological Survey |
| WOTS | waters of the State |
| WOTUS | waters of the United States |

# INTRODUCTION

Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated, retained LSA to conduct a jurisdictional waters study and delineation in support of the Desert Water Agency (DWA)/Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) Interconnection No. 2 Project (project).

The 14.26-acre project site consists of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 677-620-023, -090, -091, 677-420-016, -021, -057, and -060, and a portion of Sarah Street right-of-way. The project site is generally located westerly of the intersection of Ramon Road and the Whitewater River in Cathedral City, Riverside County, California. Figure 1 (all figures are provided in Appendix A) shows the project location on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Cathedral City, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle within Section 17, Township 4 South and Range 5 East.

The technical study area for purposes of this jurisdictional delineation is referred to as the Jurisdictional Delineation Study Area (JDSA) and consists of the area within the project limits. This report presents the results of a delineation of potential wetland and nonwetland waters of the United States (WOTUS) subject to jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) as part of the evaluation for potential permit requirements under Section 404 and certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). This report also presents the results of a delineation of streambeds and associated riparian habitat subject to the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for Streambed Alteration Agreement processing under Section 1600 et seq. of the California Fish and Game Code. This jurisdictional delineation is also an important source of information for the evaluation of potential impacts associated with the project for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis.

The findings and conclusions presented in this report include the potential jurisdiction of the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA, the RWQCB under Section 401 of the CWA and/or the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne Act), and the CDFW under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code. These findings and conclusions should be considered preliminary until verified by the USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

The project site is primarily within the leveed limits of the Whitewater River. The Whitewater River within the project site is developed by a golf course. The project site also extends east and west of the Whitewater River levees. The portion of the project site east of the Whitewater River levee is developed by a CVWD facility and a portion of a residential lot. The portion of the project site west of the Whitewater River levee includes undeveloped open space, a DWA facility, and a portion of the Sarah Street right-of-way. Surrounding land uses include the Whitewater River developed by a golf course on the north, Whitewater River on the south, commercial and residential on the east, and commercial, residential, and undeveloped open space on the west. The site is more or less flat with an elevation of approximately 360 feet above mean sea level.

The JDSA is within the Chino Canyon-Whitewater River Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 181002010304) (California Natural Resources Agency 2025). The climate in the area of the JDSA is classified as Hot Summer Mediterranean (i.e., sweltering, arid summers and mild, cooler winters with little rain). The project area receives an average of 2 to 4 inches of rain per year, with a July high temperature average of 107 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and a low of 79°F, and with a December temperature average low of 47°F and a high of 69°F (Weather Spark n.d.).

The vegetation in the developed portions of the project site (12.76 acres) consists of ornamental turf grasses, trees, and shrubs. The developed portions of the project site also contain unvegetated areas. Creosote bush scrub vegetation (CNPS 2025) consists of 1.5 acres, is present on the northwest portion of the project site, and is disturbed by adjacent development. The ornamental plant species identified include nonnative mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), Palo verde (*Parkinsonia* sp.), and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* var.). Dominant creosote bush scrub species identified include creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and common Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*).

# REGULATORY BACKGROUND

## UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The CWA provides the primary means for the protection of WOTUS, including wetlands. Under Section 404 of the CWA, the USACE, under the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), regulates the discharge of dredged and fill material into "waters of the U.S., including wetlands."

The CWA addresses "navigable waters" as defined in the statute as WOTUS. The USACE has further refined the definition through various Clean Water Rules, including wetlands as a subset of WOTUS. Wetlands are those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas (33 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 328.3[b] and 40 CFR 230.3[t]). Wetlands generally contain three distinct parameters: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology.

WOTUS generally not considered to be USACE jurisdictional include non-tidal drainage and irrigation ditches excavated on dry land, artificially irrigated areas, artificial lakes or ponds excavated on dry land used for irrigation or stock watering, small artificial waterbodies such as swimming pools, and water-filled depressions (51 *Federal Register* 41217 1986). In addition, a Supreme Court ruling (*South Waste Agency of North Cook County v. USACE*, January 9, 2001) determined that the USACE exceeded its statutory authority by asserting CWA jurisdiction over "an abandoned sand and gravel pit in northern Illinois, which provides habitat for migratory birds." Based solely on the use of such waters by migratory birds, the Supreme Court's holding was strictly limited to waters that are "non-navigable, isolated, and intrastate."

The Supreme Court further addressed the extent of the USACE's jurisdiction in the consolidated cases *Rapanos v. United States* (No. 04-1034) and *Carabell v. United States* (No. 04-1384) (USACE and EPA 2007), referred to as "Rapanos." In Rapanos, a sharply divided Court issued multiple opinions, none of which garnered the support of a majority of justices. This created substantial uncertainty as to which jurisdictional test should be used in routine jurisdictional determinations. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal, which encompasses California, answered this in *Northern California River Watch v. City of Healdsburg* (August 11, 2006). In this case, the Court held that Justice Kennedy's opinion in Rapanos provided the controlling rule of law. Under that rule, wetlands or other waters that are not navigable are subject to USACE jurisdiction if they have "a significant nexus to waters that are navigable in fact." As Justice Kennedy explained, whether a "significant nexus" exists in any given situation will need to be decided on a case-by-case basis, depending on site-specific circumstances. The EPA and the USACE subsequently developed an instructional guidebook on how to apply these rulings for all future jurisdictional determinations (USACE and EPA 2007), as well as a memorandum providing guidance to implement the United States Supreme Court's decision in Rapanos (Grumbles and Woodley 2007).

On January 18, 2023, the USACE published in the *Federal Register* the final Revised Definition of Waters of the United States (88 *Federal Register* 61964 2023). On March 25, 2023, the United States

Supreme Court modified the January 2023 definition of WOTUS in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* (598 U.S. 651-728 2023), hereafter referred to as "Sackett." Specifically, the Supreme Court considered the "significant nexus" standard established under Rapanos to be inconsistent with the CWA while upholding the plurality standard that the USACE jurisdiction is limited to WOTUS that are "relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water" that can be described in ordinary parlance as "streams, oceans, rivers, and lakes." The Supreme Court further affirmed that wetlands can be considered WOTUS when a continuous surface connection to bodies that are WOTUS is present and that no clear boundary exists between WOTUS and wetlands. Sackett further revised the CWA by removing wetlands from consideration as WOTUS simply because they cross or form a portion of state boundaries.

On September 8, 2023, the USACE published a final rule conforming the January 2023 rule with the Sackett decision, removing the "significant nexus" standard. The amended rule is operative in California.

Features currently included in the definition of WOTUS per 33 CFR 328.3(b) include:

(1) Waters which are:

  (i) Currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;

  (ii) The territorial seas; or

  (iii) Interstate waters;

(2) Impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition, other than impoundments of waters identified under paragraph (a)(5) of this section;

(3) Tributaries of waters identified in paragraph (a)(1) or (2) of this section that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water;

(4) Wetlands adjacent to the following waters:

  (i) Waters identified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, or

  (ii) Relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water identified in paragraph (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this section and with a continuous surface connection to those waters

(5) Intrastate lakes and ponds not identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (4) of this section that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water with a continuous surface connection to the waters identified in paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(3) of this section.

Features currently excluded from identification as WOTUS include:

**Interstate Wetlands**

- Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons, designed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act

- Prior converted cropland designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The exclusion would cease upon a change of use, which means that the area is no longer available for the production of agricultural commodities. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other Federal agency, for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, the final authority regarding Clean Water Act jurisdiction remains with EPA
- Ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly in and draining only dry land and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water
- Artificially irrigated areas that would revert to dry land if the irrigation ceased
- Artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating or diking dry land to collect and retain water and which are used exclusively for such purposes as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing
- Artificial reflecting or swimming pools or other small ornamental bodies of water created by excavating or diking dry land to retain water for primarily aesthetic reasons
- Waterfilled depressions created in dry land incidental to construction activity and pits excavated in dry land for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel unless and until the construction or excavation operation is abandoned and the resulting body of water meets the definition of waters of the United States
- Swales and erosional features (e.g., gullies, small washes) characterized by low volume, infrequent, or short duration flow

On July 24, 2020, the USACE and the EPA issued a joint memorandum superseding Regulatory Guidance Letter 07-02 and clarifying that the construction and maintenance of irrigation ditches and for the maintenance of drainage ditches is excluded from regulation under CWA Section 404.

Given the substantial changes in operable definitions that have occurred and are likely to continue considering recent regulatory revisions and court actions, it is not possible to predict the regulations that will be in place at the time of a particular jurisdictional determination by the USACE. This jurisdictional delineation focuses on identifying the boundaries of potentially jurisdictional waterbodies using methods for determining the locations of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and wetland boundaries as described below. These methods for determining the boundaries of waterbodies in general have not substantially changed over the years and are not likely to change with any revised regulations. This delineation can then be used in combination with a companion jurisdictional analysis to determine which of the identified waterbodies are actually jurisdictional, based on the definition that is in effect at the time of a jurisdictional determination by the USACE.

The USACE typically considers any body of water displaying an OHWM for designation as WOTUS, subject to the applicable definition of WOTUS. USACE jurisdiction over non-tidal WOTUS extends laterally to the OHWM or beyond the OHWM to the limit of any contiguous wetlands, if present.

The OHWM is defined as “that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding area”

(33 CFR 328.3). Jurisdiction typically extends upstream to the point where the OHWM is no longer perceptible.

Waters found to be isolated and not subject to CWA regulation may still be regulated by the RWQCB under the State's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

### Wetland Waters of the United States

Wetland delineations for Section 404 purposes must be conducted according to the geographic specific regional supplement, the USACE's *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (Version 2.0) (Regional Supplement) (USACE 2008), and the USACE 1987 *Wetlands Delineation Manual* (1987 Manual) (USACE 1987). Where there are differences between the two documents, the Regional Supplement takes precedence over the 1987 Manual.

The USACE and the EPA define wetlands as:

> Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil conditions.

To be considered a jurisdictional wetland under Section 404, an area must possess three wetland characteristics: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. Each characteristic has a specific set of mandatory wetland criteria that must be satisfied for that particular wetland characteristic to be met. Several indicators may be analyzed to determine whether the criteria are satisfied.

Hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soil indicators provide evidence that episodes of inundation have lasted more than a few days or have occurred repeatedly over a period of years, but do not confirm that an episode has occurred recently. Conversely, wetland hydrology indicators provide evidence that an episode of inundation or soil saturation occurred recently, but do not provide evidence that episodes lasted more than a few days or occurred repeatedly over a period of years. Because of this, if an area lacks one of the three characteristics under normal circumstances, the area is considered nonwetland under most circumstances.

Determination of wetland limits may be obfuscated by a variety of natural environmental factors or human activities, collectively called difficult wetland situations, including cyclic periods of drought and flooding or in areas recently altered by anthropogenic activities. During periods of drought, for example, bank return flows are reduced and water tables are lowered. This results in a corresponding lowering of ordinary high water and invasion of upland plant species into wetland areas. Per the Sackett ruling, wetlands must have a continuous surface connection to another WOTUS to be considered an adjacent wetland.

Conversely, extreme flooding may create physical evidence of high water well above what might be considered ordinary and may allow the temporary invasion of hydrophytic species into nonwetland areas. In highly ephemeral systems typical of Southern California, these problems are encountered frequently. In these situations, professional judgment based on years of practical experience and

extensive knowledge of local ecological conditions comes into play in delineating wetlands. The Regional Supplement provides additional guidance for difficult wetland situations.

### Hydrophytic Vegetation

Hydrophytic vegetation is plant life that grows and is typically adapted for life in permanently or periodically saturated soils. The hydrophytic vegetation criterion is met if more than 50 percent of the dominant plant species from all strata (i.e., tree, shrub, herb, and woody vine layers) are considered hydrophytic. Hydrophytic species are those included on the National Wetland Plant List published by the USACE (2022). Each species on the list is rated according to a wetland indicator category, as shown below in Table A.

### Table A: Hydrophytic Vegetation Ratings

| Category | Rating | Probability |
|---|---|---|
| Obligate Wetland | OBL | Almost always occur in wetlands (estimated probability greater than 99%) |
| Facultative Wetland | FACW | Usually occur in wetlands (estimated probability 67–99%) |
| Facultative | FAC | Equally likely to occur in wetlands and non-wetlands (estimated probability 34–66%) |
| Facultative Upland | FACU | Usually occur in non-wetlands (estimated probability 67–99%) |
| Obligate Upland | UPL | Almost always occur in non-wetlands (estimated probability >99%) |

Source: *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (Version 2.0) (USACE 2008).
USACE = United States Army Corps of Engineers

To be considered hydrophytic, the species must have wetland indicator status (i.e., be rated as Obligate Wetland [OBL], Facultative Wetland [FACW], or Facultative [FAC]).

The delineation of hydrophytic vegetation is typically based on the most dominant species from each vegetative stratum (strata are considered separately); when more than 50 percent of these dominant species are hydrophytic (i.e., FAC, FACW, or OBL), the vegetation is considered hydrophytic. In particular, the USACE recommends the use of the “50/20” rule (also known as the dominance test) from the Regional Supplement for determining dominant species. Under this method, dominant species are the most abundant species that immediately exceed 50 percent of the total dominance measure for the stratum, plus any additional species comprising 20 percent or more of the total dominance measure for the stratum. In cases where indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology are present but the vegetation initially fails the dominance test, the prevalence index must be used. The prevalence index is a weighted average of all plant species within a sampling point. The prevalence index is particularly useful when communities only have one or two dominants, where species are present at roughly equal coverage, or when strata differ greatly in total plant cover. In addition, USACE guidance provides that morphological adaptations may be considered when determining hydrophytic vegetation when indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology are present (USACE 2008). If the plant community passes either the dominance test or prevalence index after reconsidering the indicator status of any plant species that exhibits morphological adaptations for life in wetlands, then the vegetation is considered hydrophytic.

## Hydric Soils

Hydric soils[1] are defined as soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. Soils are considered likely to meet the definition of a hydric soil when they meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. All Histels except Folistels and Histosols except Folists;

2. Soils that are frequently ponded for a long duration or very long duration[2] during the growing season; or

3. Soils that are frequently flooded for a long duration or very long duration during the growing season.

Hydric soils develop under conditions of saturation and inundation combined with microbial activity in the soil that causes a depletion of oxygen. Although saturation may occur at any time of year, microbial activity is limited to the growing season, when soil temperature is above biologic zero (i.e., the soil temperature at a depth of 50 centimeters [19.7 inches], below which the growth and function of locally adapted plants are negligible). Biogeochemical processes that occur under anaerobic conditions during the growing season result in the distinctive morphologic characteristics of hydric soils. Based on these criteria and on information gathered from the National Soil Information System database, the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) created a Soil Data Access Hydric Soils List that is updated annually.

The Regional Supplement has a number of field indicators that may be used to identify hydric soils. The NRCS (USDA 2024) has also developed a number of field indicators that may demonstrate the presence of hydric soils. These indicators include hydrogen sulfide generation, accumulation of organic matter, and the reduction, translocation, and/or accumulation of iron and other reducible elements. These processes result in soil characteristics that persist during both wet and dry periods. Separate indicators have been developed for sandy soils and for loamy and clayey soils.

## Wetland Hydrology

Under natural conditions, development of hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils is dependent on a third characteristic: wetland hydrology. Areas with wetland hydrology are those where the presence of water has an overriding influence on vegetation and soil characteristics due to anaerobic and reducing conditions, respectively (USACE 1987). The wetland hydrology criterion is satisfied if the

---

1 The hydric soils definition and criteria included in the *1987 Wetland Delineation Manual* are obsolete. Users of the *1987 Wetland Delineation Manual* are directed to the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service website for the most current information on hydric soils.

2 "Long duration" is defined as a single event ranging from 7 to 30 days. "Very long duration" is defined as a single event that lasts longer than 30 days.

area is seasonally inundated or saturated to the surface for a minimum of 14 consecutive days during the growing season in most years (USACE 2008).

Hydrology is often the most difficult criterion to measure in the field due to seasonal and annual variations in water availability. Some of the indicators commonly used to identify wetland hydrology include visual observation of inundation or saturation, watermarks, recent sediment deposits, surface scour, and oxidized root channels (rhizospheres) resulting from prolonged anaerobic conditions.

### Deepwater Aquatic Habitat

Deepwater aquatic habitats are areas that are permanently inundated at mean annual water depths greater than 6.6 feet or permanently inundated areas less than 6.6 feet in depth that do not support rooted-emergent or woody plant species.[3] Deepwater aquatic waters do not qualify as wetland waters due to the lack of hydrophytic terrestrial vegetation. Deepwater aquatic waters are recognized as having a high habitat value due to their use as a fish and wildlife resource and limited distribution in the Arid West region.

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

The CDFW, through provisions of the California Fish and Game Code (Section 1600 et seq.), is empowered to issue agreements for any alteration of a river, stream, or lake where fish or wildlife resources may be adversely affected. Streams (and rivers) are defined by the presence of a channel bed and banks and at least an intermittent flow of water. CDFW regulates wetland areas only to the extent that those wetlands are part of a river, stream, or lake as defined by CDFW.

CDFW has various definitions and descriptions of the terms “channel bed” and “banks.” The following definitions are taken from Appendix C: Legal Opinions of CDFW’s *A Field Guide to Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements Sections 1600–1607, California Fish and Game Cod*e (CDFW 1994) to characterize the bed and bank:

> The extent of a stream bed and banks can be measured by several means: (1) flood plain, depending on the return frequency considered and if the riparian vegetation is present in the flood plain; (2) the outer edge of riparian vegetation used as a line of demarcation; (3) the bank, channel, or levee that confines flows; and (4) the extent of riparian vegetation outside of a levee.

The following concepts are also described in *A Field Guide to Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements,* prepared by the CDFW Environmental Services Division in January 1994:

> Streams can include intermittent ephemeral streams, dry washes, canals, aqueducts, irrigation ditches if they support aquatic life, riparian vegetation, or seasonally stream-dependent terrestrial wildlife, such as amphibians.

[3] Areas less than 6.6 feet mean annual depth that support only submergent aquatic plants are vegetated shallows, not wetlands.

> Natural attributes or biological components of a stream include aquatic and riparian vegetation, and all aquatic animals, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, and terrestrial species, which derive benefits from the stream system.

CDFW regulates wetland areas only to the extent that those wetlands are a part of a river, stream, or lake as defined by CDFW. CDFW jurisdiction typically extends beyond the streambed/banks to the limits of the riparian vegetation (if present) associated with streams, rivers, or lakes.

In obtaining CDFW agreements, the limits of wetlands are not typically determined. The reason for this is that CDFW generally includes, within the jurisdictional limits of streams and lakes, any riparian habitat present. Riparian habitat includes willows (*Salix* spp.), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and other vegetation typically associated with the banks of a stream or lake shorelines and may not be consistent with USACE definitions. In most situations, wetlands associated with a stream or lake would fall within the limits of riparian habitat. Thus, defining the limits of CDFW jurisdiction based on riparian habitat will automatically include any wetland areas and may include additional areas that do not meet USACE criteria for soils and/or hydrology (e.g., where riparian woodland canopy extends beyond the banks of a stream, away from frequently saturated soils).

## REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of the California Water Code (Section 13000 et seq.) established nine RWQCBs to oversee water quality on a day-to-day basis at the local and/or regional level. Their duties include preparing and updating water quality control plans and associated requirements and issuing water quality certifications under Section 401 of the CWA. The CWA grants ultimate authority to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) over State water rights and water quality policy. Under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the RWQCBs (or the SWRCB for projects that cross multiple RWQCB jurisdictions) are responsible for issuing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for point-source discharges and waste discharge requirements for non-point source discharges into jurisdictional waters of the State (WOTS).

The definition of waters under the jurisdiction of the State is broad and includes any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the State. Waters that meet the definition of WOTUS are also considered WOTS, but the jurisdictional limits of WOTS may extend beyond the limits of WOTUS. Isolated waters that may not be subject to regulations under federal law are considered to be WOTS and regulated accordingly.

Although there is no formal statewide guidance for the delineation of nonwetland WOTS, jurisdiction generally corresponds to the surface area of aquatic features that are at least seasonally inundated as well as all areas within the banks of defined rivers, streams, washes, and channels, including associated riparian vegetation. Currently, each RWQCB reserves the right to establish criteria for the regulation of nonwetland WOTS.

## Wetland Waters of the State

On August 28, 2019, the California Office of Administrative Law approved the SWRCB-proposed *State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State* (Procedures). The Procedures, effective on May 28, 2020, apply to discharges of dredged or fill material to WOTS. The Procedures consist of four major elements: (1) a wetland definition, (2) a framework for determining whether a feature that meets the wetland definition is a water of the State, (3) wetland delineation procedures, and (4) procedures for the submission, review, and approval of applications for Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements for dredge or fill activities.

The SWRCB and the RWQCBs define a wetland as stated below:

> An area is wetland if, under normal circumstances, (1) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater, or shallow surface water, or both; (2) the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and (3) the area's vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation.

The RWQCB will rely on the final aquatic resource report verified by the USACE for determining the extent of wetland WOTUS. However, if it is not delineated in a final aquatic report, the procedures will use the USACE 1987 Manual and the Regional Supplement to determine whether the area meets the State definition of a wetland. As described in the 1987 Manual and the Regional Supplement, an area "lacks vegetation" if it has less than 5 percent areal coverage of plants at the peak of the growing season. The methods shall be modified only to allow for the fact that the lack of vegetation does not prevent the determination of such an area that meets the State definition of wetland.

# METHODOLOGY

Prior to conducting the fieldwork associated with this jurisdictional delineation, the following literature and materials were reviewed:

- Historic and current aerial photographic imagery (NETRonline 2025; Google Earth Pro 2025);
- Historic and current USGS topographic maps (USGS 2025);
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetland mapper (USFWS 2025); and
- NRCS Web Soil Survey (USDA 2025).

LSA Biologists Denise Woodard and Dr. Stanley Spencer conducted the fieldwork for this assessment on December 9, 2025. The JDSA was visually surveyed on foot. All features within the JDSA were evaluated according to the most current federal and/or State regulatory criteria and guidance and were mapped using aerial photographs. This included the State wetland definition and delineation procedures recently enacted by the SWRCB and the current USACE regulations pertaining to jurisdictional WOTUS, which are consistent with the final 2023 rule until further notice. In addition, the general conditions and characteristics associated with each drainage feature were noted and photographed.

Areas of potential jurisdiction observed within the JDSA during the fieldwork were mapped on a recent, high-resolution aerial photograph (on a scale of 1 inch = approximately 200 feet) and/or on Esri Field Maps mobile application showing the JDSA. The widths of the features mapped during the course of the field investigation were determined by direct measurements taken in the field. The potential jurisdictional features within the JDSA exhibited characteristics indicative of wetlands (e.g., areas dominated by hydrophytic vegetation or hydric soils), and wetland delineation procedures described in the Regional Supplement and those recently enacted by the SWRCB were implemented.

# RESULTS

## NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

The NWI classifies the Whitewater River as river within the JDSA (Figure 2).

## USDA SOIL SURVEY

Soils within the JDSA were mapped using the NRCS Web Soil Survey classifications (USDA 2025). One soil within the JDSA is mapped as hydric. See Table B below.

### Table B: Mapped Soils Classifications

| Soil (Map Unit Symbol) | Drainage Class | Frequency of Flooding | Frequency of Ponding | Hydric Soil Rating |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Riverwash | Excessively Drained | Frequent | No classification | Yes |
| Carsitas gravelly sand (0 to 9 percent slopes) | Somewhat excessively drained | None | None | Unranked |
| Carsitas fine sand (0 to 5 percent slopes) | Excessively Drained | None | None | No |
| Myoma fine sand (0 to 5 percent slopes | Somewhat excessively drained | None | None | No |

Source: Web Soil Survey Version 3.4.0 (USDA 2025).
USDA = United States Department of Agriculture

## DELINEATED FEATURES

One jurisdictional feature, Whitewater River, was identified within the JDSA during the December 9, 2025 survey. A brief description of this feature is provided below. Figure 3 shows the location of the feature, and Figure 4 provides site photographs.

The Whitewater River is leveed and developed by a golf course that was built between 1999 and 2002 based on review of aerial imagery. The river is intermittent and flows north to south primarily via a low flow channel. The low flow channel is maintained within the golf course limits after storm events, based on the December 2025 field visit observations and aerial photograph review. The overall length of the river is approximately 410 feet, and the overall width (levee to levee) is approximately 1,160 feet. An OHWM was present in the low flow channel and displayed sediment and drift deposits. A CDFW bed and bank (1,160 feet wide between the levees) was also present. The low flow channel was devoid of vegetation, and adjacent areas within the levees were primarily vegetated by ornamental turf grass, shrubs, and trees. The soil within the Whitewater River consists of Riverwash, which is classified as a hydric soil. Therefore, the low flow channel meets the State definition of a two-parameter (hydric soils and hydrology) wetland.

The regulatory basis for the determination of jurisdictional status of this feature is described below under the applicable regulatory agency.

# CONCLUSIONS

## UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Whitewater River low flow channel is intermittent, carries ordinary flows, and is tributary to the Salton Sea, a USACE traditional navigable water. The low flow channel is devoid of vegetation and as a result lacks hydric vegetation. Based on the lack of hydric vegetation, the low flow channel does not meet the USACE three parameter (hydric vegetation, hydric soils, and hydrology) definition of a wetland. Therefore, the low flow channel (0.49 acre) of the Whitewater River within the JDSA is considered to be a USACE regulated nonwetland water of the U.S. (WOTUS). The jurisdictional delineation results are provided in Table C.

### Table C: Jurisdictional Delineation Results

| Feature | USACE Nonwetland WOTUS (acres) | RWQCB Wetland WOTS (acres) | CDFW Streambed (acres) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Whitewater River | 0.49 | 0.49 | 10.57 |

Source: Compiled by LSA (2026).
CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife
RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board
USACE = United States Army Corps of Engineers
WOTS = Waters of the State
WOTUS = Waters of the U.S.

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

In accordance with Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, CDFW asserts jurisdiction over rivers, streams, and lakes, as well as any riparian vegetation associated with those features.

The Whitewater River contains 10.57 acres of bed and bank (levee to levee) and lacks riparian habitat. Therefore, the Whitewater River is considered streambed subject to CDFW regulatory authority.

## REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

All areas determined to be WOTUS under both current and historic USACE definitions and guidelines are also considered to be WOTS regulated by the RWQCB. Therefore, the low flow channel is considered a water of the State (WOTS) consistent with USACE jurisdiction in the JDSA. In addition, the low flow channel meets the State procedures two-parameter definition of a wetland based on the presence of hydric soils and hydrology. Thus, the 0.49 acre low flow channel is considered a wetland WOTS regulated by the RWQCB.

## DISCLAIMER

The findings and conclusions presented in this report, including the locations and extents of wetlands and other waters subject to regulatory jurisdiction (or lack thereof), represent the professional opinion of LSA. These findings and conclusions should be considered preliminary until verified by the appropriate regulatory agencies.

# REFERENCES

Baldwin, B.G., Douglas Goldman, David J. Keil, Robert Patterson, Thomas J. Rosatti, Dieter Wilken, eds. 2012. *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*. 2nd ed. Berkeley: University of California Press.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 1994. *A Field Guide to Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements Sections 1600–1607, California Fish and Game Cod*e.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2025. A Manual of California Vegetation, Online edition. Website: http://www.cnps.org/cnps/vegetation/ (accessed December 2025). California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA.

California Natural Resources Agency. 2025. Watersheds HUC12. Website: https://www.californianature.ca.gov/datasets/CAnature::watersheds-huc12-cdfw/explore?location=33.814331%2C-116.473602%2C14.93 (accessed December 2025).

Federal Interagency Committee for Wetland Delineation. 1989. *Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands*.

Google Earth Pro. 1985–2025. Aerial Photograph Review, December 1985, June 1996, September 1999, September 2004, November 2005, December and January 2005, June and November 2009, March, June, and September 2011, June and November 2012, March and November 2013, March 2015, February, July, and October 2016, February and August 2018, July, August, and December 2019, July and August 2021, October 2022, February and March 2024, and January, March, July, and November 2025.

Grumbles, B.H., and J.P. Woodley, Jr. 2007. Memorandum: Clean Water Act Jurisdiction. Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Decisions in *Rapanos v. United States* and *Carabell v. United States*. June 5, 2007. United States Environmental Protection Agency and Department of the Army, Washington, D.C.

Nationwide Environmental Title Research Online (NETRonline). 1938–2022. Historic Aerials, 1954, 1959, 1972, 1977, 1979, 1984, 1996, 2002, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022. Website: https://www.historicaerials.com (accessed December 2025).

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2019. *Wetland Riparian Area Protection Policy.* Website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/wrapp.html (accessed December 2025).

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 1986. Definitions. 33 CFR 328.3[b]. Federal Register, Vol. 51, No. 219, pg. 41250, November 13, 1986, unless otherwise noted. Website: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-33/part-328/section-328.3 (accessed December 2025).

_____. 1986. *Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, Final Rule*. Federal Register, Vol. 51, No. 219, pg. 41217, November 13, 1986.

_____. 1987. *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual*. Technical Report Y-87-1, Department of the Army Environmental Laboratory. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Wetlands Research Program, Vicksburg, MS.

_____. 2008. *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region. Version 2.0.* September 2008. ERDC/EL TR-08-28. Department of the Army Environmental Laboratory. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Wetlands Research Program, Vicksburg, MS.

_____. 2022. National Wetland Plant List, Version 3.6. U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi. Website: https://wetland-plants.sec.usace.army.mil/static/reports/NWPL%20Cover%20Page%20AW_v3_Revised.pdf (accessed December 2025).

United States Army Corps of Engineers and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USACE and EPA). 2002. *Joint Memorandum to the Field Between the U.S. Department Of The Army, Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Concerning Exempt Construction or Maintenance of Irrigation Ditches and Exempt Maintenance of Drainage Ditches Under Section 404 of The Clean Water Act*. Regulatory Guidance Letter 07-02. July.

_____. 2007. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jurisdictional determination form instructional guidebook*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency. Washington, D.C.

_____. 2023. Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"; Conforming. Final Rule. Federal Register 88 (173):61964–61969.

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. 2007. *Northern California River Watch v. City of Healdsburg* 457 F.3d 1023 (9th Cir. 2007). Website: https://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2007/08/06/0415442.pdf (accessed December 2025).

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). 2024. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States, Version 9.0. L.M. Vasilas, G.W. Hurt, and J.F. Berkowitz (eds.). USDA, NRCS, in cooperation with the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils.

_____. 2025. Web Soil Survey Version 3.4.0. Website: https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx (accessed December 2025).

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 1980. Federal Register, Vol. 45, No. 249, pg. 85336. December 24, 1980. Website: https://archives.federalregister.gov/issue_slice/1980/12/24/85242-85377.pdf#page=105 (accessed December 2025).

_____. 2023. Waters of the United States. Current Implementation of Waters of the United States. Last Updated on October 10, 2023, and effective September 8, 2023. Website: https://www.epa.gov/wotus/current-implementation-waters-united-states (accessed December 2025).

United States Environmental Protection Agency and United States Army Corps of Engineers (EPA and USACE). 2020. The Navigable Waters Protection Rule: Definition of ''Waters of the United States.'' Final Rule. *Federal Register*, Vol. 85, No. 77, pp. 22250–22342. April 21.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2025. National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). Website: https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/ (accessed December 2025).

United States Geological Survey (USGS). 2025. Topoviewer. Records of the USGS *Cathedral City*, 7.5-minute quadrangle maps from 1958 (1969 ed., 1973 ed., 1982 ed., and 1988 ed.), 1975 (1977 ed.), 2012, 2015, 2018. Website: https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#4/40.01/-100.06 (accessed December 2025).

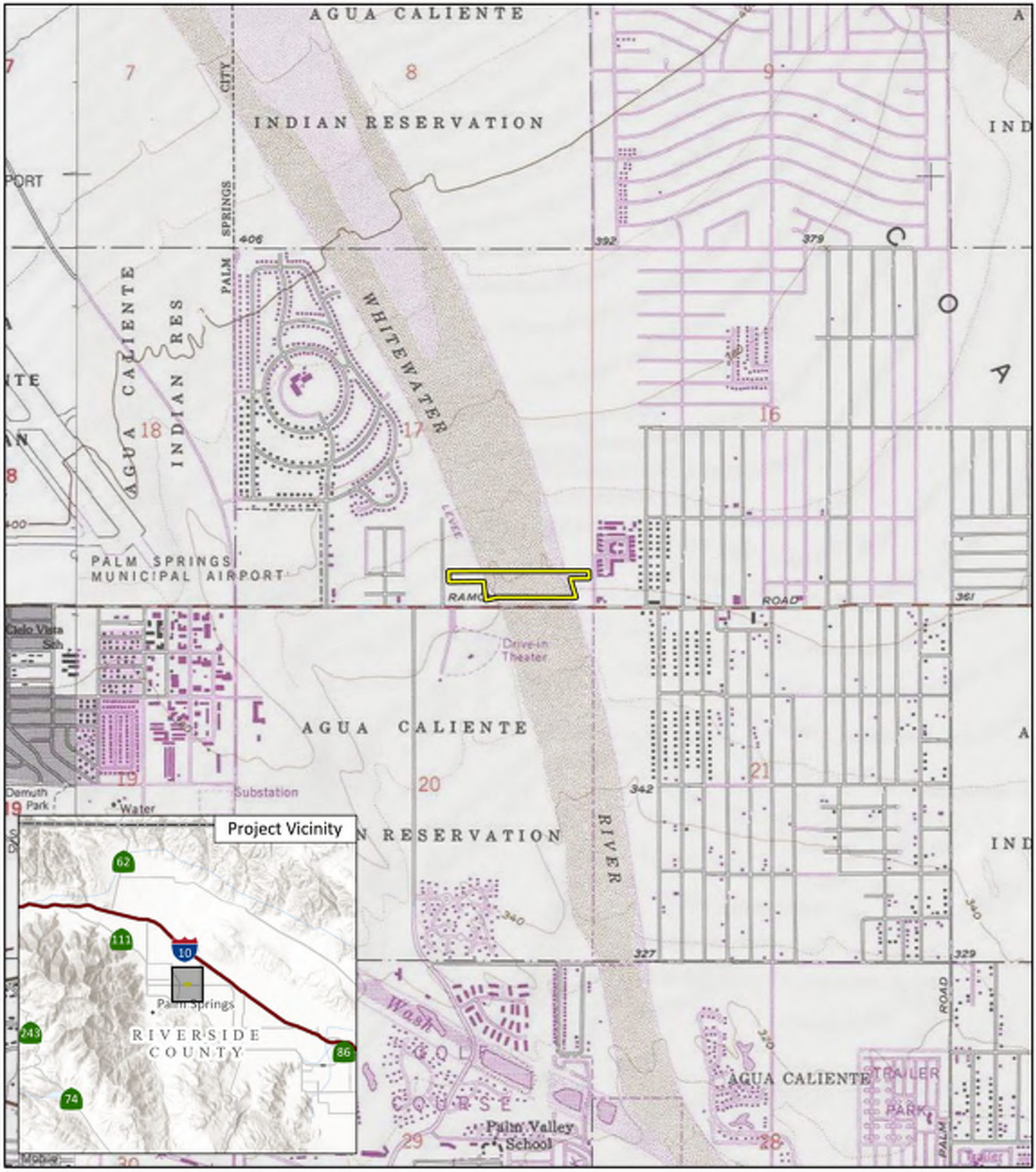
United States Supreme Court. 2023. *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency et al.* 598 U.S. 651-728 (2023). Website: https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/22pdf/598us2r28_5h26.pdf (accessed December 2025).

Weather Spark. n.d. Climate and Average Weather Year Round in Cathedral City California, United States. Website: https://weatherspark.com/y/2102/Average-Weather-in-Cathedral-City-California-United-States-Year-Round (accessed December 2025).

# APPENDIX A

# FIGURES

Figure 1: Project Location
Figure 2: National Wetlands Inventory
Figure 3. Jurisdictional Delineation Results
Figure 4: Site Photographs




LSA

Project Location

FIGURE 1

0 1000 2000
FEET

*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District*
*Interconnection No. 2 Project*

Project Location

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad - *Cathedral City (1981), CA*

I:\2025\2025-2562\GIS\Pro\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project.aprx (BRA Fig 1 - Project Location)
1/19/2026 12:10 PM

LSA

Project Location

National Wetlands Inventory

River

FIGURE 2

0 200 400
FEET

*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District*
*Interconnection No. 2 Project*

National Wetlands Inventory

SOURCE: Nearmap (9/30/2025); US Fish and Wildlife Service (2025)

I:\2025\2025256J\GIS\Pro\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project.aprx (JD Fig 2 - National Wetlands Inventory)
1/19/2026 12:00 PM

LSA

Project Location

Photograph Locations

Jurisdictional Delineation

CDFW Streambed (10.57 acres)

USACE Nonwetland/RWQCB Wetland (0.49 acre)

0 130 260
FEET

FIGURE 3

*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District*
*Interconnection No. 2 Project*

Jurisdictional Delineation Results

SOURCE: Nearmap (9/30/2025); U.S. Census Bureau (USCB)

I:\2025\20252562\GIS\Pro\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project\DWA-CVWD Interconnect Project.aprx (JD Fig 3 - Jurisdictional Delineation Results)
1/19/2026 3:09 PM

**Photo 1:** View of Whitewater River from the east levee top.

**Photo 2:** View of Whitewater River low flow channel.

**Photo 3:** View of Whitewater River low flow channel.

**Photo 4:** View of Whitewater River from the west levee top.

LSA

FIGURE 4

*Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley*
*Water District Interconnection No.2 Project*
Site Photographs

# APPENDIX C

# CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

**CRM TECH**
1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324

# MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 10, 2026 (updated January 30, 2026)
**From:** Bai "Tom" Tang, Principal, CRM TECH
**To:** Victoria E. Morrell, Krieger & Stewart, Inc.
**Subject:** Cultural Resources Study for DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 Project, City of Cathedral City, Riverside County, California (CRM TECH Project No. 4325)

Dear Ms. Morrell:

At your request, CRM TECH has completed a cultural resources study on the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the Desert Water Agency (DWA) and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) Interconnection No. 2 Project in the City of Cathedral City, Riverside County, California. The project entails the construction of a domestic water interconnection between existing DWA and CVWD facilities on the east and west sides of the Cimarron Golf Resort. The APE is located on the north side of Ramon Road, extending across the Whitewash River channel, which contains the Cimarron Golf Resort, from the west side of Landau Boulevard to the eastern end of Sarah Street. It comprises a portion of the southeast quarter of Section 17, Township 4 South, Range 5 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian (Figs. 1, 2).

For this project, the APE is delineated to encompass the maximum extent of ground disturbance required, both horizontally and vertically, for the construction of a 1,450-foot pipeline between two well sites in the DWA and CVWD potable water systems. Horizontally, it consists of the southern end of the Cimarron golf course, the two existing well sites adjacent to the golf course on either side, and a laydown area in a DWA easement between Sarah Street and the golf course, totaling approximately 14 acres. The pipeline will be installed via horizontal directional drilling and connected to existing 12-inch waterlines at both well sites, where associated valves, piping, and appurtenances will also be installed. The maximum vertical extent of the APE, represented by the depth of directional drilling, will be approximately 50 feet.

The study is a part of the environmental review process for the proposed project. As the project involves federal funding through the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), it qualifies as a federal "undertaking" that requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. The purpose of the study is to provide the SWRCB, as well as the DWA and the CVWD, with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the project would have an adverse effect on any "historic properties," as defined by 36 CFR §800.16(l), that may exist in or near the APE.

To accomplish this objective, CRM TECH reviewed previous cultural resources studies that covered most of the APE, conducted a cultural resources records search, initiated a Sacred Lands File search, contacted local Native American groups, pursued historical and geoarchaeological background research, and carried out an intensive-level field survey. This memorandum, in conjunction with documentation from a recent study completed in 2012-2014 (see Attachment A), represents a summary of the methods, results, and final conclusion of these research procedures.

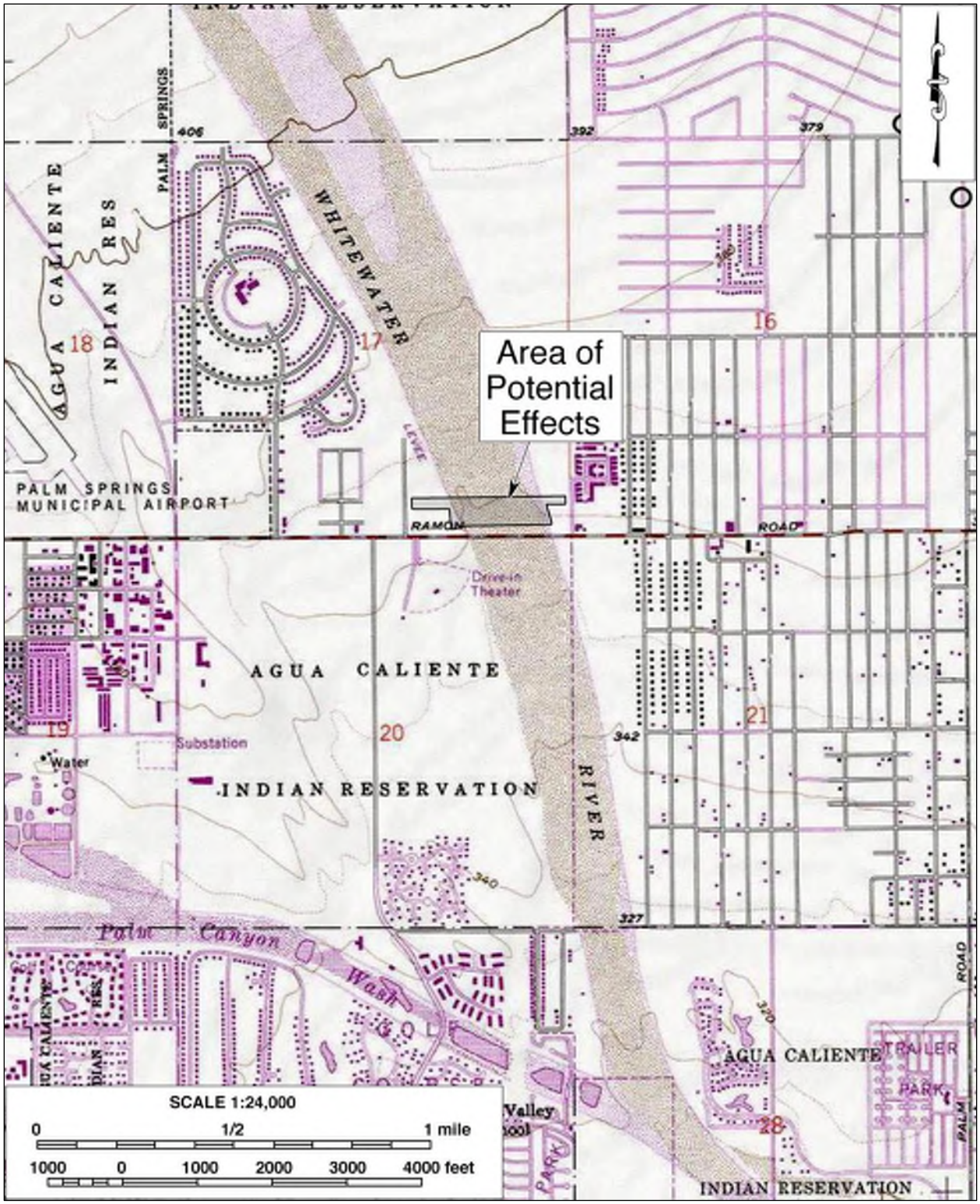



Figure 1. Location and configuration of the APE. (Based on USGS Cathedral City, Calif., 1:24,000 quadrangle [USGS 1981])

Figure 2. Recent satellite image of the APE.

**Previous Cultural Resources Studies in the APE**

As you know, nearly the entire APE, with the exception of the CVWD well site at the eastern end, was included in a 145-acre survey that CRM TECH conducted in 2012-2014 for Section 106 compliance under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Transportation (Tang 2014; see Attachment A). The scope of that study was similar to what is required for the current study, including a records search, a Sacred Lands File search, Native American outreach, historical and geoarchaeological research, and an intensive-level, pedestrian field survey. No cultural resources were encountered during that study (*ibid*.:7; Hogan 2014:14).

Almost concurrently with the 2012-2014 study by CRM TECH, the APE was also included in series of a large-scale studies by Applied EarthWorks, Inc., that covered the Whitewater River/Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel from northern Palm Springs to the Salton Sea as well as some of its tributaries (Mirro 2012; George and Mirro 2013). These studies were conducted under the provisions of both NHPA Section 106 and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In addition to a records search, a Sacred Lands File search, and a literature review, a total of 3,829 acres along the channel were treated with an intensive-level field survey in 2012, and again no cultural resources were identified in the vicinity of the current project (George and Mirro 2013).

While these past studies covered most of the current APE except the CVWD well site with research procedures adequate for the Section 106 process, they are now more than ten years old and are therefore considered out-of-date for statutory compliance purposes. The present study is designed and implemented to confirm and update their results and findings, especially the 2012-2014 study by CRM TECH, which was focused on the immediate vicinity of the APE (see Attachment A).

**Cultural Resources Records Search**

On October 29, 2025, CRM TECH archaeologist Eulices Lopez, B.A., conducted the records search at the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC), San Diego State University. The objective was to update the results of the records search results presented in the 2012-2014 study and compile a complete inventory of previously identified cultural resources and existing cultural resources reports within a one-mile radius of the APE as of today. In addition to the studies mentioned above, the records search identified a total of 35 other previous studies within the one-mile radius, a moderate increase from the total number of 27 as of 2012 (Hogan 2014:3). Among them are two Phase I cultural resources surveys that overlapped small portions of the APE, which were completed in 2005 and 2016 (Tang et al. 2005; Kerridge et al. 2016).

Despite the relative concentration of previous studies in and around the APE, no cultural resources were previously identified in the immediate vicinity of this project. The only cultural resources that have been documented within the one-mile scope of the records search were two localities of historic-period buildings, representing an elementary school constructed in 1962 (Site 33-024160) and a mixed-use commercial and residential building from the 1929-1939 era (Site 33-029138), which were recorded in 2015 and 2022, respectively. Both of these properties were located approximately ¾ mile from the APE. As the proposed project has no potential for any direct or indirect effects on these two properties, they require no further consideration during this study.

**Native American Outreach**

On September 10, 2025, CRM TECH submitted a written request to the State of California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a records search in the commission's Sacred Lands File. In the meantime, CRM TECH also contacted the nearby Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for supplementary information on potential Native American cultural resources in the project vicinity and to arrange for tribal participation in the upcoming archaeological fieldwork.

In response to CRM TECH's inquiry, the NAHC reported in a letter dated September 16, 2025, that the Sacred Lands File identified no Native American cultural resources in the project vicinity (see Attachment B). In the meantime, the NAHC recommended that local Native American groups be consulted for further information and provided a referral list of 27 individuals from 11 tribal organizations in the region who may have knowledge of such resources (see Attachment B).

Upon receiving the NAHC's reply, CRM TECH sent written requests for comments to all 11 of the Native American groups on the referral list. For some of the tribes, the designated spokespersons on cultural resources issues were contacted in lieu of the individuals on the list, as recommended in the past by the tribal government staff. The 11 tribal representatives contacted during this study are listed below:

- Lacy Padilla, Director of Historic Preservation/THPO, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Tribal Operations, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Michael Mirelez, Director of Cultural Affairs, Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- BobbyRay Esparza, Cultural Director, Cahuilla Band of Indians;
- Ray Chapparosa, Chairperson, Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians;
- Bernadette Ann Brierty, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Morongo Band of Mission Indians;
- Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer, Quechan Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation;
- John Gomez, Jr. Environmental Coordinator, Ramona Band of Cahuilla;
- Mercedes Estrada, Cultural Director, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Jessica Valdez, Cultural Resource Specialist, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians;
- Abraham Becerra, Cultural Coordinator, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.

As of this time, three of the 11 tribes have responded to the inquiries in writing, and three other tribes have responded by telephone (see Attachment B). Among them, the Augustine Band stated that they were not aware of any cultural resources within the APE and declined further consultation over this project. The Quechan Indian Tribe deferred to local tribes in closer proximity to the project location, while the Cabazon Band, the Santa Rosa Band, and the Soboba Band deferred specifically to the Agua Caliente Band.

The Agua Caliente Band participated in the field survey of the APE and later indicated in a letter that records maintained by the tribe confirmed the APE had been surveyed previously with negative findings for cultural resources. In the letter, the tribe requested further consultation with the lead agency, review of all cultural resources documentation generated for the project, and the presence of an approved Agua Caliente Native American Resource Monitor(s) during any ground-disturbing

activities. None of the tribes who responded identified any specific localities of Native American cultural value in or near the APE.

**Historical Background Review**

The historical background review for this study was conducted by CRM TECH archaeologist Elizabeth Beckner, Ph.D. Sources consulted during the review included primarily historical maps and aerial/satellite photographs of the project vicinity. Among the maps were U.S. General Land Office (GLO) land survey plat maps dated 1856-1886 and United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps dated 1901-1981, which are available at the websites of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the USGS. The aerial and satellite photographs, taken between 1954 and 2025, are available at the Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) Online website and through the Google Earth software.

According to these sources, the project vicinity remained sparsely populated until the 1950s, before exponential growth began in the late 20th century (Figs. 3-7; NETR Online 1954-2022; Google Earth 1996-2025). The earliest maps available, from the 1850s and the 1880s, show that the only human-made feature in and around the APE was a road that ran in the Whitewater riverbed (Figs. 3, 4). The area remained largely unsettled and undeveloped around the turn of the century (Fig. 5). By the early 1940s, in contrast, there was a building of unknown nature on the southern edge of the APE, with two others just outside the southern project boundary, all of them on the eastern bank of the Whitewater River wash (Fig. 6). By the mid-1950s, however, none of those buildings remained (Fig. 7; NETR 1954-1959).

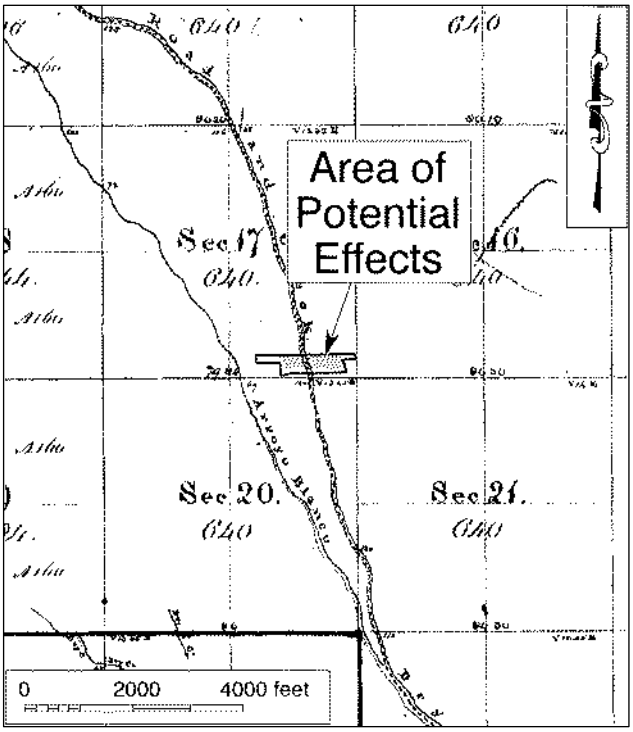



Figure 3. The APE and vicinity in 1855-1856. (Source: GLO 1856)

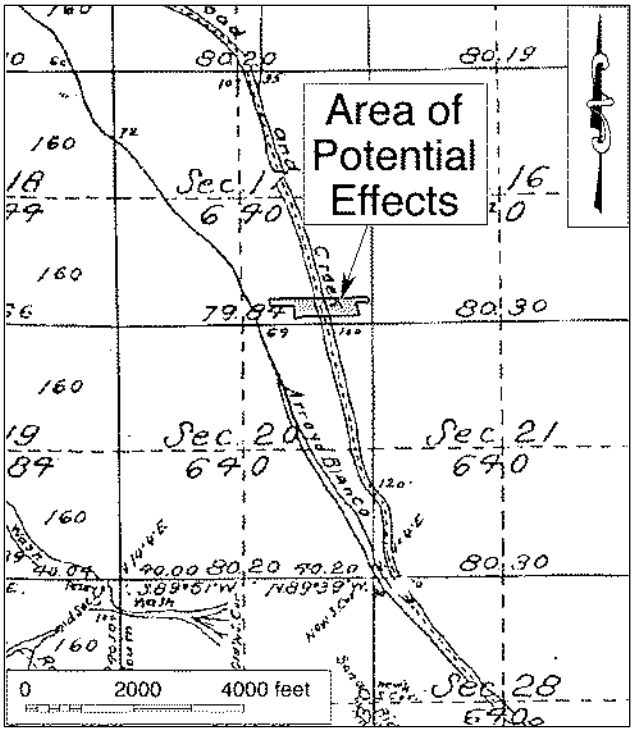



Figure 4. The APE and vicinity in 1885. (Source: GLO 1886)

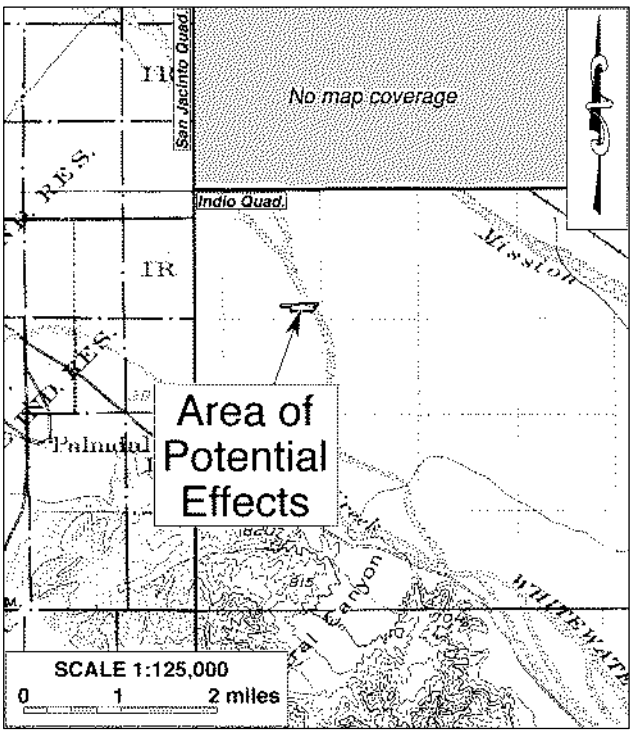



Figure 5. The APE and vicinity in 1897-1901. (Source: USGS 1901; 1904)

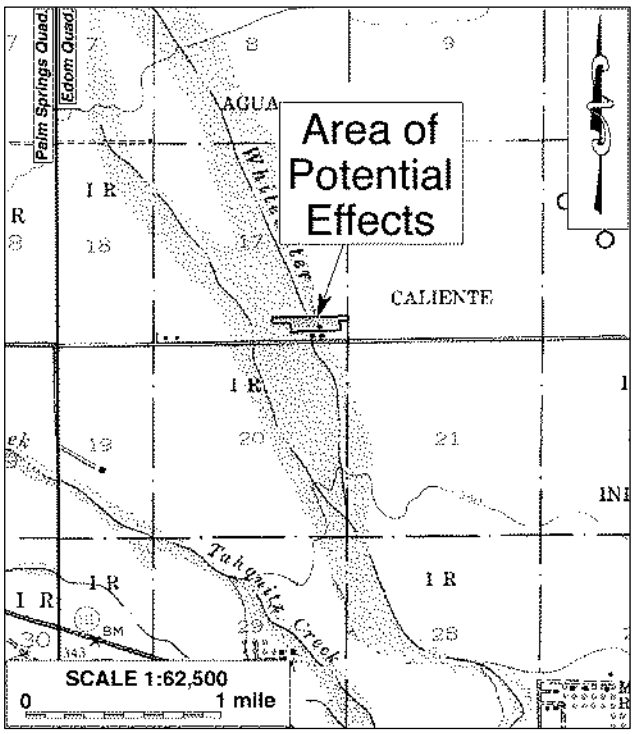



Figure 6. The APE and vicinity in 1940-1941. (Source: USGS 1940; 1941)

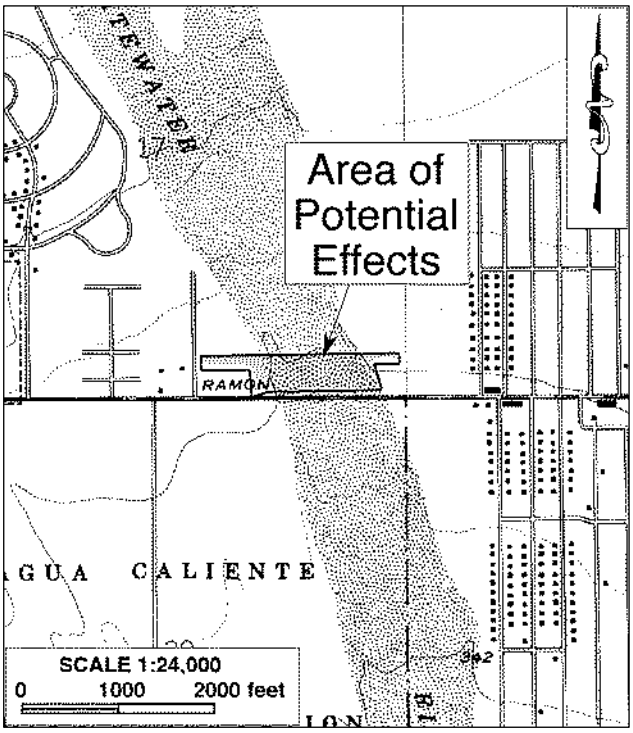



Figure 7. The APE and vicinity in 1956. (Source: USGS 1958)

Suburban residential development began in the surrounding area during the early post-World War II period and expanded steadily over the next few decades (Fig. 8; NETR 1954-1984). In the 1990s, suburban growth accelerated in the vicinity, and the Cimarron golf course, which contains most of the APE, was in place by 2002 (NETR 1996-2002; Google Earth 1996-2002). Outside the golf course, the DWA well site on the western end of the APE evidently came into being in the early 1980s, while the CVWD well site on the eastern end was established around 2005, about the same time as the adjacent residential neighborhood (NETR 1979-2005; Google Earth 2002-2006). Since then, no major changes have occurred in land use within or adjacent to the APE boundaries (NETR 2005-2022; Google Earth 2006-2025).

## Geoarchaeological Analysis

As a part of the research procedures, Elizabeth Beckner pursued a geoarchaeological analysis to assess the APE's potential for the deposition and preservation of subsurface cultural deposits from the prehistoric period, which cannot be detected through a standard surface archaeological survey. Sources consulted for this purpose included primarily topographic and geologic maps and reports pertaining to the project vicinity. Findings from these sources were used to develop a geomorphologic history of the APE and address geoarchaeological sensitivity of the vertical APE.

The surface geology in the APE has been mapped by several past studies. Rogers (1965) maps it as *Qsc*, which represents recent stream channel deposits. Dibblee (2008) maps the surface geology in the APE as predominantly *Qg*, or alluvial sand and gravel of major creeks and stream washes, with a small area in the easternmost portion mapped as *Qs*, which represents loose fine sand deposited by prevailing winds as dunes or thin cover (Fig. 9). More recently, Lancaster et al. (2012) map it as *Qw*, or alluvial wash deposits. These studies date the surface sediments in the APE to Recent Quaternary (Rogers 1965), Holocene (Dibblee 2008), or Late Holocene (Lancaster et al. 2012). Essentially, all of these geologic maps reflect the fact that almost the entire APE lies upon alluvial sediments of the Whitewater River.

Considering their relatively young age and alluvial origin, the subsurface sediments in the APE exhibit some potential to contain buried prehistoric cultural remains. However, the alluvial origin of the sediments also suggests that any archaeological deposits it contains would have been impacted by the flow of the Whitewater River, and the depositional context of artifacts found in the sediments would therefore be difficult to ascertain. Being a seasonal stream known for destructive flooding during heavy rainfall, the Whitewater River channel is not an environment conducive for the preservation of archaeological remains, nor would it have provided a favorable setting for long-term habitation by the native population in prehistoric times. Combining these factors with the extensive ground disturbances that have occurred in the APE in recent decades, the APE appears to be relatively low in sensitivity for intact, potentially significant archaeological remains of prehistoric origin.

## Field Survey

On October 30, 2025, CRM TECH archaeologist Salvadore Z. Boites, M.A., carried out the intensive-level field survey of the APE with the assistance of tribal archaeologist Chris Nicosia from the Agua Caliente Tribal Historic Preservation Office. The survey was completed by walking a series of parallel east-west transects at approximately 15-meter (approximately 50-foot) intervals. More than 90 percent of the APE was fully accessible to the transect system. The only portion that was not accessible was the CVWD well site at the eastern end, which was inspected visually from the perimeters. Since that parcel is less than 30 meters (100 feet) in width, and in light of the level of past ground disturbances on the property, the field access was not considered a major hindrance to the survey effort.

The APE is a part of the California Creosote Bush Scrub Plant Community, with creosote and imported Russian thistle present across the APE. Landscaped areas of the golf course feature eucalyptus and mesquite trees, crimson fountaingrass, and Bermuda grass. Elevations in the APE

Figure 8. Surface sediments in and around the APE. (Source: Dibblee 2008)

Figure 9. Typical landscape in the APE, view to the west. (Photograph taken on October 30, 2025)

range approximately from 355 feet to 367 feet above mean sea level. Ground visibility was excellent (90-100%) in the areas not covered by grass (Fig. 10). Within the golf course, ground visibility was poor (0-25%; Fig. 10) but adequate for the purpose of this study, considering the past disturbances to the ground surface. The survey yielded a negative result for cultural resources, as no evidence of any human activities dating to the prehistoric or historic period (i.e., more than 50 years of age) was encountered.

**Discussion**

The purpose of this study is to identify any "historic properties" that may exist within the APE and assess the proposed project's potential effects on such properties, if any. "Historic properties," as defined by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, include "any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior" (36 CFR §800.16(l)(1)). The eligibility for inclusion in the National Register is determined by applying the following criteria, developed by the National Park Service as per provision of the National Historic Preservation Act:

> The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and
> (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
> (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

(c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
(d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. (36 CFR 60.4)

In summary of the research results presented above, no potential "historic properties" were previously identified within or adjacent to the APE, and none was encountered during this study. In addition, Native American input during this study did not identify any sites of traditional cultural value in the vicinity. Based on these findings, and in light of the criteria listed above, the present study concludes that no "historic properties" exist within or adjacent to the APE.

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

In conclusion, no "historic properties" have been identified that may be affected by the proposed undertaking, and the subsurface sediments in the APE appear to be relatively low in archaeological sensitivity. Based on these findings, CRM TECH presents to the SWRCB, the DWA, and the CVWD the following recommendations:

- No known "historic properties" will be affected by the undertaking as currently proposed.
- No further cultural resources investigation is necessary for this undertaking unless project plans undergo such changes as to include areas not covered by this study.
- If buried cultural materials are discovered during any earth-moving operations associated with the undertaking, all work in the immediate area should be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service. If you have any questions or need further information regarding the findings of this study, please do not hesitate to contact me at (909) 824-6400 or ttang@crmtech.us.

Sincerely,

Bai "Tom" Tang, M.A

**References Cited**

Dibblee, Thomas W., Jr.
2008 Geologic Map of the Thousand Palms and Lost Horse Mountain, 15' Quadrangles, Riverside County, California. Dibblee Geology Center Map #DF-372. Santa Barbara, California.

George, Joan, and Vanessa Mirro
2013 Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for the Coachella Valley Water District's Whitewater River-Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Project, Riverside County, California. On file, South Coastal Information Center, San Diego State University, San Diego.

GLO (General Land Office, U.S. Department of the Interior)
1856 Plat map: Township No. 4 South Range No. 5 East, SBBM; surveyed in 1855-1856.
1886 Plat map: Township No. 4 South Range No. 5 East, SBBM; surveyed in 1885.

Google Earth
1996-2025 Aerial/satellite photographs of the project vicinity; taken in 1996, 1999, 2002, 2004-2006, 2009, 2011-2019, and 2021-2025. Available through Google Earth software.

Hogan, Michael
2014 Archaeological Survey Report [Attachment C to Historic Property Survey Report]: Ramon Road Widening Project, San Luis Rey Drive to Landau Boulevard, Including the Whitewater Bridge (No. 56C0287), Cities of Palm Springs and Cathedral City, Riverside County, California. On file, South Coastal Information Center, San Diego State University, San Diego. (See Attachment A)

Kerridge, Ben, Daniel Ballester, Nina Gallardo, and Kaitlyn Sherman
2016 Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Whitewater River Bike Path Project, Cities of Cathedral City and Palm Springs, Riverside County, California. On file, South Coastal Information Center, San Diego State University, San Diego.

Lancaster, Jeremy T., C.A. Hayhurst, and T.L. Bedrossian
2012 Preliminary Geologic Map of Quaternary Surficial Deposits in Southern California, Palm Springs 30'x60' Quadrangle (1:100,000). In Trinda L. Bedrossian, Peter Roffers, Cheryl A. Hayhurst, Jeremy T. Lancaster, and William R. Short (eds.): *Geologic Compilation of Quaternary Surficial Deposits in Southern California*; Plate 24. California Geological Survey, Sacramento.

Mirro, Michael
2012 Archaeological Sensitivity Model for the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel, Riverside County, California. On file, South Coastal Information Center, San Diego State University, San Diego.

NETR (Nationwide Environmental Title Research) Online
1954-2022 Aerial/satellite photographs of the project vicinity; taken in 1954, 1955, 1959, 1972, 1977, 1979, 1984, 1996, 2002, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022. http://www. historicaerials.com.

Tang, Bai "Tom"
2014 Historic Property Survey Report: Ramon Road Widening Project, San Luis Rey Drive to Landau Boulevard, Including the Whitewater Bridge (No. 56C0287), Cities of Palm Springs and Cathedral City, Riverside County, California. On file, South Coastal Information Center, San Diego State University, San Diego. (See Attachment A)

Tang, Bai "Tom," Michael Hogan, Matthew Wetherbee, Daniel Ballester, and John J. Eddy
2005 Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Cimarron Ridge Planning Unit Development, Cathedral City, Riverside County, California. On file, South Coastal Information Center, San Diego State University, San Diego.

Rogers, Thomas H.
1965 Geological Map of California, Santa Ana Sheet (1:250,000). California Division of Mines and Geology, Sacramento.

USGS (United States Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior)
1901 Map: San Jacinto, Calif. (30', 1:125,000); surveyed in 1897-1898.
1904 Map: Indio, Calif. (30', 1:125,000); surveyed in 1901.
1940 Map: Palm Springs, Calif. (15', 1:62,500); aerial photographs taken in 1940.

1941 Map: Edom, Calif. (15’, 1:62,500); aerial photographs taken in 1941.
1958 Map: Cathedral City, Calif. (7.5’, 1:24,000); aerial photographs taken in 1956.
1981 Map: Cathedral City, Calif. (7.5’, 1:24,000); 1958 edition photorevised in 1978.

**ATTACHMENT A**

# 2012-2014 HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY REPORT

HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY REPORT FOR

# RAMON ROAD WIDENING PROJECT

**San Luis Rey Drive to Landau Boulevard**
**Including the Whitewater Bridge (No. 56C0287)**
**Cities of Palm Springs and Cathedral City**
**Riverside County, California**
**08-RIV-0-PSp**

Federal Project No. BHLS-5282(040)
Funding Source: Highway Bridge Program and Local Funds
Local Agency: City of Palm Springs (Project No. 08-25)


Prepared by _____ February 10, 2014
Date

Bai "Tom" Tang
Principal Architectural Historian
CRM TECH
1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324

Reviewed and Approved by _____ 3/14/14
Date

Gabrielle Duff
Branch Chief, Environmental Support/Cultural Studies
California Department of Transportation, District 8
Environmental Support/Cultural Studies
464 W. 4th Street, 6th Floor, MS 825
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400



February 2014
CRM TECH Contract No. 2597

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.1 UNDERTAKING DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION ..... 1
1.2 AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS ..... 2
1.3 CONSULTING PARTIES/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ..... 3
1.3.1 Native American Consultation ..... 3
1.3.2 Consultation with Local Community ..... 5
1.4 SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS ..... 5
1.4.1 Records Search and Sources Consulted ..... 5
1.4.2 Historical Background Research ..... 6
1.4.3 Geoarchaeological Analysis ..... 6
1.4.4 Archaeological Field Survey ..... 6
1.4.5 Summary ..... 6
1.5 PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED ..... 7
1.6 HPSR TO DISTRICT FILE ..... 7
1.7 HPSR TO SHPO AND THPO ..... 7
1.8 HPSR TO CSO ..... 7
1.9 FINDINGS FOR STATE-OWNED PROPERTIES ..... 7
1.10 CEQA CONSIDERATIONS ..... 7
1.11 ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION ..... 7

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in association with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of Palm Springs, proposes an undertaking to enhance traffic flow and safety by widening the segment of Ramon Road between San Luis Rey Drive and Landau Boulevard, including the Whitewater Bridge (Bridge No. 56C0287), from the existing four lanes to six (Federal Project No. BHLS-5282(040)). The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking bestrides the boundary between the Cities of Palm Springs and Cathedral City, Riverside County.

This Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) is prepared in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as implemented through federal regulations outlined in 36 CFR 800. This undertaking is partially situated within land allotted to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and therefore the *Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California Department of Transportation* (PA) does not apply. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians has a designated Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)

The purpose of the present study is to identify any historic properties, as defined by Section 106 regulations, within or immediately adjacent to the APE. The scope of the study included a historical/archaeological resources records search, historical background research, consultations with Native American and local community representatives, and an intensive-level field survey. The methods, results, and final conclusion of the survey are summarized below.

## 1.1 UNDERTAKING DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

As currently proposed, the undertaking will consist of improvements to Ramon Road between San Luis Rey Drive and Landau Boulevard, including widening the existing Whitewater Bridge from four to six lanes (see Attachment A). Ramon Road adjacent to the project limits is currently a six-lane (three in each direction) arterial that meets the ultimate width as required by the Palm Springs and Cathedral City long-range general plans. The proposed undertaking will result in a gap closure by providing a continuous six-lane arterial along the river crossing.

The purpose of the undertaking is to enhance traffic capacity and flow across the Whitewater River and those segments of Ramon Road leading to and from the Whitewater Bridge. The bridge will continue to provide all-weather access in the event of a Standard Project Flood, the maximum design standard mandated by the Coachella Valley Water District, which manages most of the width of the channel. The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District manages approximately the western one-third of the channel width and uses a 100-year storm design standard.

The bridge-widening portion of the undertaking will bring about new barrier walls, extended bridge supports (piers) within the channel, a raised median, and sidewalks across the bridge, including a 10-foot multi-purpose trail across the south side. In addition, the undertaking will include seismic retrofitting of the existing bridge and add scour countermeasures in the channel bottom to protect the bridge piers during major flood events.

The proposed roadway improvements will add exclusive left-turn lanes at two intersections to facilitate traffic movements and reduce traffic congestion. Other associated improvements will include the reconstruction of gutters, curbs, driveways, and sidewalks, restriping of travel lanes and crosswalks, roadway rehabilitation, utilities relocation, drainage reconfiguration, and landscaping. A 12-foot-wide temporary access ramp will be built at the southwest corner of the bridge to enable construction access into the Whitewater River (Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel), and will be removed upon completion of the bridge.

The undertaking will require acquisition of additional right-of-way from 13 parcels, namely APNs 677-444-010, -011 and -013, 677-420-023, -024, -040, 678-210-012 and -038, 680-170-014, -051, and -053, 680-190-036, and 680-190-031. The following actions will also be required: parking lot and site entry adjustments on one parcel at the southeast corner of Ramon Road and Landau Boulevard; relocation of a billboard, six distribution power poles, and two transmission poles; and relocation or grade adjustment of a number of existing utility vaults, pull boxes, valves, and hydrants. Modifications to existing traffic signals will be necessary at San Luis Rey Drive, Crossley Road, and Landau Boulevard.

The proposed staging areas are located on either side of the Whitewater Bridge, outside the river channel. The staging area west of the Whitewater River is located north of Ramon Road at the end of Sarah Road, immediately north of a mini-storage facility. The staging area east of the Whitewater River is located at the southwest corner of Landau Boulevard and Ramon Road. Both staging areas are currently undeveloped, and both have been previously disturbed and subject to dumping.

The undertaking will also entail construction activities within the Whitewater River channel, including expansion of bridge piers to support a wider bridge deck and a three- to four-foot-thick riprap apron for scour protection. These activities have the potential to impact approximately seven acres immediately north, south, and underneath of the Whitewater Bridge.

## 1.2 AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

The APE for this undertaking was established in consultation with Anmarie Medin, Chief of Caltrans Cultural Studies Office, and Sean Yeung Caltrans Local Assistant Engineer, on March 14, 2014. The APE maps are presented in Attachment A to this report.

The APE is delineated to encompass the maximum extent of ground disturbance required for the proposed construction activities as well as all adjacent parcels occupied by buildings that may receive indirect effects from the undertaking. Specifically, it encompasses a total of 145 acres of land on both sides of Ramon Road, and includes vacant land, commercial properties, and some residential properties. The portion of the APE within the Palm Springs city limits, lying south of Ramon Road, consists of allotted land of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation. The entire APE is located in portions of Sections 16, 17, 20, and 21, T4S R5E, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian (see Attachment A).

The APE is located in an urban environment surrounded by light industrial, service and retail commercial (including swap meet grounds), recreational (golf course and bowling

alley), and residential land uses. Within the Whitewater River channel, where the bridge expansion is proposed, the land use designation is Open Space-Water (OS-W). North of the bridge is the Cimarron Golf Course, and south of the bridge is undeveloped land that is maintained for flood control purposes.

The vertical extent of the APE varies from one portion of the undertaking to another, depending on the specific activities proposed. The maximum depth of disturbance in the riverbed, associated with the construction of upstream and downstream cutoff walls at either end of the riprap apron, will be approximately 32.5 feet, while excavations required for the riprap apron will reach a depth of three to four feet below surface. Outside the Whitewater River channel, the depth of disturbance is limited to one to two feet at the maximum, mainly for the relocation of curbs and gutters and for replacing the existing pavement.

Direct effects of the undertaking will occur mostly within the Ramon Road right-of-way. Impacts to the 13 parcels along the existing right-of-way, as identified above, will include roadway expansion, curb, gutter, and sidewalk installation, and widening of the bridge approach. Permanent right-of-way acquisition, temporary construction easement, and slope easement will be obtained within the APE, as delineated on the APE map (see Attachment A, Map 3). Indirect effects of the undertaking are primarily associated with potential visual, noise, and atmospheric changes and temporary traffic impacts during construction. In addition, access to properties within the APE may be temporarily affected during construction.

## 1.3 CONSULTING PARTIES/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### 1.3.1 Native American Consultation

On August 24, 2012, the State of California's Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted for a records search in the commission's Sacred Lands File and a list of local Native American contacts. The NAHC responded in writing on August 27 that the Sacred Lands File failed to indicate the presence of Native American traditional cultural places within the APE, and provided a list of Native American individuals, tribes, and organizations that should be contacted.

Upon receiving the NAHC's response, written requests for consultation were sent to all 11 individuals on the referral list and the organizations they represent, as listed below:

- Patricia Garcia, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Mary Ann Green, Chairperson, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Karen Kupcha, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians;
- David Roosevelt, Chairperson, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians;
- Luther Salgado, Sr., Chairperson, Cahuilla Band of Indians;
- Shane Chapparosa, Chairperson, Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians;
- Mike Contreras, Jr., Cultural Heritage Program Coordinator, Morongo Band of Mission Indians;
- Joseph Hamilton, Chairman, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians;

- John Marcus, Chairman, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Dianna Chihuahua, Vice-Chairperson, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians;
- Mary Resvaloso, Chairperson, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.

In addition, as referred by the tribal representatives listed above or tribal government staff, seven other tribal representatives were also contacted in writing:

- Sean Milanovich, Cultural Specialist, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- David L. Saldivar, Tribal Government Affairs Manager, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Judy Stapp, Director of Cultural Affairs, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians;
- Yvonne Markle, Environmental Office Manager, Cahuilla Band of Indians;
- John Gomez, Jr., Cultural Resources Coordinator, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Steven Estrada, Environmental Director, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Matthew Krystall, Tribal Resource Manager, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.

The initial consultation letters were mailed on August 31, 2012. On September 14, Ms. Green, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians, responded in writing. In her letter, Ms. Green encouraged contact with tribes and individuals in the immediate vicinity of the APE and implementation of Native American monitoring, and requested immediate notification of any archaeological discoveries. Upon such discoveries, Ms. Green will be notified as requested. Ms. Stapp, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, responded by letter on September 6, deferring further consultation to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

Follow-up telephone calls were made between September 14 and October 2, 2012. In response, Ms. Markle, Cahuilla Band of Indians, and Mr. Estrada, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, both stated that they would defer consultation on this undertaking to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. However, Ms. Markle strongly recommended Native American monitoring during ground-disturbing activities in the APE. Telephone messages were left for Mr. Chapparosa of the Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians, Mr. Contreras of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Mr. Gomez of the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians, and Mr. Krystal of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, to request that they contact Nina Gallardo, Native American liaison for CRM TECH, if they wished to comment on the undertaking.

On June 21, 2013, an additional round of follow-up calls were made to Mr. Chapparosa, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Krystal, and William Madrigal, Jr., who had succeeded Mr. Contreras as the Cultural Heritage Program Coordinator for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. On the same day, e-mails containing copies of the initial consultation letter and the APE map were also sent to these tribal representatives. When reached by telephone, Mr. Madrigal stated that he would defer to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Mr. Gomez responded by e-mail on June 25, and also referred to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians as the appropriate tribe to consult with. Messages were once again left for Mr. Chapparosa and Mr. Krystal to contact Nina Gallardo, but to date neither of them has responded.

Between October 2, 2012, and August 8, 2013, Patricia Garcia, Agua Caliente THPO, responded to the requests for comments in a series of letters, in which she reported that "a records check of the Agua Caliente Register indicates no previously recorded

archaeological sites within one mile of the APE," and outlined the following requirements by the tribe:

- A 100% cultural resources survey of the APE be performed by a qualified archaeologist;
- Copies of all cultural resources documentation generated from these efforts be forwarded to the tribe for THPO review and comment;
- An approved Native American monitor be present during ground-disturbing activities in the APE;
- Standard guidelines pursuant to HSC §7050.5 be followed upon discovery of potential human remains.

In her initial letter of October 2, 2012, Ms. Garcia stated that Native American monitoring would be required "during any ground disturbing activities." On July 22, 2013, the project team e-mailed Ms. Garcia to request that the location(s) requiring Native American monitoring be defined. In response, Ms. Garcia replied on July 26, 2013, that the Agua Caliente Band would request the presence of a monitor during all ground-disturbing activities throughout the APE. After further consultation, however, Ms. Garcia refined the request in her letter of August 8, 2013, to limit the monitoring request to ground disturbances taking place on reservation land. On January 8, 2014, upon clarification of the tribe's request, the records search results were forwarded to Ms. Garcia for her review (see Attachment D for further details on Native American consultation).

### 1.3.2 Consultation with Local Community

As a part of the research procedures, CRM TECH contacted pertinent staff members of the Cities of Palm Springs and Cathedral City as well as representatives of local historical societies to inquire about cultural resources of local historic value or other cultural resources concerns over the APE. Leisa Lukes, Planner with the City of Cathedral City, Bill Simmons, City Engineer for Cathedral City, Ken Lyon, Associate Planner with the City of Palm Springs, and Janey Ash of the Cathedral City Historical Society responded to the inquiries and expressed no cultural resources concerns (see Attachment E). To date, the Palm Springs Historical Society has not responded to the request for comments.

## 1.4 SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS

### 1.4.1 Records Search and Sources Consulted

The historical/archaeological resources records search was conducted on August 14, 2012, at the Eastern Information Center (EIC), University of California, Riverside. A standard one-mile radius was adopted for the records search, and the following sources were consulted:

- National Register of Historic Places;
- California Register of Historical Resources;
- California Historical Landmarks;
- California Points of Historical Interest;
- Historical Landmarks of Riverside County;
- California Historical Resources Inventory; and
- California Historic Bridge Inventory.

The results of the records search indicate that at least seven previous cultural resources studies included various portions of the APE, but no cultural resources were previously recorded within or adjacent to the APE. Within the one-mile radius, more than 20 additional studies have been completed on various tracts of land and linear features, according to EIC records. Despite these survey efforts in the past, no historical/ archaeological sites have been recorded within the scope of the records search.

### 1.4.2 Historical Background Research

In conjunction with the records search, a historical background review was conducted on the basis of published literature in local and regional history, the archival records of the County of Riverside, and historic maps and aerial photographs of the Palm Springs-Cathedral City area. The results of the review suggest that the APE is relatively low in sensitivity for cultural resources from the historic period. While a few buildings were noted in the APE as early as 1940-1941, evidently none of the pre-1970s buildings has survived to the present time, and the oldest building now extant within the APE dates only to 1972.

### 1.4.3 Geoarchaeological Analysis

The geoarchaeological analysis was conducted on the basis of existing literature on surface geology and soil types in the vicinity and pertinent geological and soil maps. The purpose of this analysis was to assess the APE's potential for the deposition and preservation of subsurface cultural deposits from the prehistoric period, which cannot be detected through a standard archaeological survey. The results of the analysis suggest that the APE appears to be relatively low in sensitivity for buried prehistoric cultural remains.

### 1.4.4 Archaeological Field Survey

An archaeological field survey was carried out on the entire APE on August 13, 2012. The heavily disturbed right-of-way of Ramon Road and fully developed parcels along the street were surveyed at a reconnaissance level by driving along the project route and visually inspecting the surrounding ground surface for any indications of potential cultural resources. On undeveloped land within the APE, including the Whitewater riverbed and the proposed slope easements adjacent to it, a more intensive survey was conducted on foot by walking parallel transects spaced 15 meters (approx. 50 feet) apart. No archaeological features or artifact deposits, either prehistoric or historic in origin, were encountered during the survey (see Attachment C for further information).

### 1.4.5 Summary

In summary of the research results presented above, records at the EIC indicate that no cultural resources were previously recorded within or adjacent to the APE, and none was encountered during the field survey. Native American input during this study did not identify any sites of traditional cultural value in the vicinity, and historic maps show no notable cultural features in the APE during the historic period. In addition, the geoarchaeological analysis finds the APE to be relatively low in sensitivity for buried prehistoric cultural remains. Based on these findings, the present study concludes that *no historic properties exist within the APE*.

## 1.5 PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED

*No cultural resources* are present within the APE. *Bridges listed as Category 5* in the Caltrans Historic Highway Bridge Inventory are present within the APE. Appropriate pages from the Caltrans Historic Bridge Inventory are attached (see Attachment B).

## 1.6 HPSR TO DISTRICT FILE

Not applicable.

## 1.7 HPSR TO SHPO AND THPO

As assigned by FHWA and pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a) and (b), Caltrans has determined that the APE and the scope and level of the identification efforts are adequate for this undertaking and requests SHPO and THPO's concurrence. As assigned by FHWA and pursuant to 35 CFR 800.4 (d)(1), Caltrans, has determined a Finding of No Historic Properties is appropriate for this undertaking, and is hereby providing notification and summary to the SHPO and THPO of this finding.

## 1.8 HPSR TO CSO

Not applicable.

## 1.9 FINDINGS FOR STATE-OWNED PROPERTIES

Not applicable; this undertaking does not involve Caltrans right-of-way or Caltrans-owned property.

## 1.10 CEQA CONSIDERATIONS

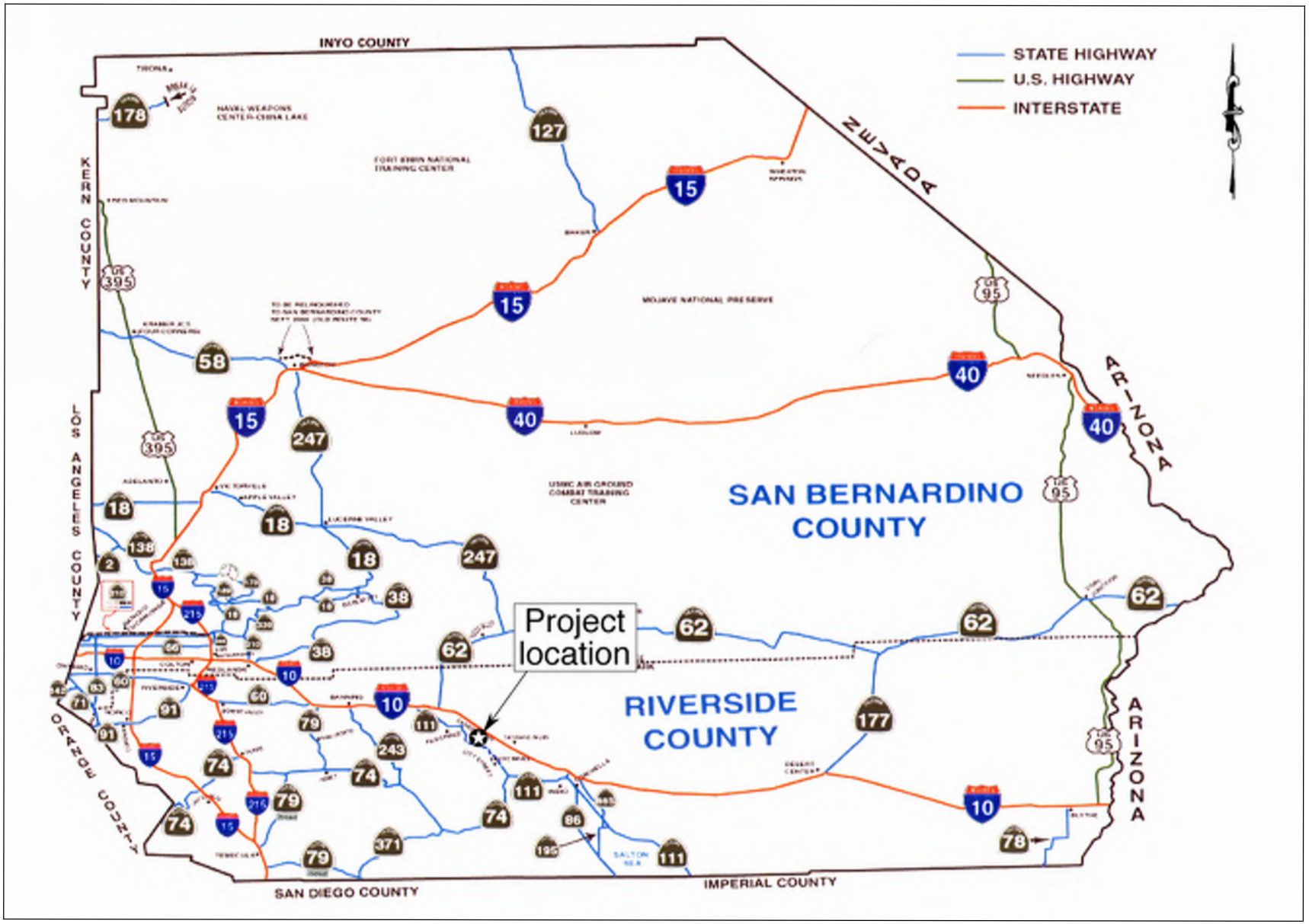
Not applicable; Caltrans is not the lead agency under CEQA.

## 1.11 ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION

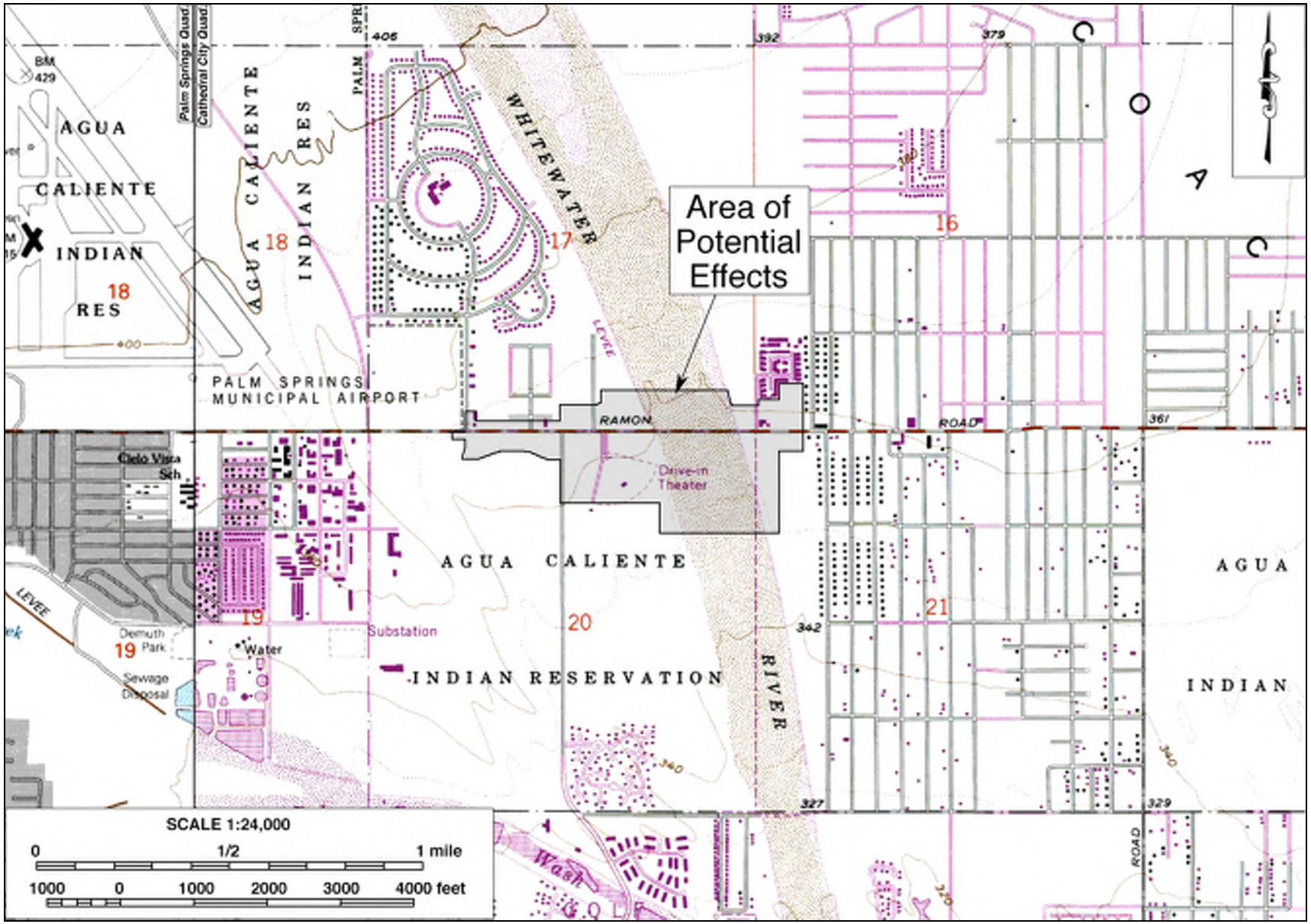
- Attachment A: Location Map, Project Vicinity Map, and APE Map;
- Attachment B: California Historic Bridge Inventory Sheet.
- Attachment C: Archaeological Survey Report;
- Attachment D: Correspondence with Native American Representatives;
- Attachment E: Correspondence with Local Community Representatives.

# ATTACHMENT A

# PROJECT MAPS




Map 1. Project vicinity.




Map 2. Project location.

## Map 3. Area of Potential Effects

**(Attached)**

## Legend

- Palm Springs / Cathedral City City Boundary
- Reservation Land
- Area of Potential Effect
- Assessor Parcel Lines
- Potential Staging Area
- Match Line
- Existing Right-of-Way
- R/W Acquisition *
- TCE (Temp Construction Easement)
- Slope Easement *

* Some areas of Row acquisition and slope easement may be exaggerated for visibility.

## Signature Block

Anmarie Medin, Chief, Cultural Studies

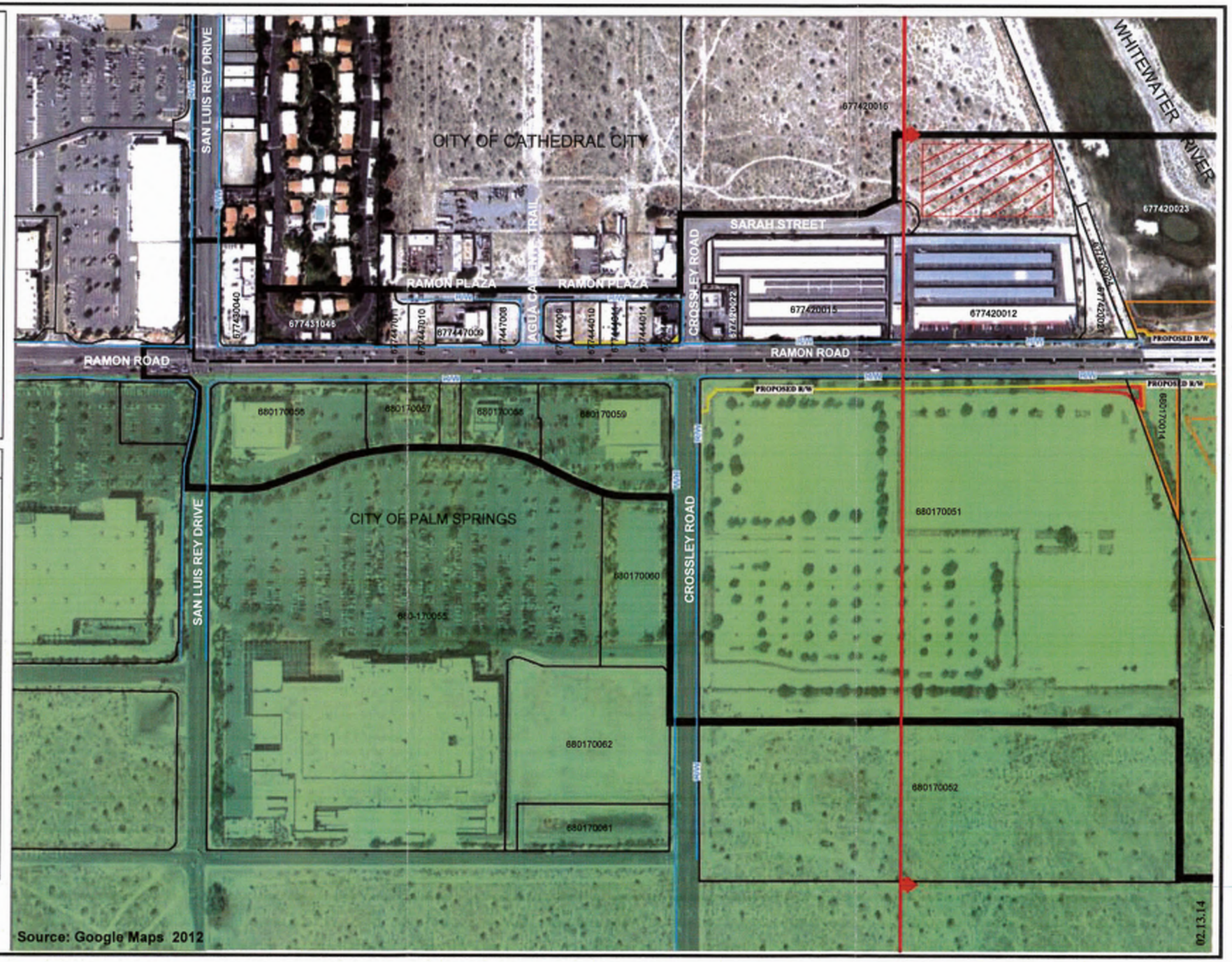
2-26-14
Date

S- Yeung, Acting
Sean Yeung, Local Assistant Engineer

3/12/14
Date

1 inch = 200 feet
100 m
200 ft

SHEET 1 OF 2




Ramon Road Bridge Widening Federal Project Number BHLS-5282 (040)
Area of Potential Effect
Palm Springs / Cathedral City, California

C-1

## Legend

- Palm Springs / Cathedral City City Boundary
- Reservation Land
- Area of Potential Effect
- Assessor Parcel Lines
- Potential Staging Area
- Match Line
- Existing Right-of Way
- R/W Acquisition *
- TCE (Temp Construction Easement)
- Slope Easement *

* Some areas of Row acquisition and slope easement may be exaggerated for visibility.

## Signature Block

Anmarie Medin, Chief, Cultural Studies

2-26-14
Date

Sean Yeung, Local Assistant Engineer

3/6/14
Date

1 inch = 200 feet

N

100 m
200 ft

SHEET 2 OF 2

02.13.14

**Ramon Road Bridge Widening Federal Project Number BHLS-5282 (040)**
**Area of Potential Effect**
**Palm Springs / Cathedral City, California**

C-2

## ATTACHMENT B

# CALIFORNIA HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY SHEET

# Structure Maintenance & Investigations

SM&I

June 2011

## Historical Significance - Local Agency Bridges

## District 08

### Riverside County

| Bridge Number | Bridge Name | Location | Historical Significance | Year Built | Year Wid/Ext |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 56C0229 | WARM SPRINGS CREEK | 0.9 MI. E/O ROUTE 215 FWY | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1973 | |
| 56C0230 | STETSON AVENUE CHANNEL | 50' N/O STETSON AVENUE | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1975 | |
| 56C0231 | BAUTISTA CREEK | 0.9 MI. S/O RTE. 74 HWY. | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1960 | |
| 56C0232 | BAUTISTA CREEK | 0.2 MI. W/O FAIRVIEW AVE. | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1960 | |
| 56C0233 | PERRIS VALLEY STORM DRAIN | 2.7 MI. N/O RAMONA EXPRWY | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1955 | |
| 56C0242 | MARSHALL CREEK | 50' S/O BROOKSIDE AVENUE | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1940 | |
| 56C0243 | LITTLE SAN GORGONIA CHANNEL | 0.2 MI. E/O BEAUMONT AVE. | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1951 | |
| 56C0244 | SAN TIMOTEO CREEK | 0.3 MI W/O WOODHOUSE ROAD | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1971 | |
| 56C0246 | COACHELLA CANAL (MONROE ST) | 50' N/O 40TH AVENUE | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1969 | |
| 56C0247 | TEMESCAL CREEK CHANNEL | 0.1 MI. S/O RIVER ROAD | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1972 | 1983 |
| 56C0248 | ALL AMERICAN CANAL (50TH AVE) | 50' W/O MADISON STREET | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1965 | |
| 56C0250 | CORONA STORM DRAIN | 0.4 MI. S/O RIVER ROAD | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1970 | 1986 |
| 56C0251 | COACHELLA CANAL WASTEWAY 1 | 50' E/O CLEVELAND STREET | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1954 | |
| 56C0252 | ALL AMERICAN CANAL (AVE 48) | 50' W/O HJORTH STREET | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1967 | 2007 |
| 56C0253 | ALL AMERICAN CANAL (AVE 46) | 0.1 MI. E/O MADISON ST | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1965 | |
| 56C0254 | PALO VERDE LAGOON | 2 MI. W/O "C" BOULEVARD | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1974 | |
| 56C0255 | PALO VERDE LAGOON | 1.5 MI. E/O RTE. 78 HWY. | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1960 | |
| 56C0256 | "C" CANAL (SIPHON 11) | 1.47 MI. W/O RTE. 95 HWY. | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1962 | |
| 56C0257 | "C" CANAL (SIPHON 48) | 0.5 MI. W/O LOVEKIN BLVD. | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1964 | |
| 56C0258 | IVY STREET OH | 100' E/O RTE. 91 FREEWAY | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1963 | |
| 56C0259 | "C" CANAL (SIPHON 77) | 0.3 MI W/O DEFRAIN BLVD. | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1963 | |
| 56C0260 | "C" CANAL (SIPHON 87) | 0.5 MI W/O DEFRAIN BLVD. | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1964 | |
| 56C0262 | HEMET CHANNEL | 0.4 MI. W/O CAWSTON AVE. | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1940 | 1981 |
| 56C0263 | STETSON CHANNEL | 25' N/O STETSON AVENUE | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1975 | |
| 56C0264 | STETSON CHANNEL | 25' N/O STETSON AVENUE | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1975 | |
| 56C0265 | "C" CANAL | 0.96 MI. W/O ROUTE 95 HWY | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1971 | |
| 56C0266 | WHITEWATER RIVER | 0.2 MI. N/O ST RTE 111 | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1976 | 1994 |
| 56C0268 | CUCAMONGA CREEK | 0.7 MI. S/O SCHLEISMAN RD | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1977 | |
| 56C0269 | CUCAMONGA CREEK | 0.5 MI. W/O ARCHIBALD AVE | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1977 | 2008 |
| 56C0270 | BARISTO FLOOD CONTROL CHANNEL | 0.20 MI. N/O RAMON ROAD | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1966 | |
| 56C0271 | BARISTO FLOOD CONTROL CHANNEL | 0.16 MI. N/O RAMON ROAD | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1966 | 1970 |
| 56C0273 | STRAWBERRY CREEK | 200' N/O S. CIRCLE DRIVE | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1990 | |
| 56C0274 | SUNNYMEAD STORM CHANNEL | 0.2 MI. W/O INDIAN STREET | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1978 | |
| 56C0275 | SUNNYMEAD STORM CHANNEL | 0.1 MI. W/O INDIAN STREET | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1978 | |
| 56C0276 | SUNNYMEAD STORM CHANNEL | 0.2 MI. E/O INDIAN STREET | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1978 | |
| 56C0278 | LA SIERRA CHANNEL | 0.17 MI. NE/O HOLE AVENUE | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1960 | |
| 56C0281 | PACHAPPA DRIVE OH | 150' SE/O OLIVEWOOD AVE. | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1968 | |
| 56C0282 | INDIO BLVD OH | 0.3 MI. W/O JEFFERSON ST. | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1936 | |
| 56C0283 | INDIO BLVD OH | 0.3 MI W/O JEFFERSON STR | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1956 | |
| 56C0284 | PENCHANGA CREEK | 0.35 MI S/O PECHANGA PKWY | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1981 | |
| 56C0287 | WHITEWATER RIVER | 0.8 MI. E/O GENE AUTRY TR | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1982 | |
| 56C0288 | MURRIETA CREEK | 0.45 MI S/O WASHINGTON AV | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1979 | |
| 56C0289 | SALT CREEK CHANNEL | 0.6 MI. N/O NEWPORT ROAD | 5. Bridge not eligible for NRHP | 1981 | |

ATTACHMENT C
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

# RAMON ROAD WIDENING PROJECT

**San Luis Rey Drive to Landau Boulevard**
**Including the Whitewater Bridge (No. 56C0287)**
**Cities of Palm Springs and Cathedral City**
**Riverside County, California**
**08-RIV-0-PSp**

Federal Project No. BHLS-5282(040)
Funding Source: Highway Bridge Program and Local Funds
Local Agency: City of Palm Springs (Project No. 08-25)

**Prepared by:**

Michael Hogan, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Archaeology
CRM TECH
1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324

**Reviewed and Approved by:**

3/14/14

Gabrielle Duff, Branch Chief, Environmental Support/Cultural Studies
California Department of Transportation, District 8
464 W. 4th Street, 6th Floor, MS 825
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400

February 10, 2014

Type of Study: Phase 1 Archaeological Survey
Area Covered: Approximately 145 Acres
USGS Cathedral City, Calif., 7.5' Quadrangle
Section 16, 17, 20, and 21, T4S R5E, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian
Resources Identified: None; Key Words: Ramon Road, Whitewater Bridge
CRM TECH Contract No. 2597

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ..... ii
INTRODUCTION ..... 1
PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION ..... 1
SOURCES CONSULTED ..... 3
Summary of Methods and Results ..... 3
Summary of Additional Research ..... 5
Summary of Native American Consultation ..... 5
Summary of Consultation with Local Community ..... 6
BACKGROUND ..... 7
Environment ..... 7
Prehistory ..... 9
Ethnography ..... 9
History ..... 11
Regional Overview ..... 11
The APE and Vicinity ..... 12
FIELD METHODS ..... 13
STUDY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS ..... 14
REFERENCES ..... 15

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Previous cultural resources studies ..... 4
Figure 2. Typical landscapes in the APE ..... 8
Figure 3. The APE and vicinity in 1855-1856 ..... 12
Figure 4. The APE and vicinity in 1885 ..... 12
Figure 5. The APE and vicinity in 1897-1901 ..... 13
Figure 6. The APE and vicinity in 1940-1941 ..... 13
Figure 7. The APE and vicinity in 1956 ..... 13

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in association with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of Palm Springs, proposes an undertaking to enhance traffic flow and safety by widening the segment of Ramon Road between San Luis Rey Drive and Landau Boulevard, including the Whitewater Bridge (Bridge No. 56C0287), from the existing four lanes to six (Federal Project No. BHLS-5282(040)). The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking bestrides the boundary between the Cities of Palm Springs and Cathedral City, Riverside County. This Archaeological Survey Report (ASR), as a component of the Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR), is prepared in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as implemented through federal regulations outlined in 36 CFR 800.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking is delineated to encompass the maximum extent of ground disturbance required for the proposed construction activities as well as all adjacent parcels occupied by buildings that may receive visual, atmospheric, or other indirect effects from the undertaking, encompassing a total of approximately 145 acres in Sections 16, 17, 20, and 21, T4S R5E, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. Since a portion of the APE is situated within land allotted to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the *Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California Department of Transportation* does not apply to this study.

The purpose of the survey is to identify any archaeological resources within or immediately adjacent to the APE. The scope of the study included a historical/archaeological resources records search, historical background research, consultations with Native American and local community representatives, and a systematic field survey. Throughout the course of the study, no archaeological features or artifact deposits, either prehistoric or historic in origin, were encountered within or adjacent to the APE, and the subsurface sediments in the APE have been found to be low in sensitivity for buried cultural remains. Therefore, the present study concludes that no archaeological resources will be affected by the proposed undertaking.

It is Caltrans' policy to avoid cultural resources whenever possible. If buried cultural materials are encountered during the undertaking, it is Caltrans' policy that work stop in that area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find. Additional surveys will be required if the project changes to include areas not previously surveyed.

## INTRODUCTION

The present archaeological survey covered the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed Ramon Road Widening Project between San Luis Rey Drive and Landau Boulevard, including the Whitewater Bridge (Bridge No. 56C0287), in the Cities of Palm Springs and Cathedral City, Riverside County, within Caltrans District 8 (Federal Project No. BHLS-5282(040); see HPSR Attachment A, Maps 1, 2). The survey was conducted under the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as implemented through federal regulations outlined in 36 CFR Part 800. The field survey of the APE was carried out on August 13, 2012, by project archaeologist Daniel Ballester, B.A., under the direction of principal investigator Michael Hogan, Ph.D.

Hogan was awarded his doctorate degree in anthropology by the University of California, Riverside, in 1991, and has been working continuously in cultural resources management as field director, archaeologist, ethnologist, and principal investigator since then. Ballester graduated from California State University, San Bernardino, in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in anthropology, and has been performing archaeological field research in southern California for the past 14 years.

In addition to the archaeological field survey, the scope of the study also included a historical/archaeological resources records search, historical and geoarchaeological background research, and consultations with Native American and local community representatives. Daniel Ballester conducted the records search, project historian Terri Jacquemain (M.A., public history and historic resource management, University of California, Riverside, 2004) pursued the historical background research, project geologist Harry M. Quinn (M.S., geology, University of Southern California, 1968) performed the geoarchaeological analysis, project archaeologists Nina Gallardo (B.A., anthropology/law and society, University of California, Riverside, 2004) and Laura H. Shaker (B.S., anthropology, University of California, Riverside, 1998) completed the Native American consultation, and project archaeologist Deirdre Encarnación (M.A., anthropology, San Diego State University, 2003) carried out the consultation with local community representatives.

## PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

As currently proposed, the undertaking will consist of improvements to Ramon Road between San Luis Rey Drive and Landau Boulevard, including widening the existing Whitewater Bridge from four to six lanes (see HPSR Attachment A, Map 3). Ramon Road adjacent to the project limits is currently a six-lane (three in each direction) arterial that meets the ultimate width as required by the Palm Springs and Cathedral City long-range general plans. The proposed undertaking will result in a gap closure by providing a continuous six-lane arterial along the river crossing.

The bridge-widening portion of the project will bring about new barrier walls, extended bridge supports (piers) within the channel, a raised median, and sidewalks across the bridge, including a 10-foot multi-purpose trail across the south side. In addition, the

undertaking will include seismic retrofitting of the existing bridge and add scour countermeasures in the channel bottom to protect the bridge piers during major flood events.

The proposed roadway improvements will add exclusive left-turn lanes at two intersections to facilitate traffic movements and reduce traffic congestion. Other associated improvements will include the reconstruction of gutters, curbs, driveways, and sidewalks, restriping of travel lanes and crosswalks, roadway rehabilitation, utilities relocation, drainage reconfiguration, and landscaping. A 12-foot-wide temporary access ramp will be built at the southwest corner of the bridge to enable construction access into the Whitewater River (Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel), and will be removed upon completion of the bridge.

The undertaking will require acquisition of additional right-of-way from 13 parcels, namely APNs 677-444-010, -011 and -013, 677-420-023, -024, -040, 678-210-012 and -038, 680-170-014, -051, and -053, 680-190-036, and 680-190-031. The following actions will also be required: parking lot and site entry adjustments on one parcel at the southeast corner of Ramon Road and Landau Boulevard; relocation of a billboard, six distribution power poles, and two transmission poles; and relocation or grade adjustment of a number of existing utility vaults, pull boxes, valves, and hydrants. Modifications to existing traffic signals will be required at San Luis Rey Drive, Crossley Road, and Landau Boulevard.

The proposed staging areas are located on either side of the Whitewater Bridge, outside the river channel. The staging area west of the Whitewater River is located north of Ramon Road at the end of Sarah Road, immediately north of a mini-storage facility. The staging area east of the Whitewater River is located at the southwest corner of Landau Boulevard and Ramon Road. Both staging areas are currently undeveloped, and both have been previously disturbed and subject to dumping.

The undertaking will also entail construction activities within the Whitewater River channel, including expansion of bridge piers to support a wider bridge deck and a three- to four-foot-thick riprap apron for scour protection. These activities have the potential to impact approximately seven acres immediately north, south, and underneath of the Whitewater Bridge.

The maximum depth of disturbance in the riverbed, associated with the construction of upstream and downstream cutoff walls at either end of the riprap apron, will be approximately 32.5 feet, while excavations required for the riprap apron will reach a depth of three to four feet below surface. Outside the Whitewater River channel, the depth of disturbance is limited to one to two feet at the maximum, mainly for the relocation of curbs and gutters and for replacing the existing pavement.

The purpose of the undertaking is to enhance traffic capacity and flow across the Whitewater River and those segments of Ramon Road leading to and from the Whitewater Bridge. The bridge will continue to provide all-weather access in the event of a Standard Project Flood, the maximum design standard mandated by the Coachella Valley Water District, which manages most of the width of the channel. The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District manages approximately the western one-third of the channel width and uses a 100-year storm design standard.

The APE for the undertaking is delineated to encompass the maximum extent of ground disturbance required for the proposed construction activities as well as all adjacent parcels occupied by buildings that may receive indirect effects from the undertaking. Specifically, it encompasses a total of 145 acres of land on both sides of Ramon Road, and includes vacant land, commercial properties, and some residential properties. The portion of the APE within the Palm Springs city limits, lying south of Ramon Road, consists of allotted land of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation. The entire APE is located in portions of Sections 16, 17, 20, and 21, T4S R5E, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian (see HPSR Attachment A, Map 2).

The APE is located in an urban environment surrounded by light industrial, service and retail commercial (including swap meet grounds), recreational (golf course and bowling alley), and residential land uses. Within the Whitewater River channel, where the bridge expansion is proposed, the land use designation is Open Space-Water (OS-W). North of the bridge is the Cimarron Golf Course, and south of the bridge is undeveloped land that is maintained for flood control purposes.

Direct construction will largely occur within the Ramon Road right-of-way. Right-of-way acquisition will be necessary on 13 parcels within the APE, as identified above. Impacts to these parcels will include roadway expansion, curb, gutter, and sidewalk installation, and widening of the bridge approach. Permanent right-of-way acquisition, temporary construction easement, and slope easement will be obtained within the APE, as delineated on the APE map (see HPSR Attachment A, Map 3). Indirect effects of the undertaking are primarily associated with potential visual, noise, and atmospheric changes and temporary traffic impacts during construction. In addition, access to properties within the APE may be temporarily affected during construction.

## SOURCES CONSULTED

### SUMMARY OF METHODS AND RESULTS

On August 14, 2012, CRM TECH archaeologist Nina Gallardo conducted the historical/ archaeological resources records search at the Eastern Information Center (EIC), University of California, Riverside. A standard one-mile radius was adopted for the records search, and the following sources were consulted:

- National Register of Historic Places;
- California Register of Historical Resources;
- California Historical Landmarks;
- California Points of Historical Interest;
- Historical Landmarks of Riverside County; and
- California Historical Resources Inventory; and
- California Historic Bridge Inventory.

The results of the records search indicate that at least seven previous cultural resources studies included various portions of the APE, but no cultural resources were previously recorded within or adjacent to the APE. Within the one-mile radius, more than 20 additional studies have been completed on various tracts of land and linear features,

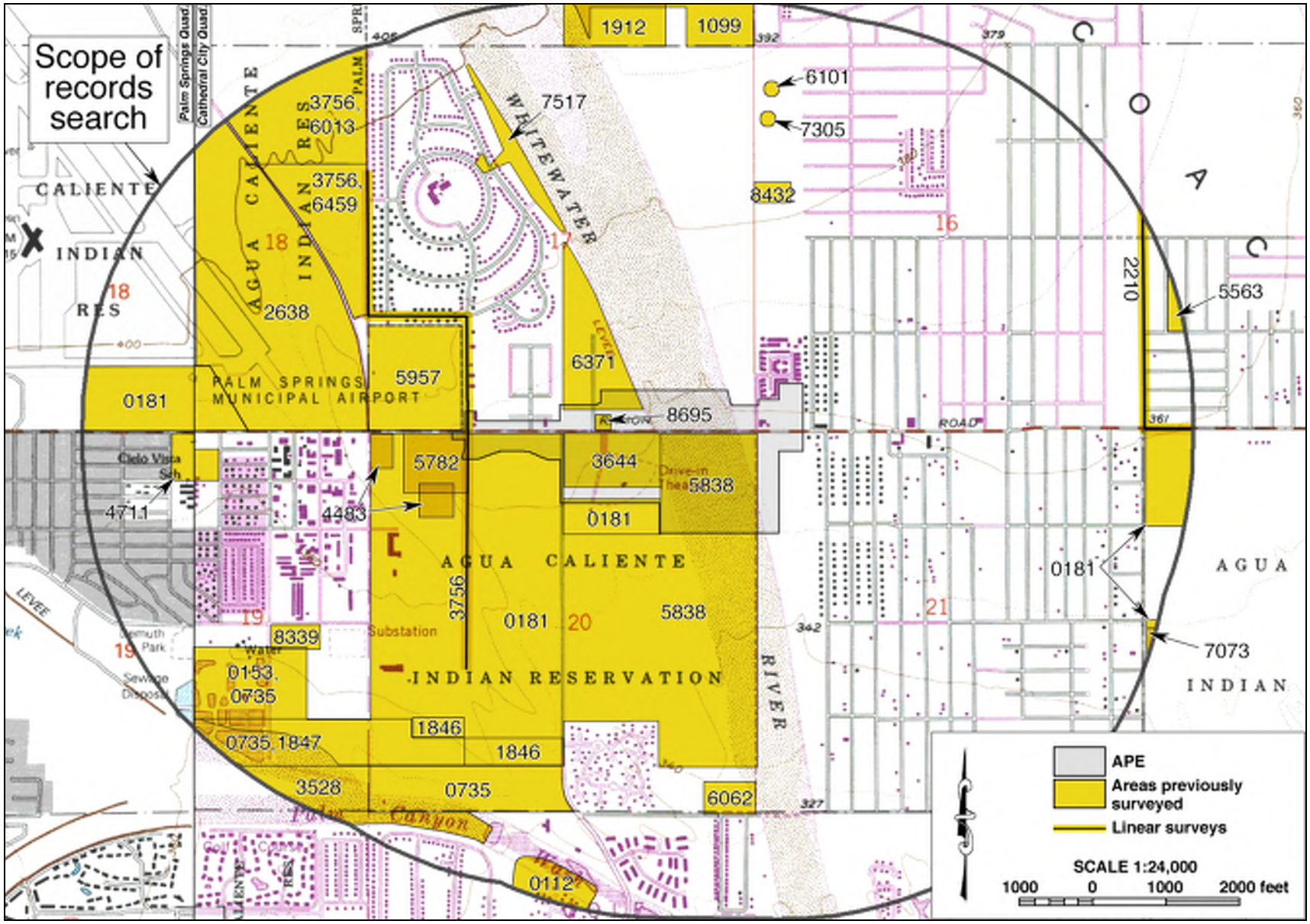



Figure 1. Previous cultural resources studies in the vicinity of the APE, listed by EIC file number. Locations of known historical/archaeological sites are not shown as a protective measure.

according to EIC records (Fig. 1). Despite these survey efforts in the past, no historical/ archaeological sites have been recorded within the scope of the records search.

## SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

In conjunction with the records search, a historical background review was conducted on the basis of published literature in local and regional history, the archival records of the County of Riverside, and historic maps and aerial photographs of the Palm Springs-Cathedral City area. Among the maps consulted for this study were the U.S. General Land Office's (GLO) land survey plat maps dated 1856-1886 and the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) topographic maps dated 1901-1958. These maps are collected at the Science Library of the University of California, Riverside, and the California Desert District of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, located in Moreno Valley.

The geoarchaeological analysis was conducted on the basis of existing literature on surface geology and soil types in the vicinity and pertinent geological and soil maps, most notably Knecht (1980) and Dibblee (2008). The purpose of this analysis was to assess the APE's potential for the deposition and preservation of subsurface cultural deposits from the prehistoric period, which cannot be detected through a standard archaeological survey. Findings from the historical and geoarchaeological researches are incorporated into the discussion in the "Background" section below.

## SUMMARY OF NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

On August 24, 2012, CRM TECH submitted a written request to the State of California's Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a records search in the commission's Sacred Lands File (see HPSR Attachment D). In response, the NAHC reported in a letter dated August 27 that the Sacred Lands File identified no Native American cultural resources within the APE, but recommended that local Native American groups be contacted for further information (see HPSR Attachment D). For that purpose, the NAHC provided a list of potential contacts in the region.

Upon receiving the NAHC's response, CRM TECH requested consultation with all 11 individuals on the referral list and the organizations they represent. The written requests for comments were sent on August 31, 2012, while follow-up telephone and e-mail consultation were carried out between September 14, 2012, and June 21, 2013 (see HPSR Attachment D). In addition to the tribal representatives on the NAHC's referral list, eight other tribal representatives were also contacted per referrals by the tribes:

- Sean Milanovich, Cultural Specialist, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- David L. Saldivar, Tribal Government Affairs Manager, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Judy Stapp, Director of Cultural Affairs, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians;
- Yvonne Markle, Environmental Office Manager, Cahuilla Band of Indians;
- William Madrigal, Jr., Cultural Heritage Program Coordinator, Morongo Band of Mission Indians (succeeding Mike Contreras, Jr., in 2013);
- John Gomez, Jr., Cultural Resources Coordinator, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Steven Estrada, Environmental Director, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians;
- Matthew Krystall, Tribal Resource Manager, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.

As of this time, four of the tribal representatives have responded in writing, and three have responded verbally by telephone. Among them, Mary Ann Green, Chairperson of the Augustine Band, indicated that the tribe was unaware of specific cultural resources that might be affected by the undertaking, but encouraged further consultation with other tribes and individuals in the immediate vicinity of the APE. Similarly, Judy Stapp stated that the Cabazon Band had no archival information on any sacred/religious sites or other sites of traditional cultural value in the APE and would defer further consultation to the Agua Caliente Band. In the meantime, Ms. Green encouraged the implementation of Native American monitoring during the undertaking, and requested immediate notification of any archaeological discoveries (see HPSR Attachment D). Upon such discoveries, Ms. Green will be notified.

Yvonne Markle of the Cahuilla Band, and Steve Estrada of the Santa Rosa Band, John Gomez, Jr., of the Ramona Band, and William Madrigal, Jr., the current Cultural Historic Program Coordinator for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, all stated that they would defer to the Agua Caliente Band. However, Ms. Markle strongly recommended that ground-disturbing activities during the undertaking be monitored by a Native American observer, while Mr. Madrigal stated that the Morongo Band had no additional concerns (see HPSR Attachment D).

Patricia Garcia, Director of the Agua Caliente Tribal Historic Preservation Office, reported in a letter that "a records check of the Agua Caliente Register indicates no previously recorded archaeological sites within one mile of the APE." As the Agua Caliente THPO, Ms. Garcia outlined the following requirements by the tribe (see HPSR Attachment D):

- A 100% cultural resources survey of the APE be performed by a qualified archaeologist;
- Copies of all cultural resources documentation generated from these efforts be forwarded to the tribe for THPO review and comment;
- An approved Native American monitor be present during ground-disturbing activities in the APE;
- Standard guidelines pursuant to HSC §7050.5 be followed upon discovery of potential human remains.

In her initial letter of October 2, 2012, Ms. Garcia stated that Native American monitoring would be required "during any ground disturbing activities." On July 22, 2013, the project team e-mailed Ms. Garcia to request that the location(s) requiring Native American monitoring be defined. In response, Ms. Garcia replied on July 26, 2013, that the Agua Caliente Band would request the presence of a monitor during all ground-disturbing activities throughout the APE. After further consultation, however, Ms. Garcia refined the request in a letter dated August 8, 2013, to limit the monitoring request to ground disturbances taking place on reservation land. On January 8, 2014, upon clarification of the tribe's request, the records search results were forwarded to Ms. Garcia for her review (see HPSR Attachment D).

**SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY**

As a part of the research procedures, CRM TECH contacted pertinent staff members of the Cities of Palm Springs and Cathedral City as well as representatives of local historical societies to inquire about cultural resources of local historic value or other cultural resources concerns over the APE. On September 12-13, 2012, requests for comments were

sent to Ken Lyon, Associate Planner with the City of Palm Springs, Leisa Lukes, Planner with the City of Cathedral City, and Robert Rodriguez of the City of Cathedral City, who forwarded the request to City Engineer Bill Simmons. The Palm Springs Historical Society and the Cathedral City Historical Society were contacted on the same dates as well.

On September 12, Ken Lyon responded by telephone, stating that he was not aware of any cultural resources within the APE, and recommended further consultation with Patricia Garcia, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Bill Simmons also responded by telephone on September 12, commenting that another segment of Ramon Road had recently been widened and that no cultural resources had been encountered during that project.

On September 21, Janey Ash of the Cathedral City Historical Society replied by telephone. Ms. Ash stated that the historical society was not aware of any cultural resources within the APE, and thus foresaw no negative impact. Leisa Lukes replied by telephone on September 25, commenting that since the portion of the APE within Cathedral City was already developed, it contained no cultural resources that she was aware of, and that she therefore had no concerns. To date, the Palm Springs Historical Society has not responded to the request for comments. Records of correspondence with the other representatives of the local community are presented in HPSR Attachment E.

## BACKGROUND

### ENVIRONMENT

The APE is situated near the northwestern end of the Coachella Valley, a northwest-southeast trending desert valley that constitutes the westernmost portion of the Colorado Desert. Dictated by this geographic setting, the climate and environment of the project area and its surrounding region are typical of southern California's desert country, marked by extremes in temperature and aridity. Temperatures in the region reach over 120 degrees in summer, and dip to near freezing in winter. Average annual precipitation is less than five inches, and the average annual evaporation rate exceeds three feet.

The irregularly shaped APE is located east of Gene Autry Trail and State Highway 111, north of Sunny Dunes Road, and west of Date Palm Drive, in an area of mixed light industrial, commercial, recreational, and residential uses, as mentioned above. Most of the APE has been developed or otherwise disturbed in the past, and much of it lies under pavement, including both roadways and parking lots (Fig. 2). The terrain is relatively level, with elevations ranging around 355-375 feet above mean sea level. Soils are of fine dune sands and coarse-grained sands with rocks and gravel, and are generally quite alkaline.

Native vegetation observed in and around the APE includes creosote bushes and brittle brush, with introduced and intrusive tamarisk trees, tumbleweeds, foxtails, and other small desert shrubs and grasses also noted. The area belongs to the Creosote Bush Scrub Plant Community, which is dominated by creosote bush and characterized by small spiny trees, shrubs, and cacti, typically found from below sea level to approximately 3,500 feet above

Figure 2. Typical landscapes in the APE. *Left*: along the north side of Ramon Road, view to the west; *right*: view to the southeast along the Whitewater River. (Photos taken on August 13, 2012)

sea level (Bean and Saubel 1972; Munz 1974). Other native plants would have included burrowbush, box thorn, encelia, prickly-pear, globemallow, cat's claw, smoke tree, and mesquite (Munz 1974). In this hot and arid environment, with sparse vegetation, common animals would have included snakes, lizards, roadrunners, coyotes, and jackrabbits. Almost all of these plants and animals were of economic importance to the aboriginal inhabitants of the Coachella Valley (Bean and Saubel 1972).

The Whitewater River running through the APE and the Palm Canyon Wash to the south would have increased the biodiversity in the area. Although the Whitewater River is a perennial stream, given the sandy soils and arid conditions of the valley, it is likely that in prehistoric times parts of the river would have been dry during the summer months. Coupled with the propensity of flash floods, the course of the river would have varied from season to season and year to year—as indicated by the width of the channel and its braided configuration. The need to channelize the river in historic and modern times attests to its unstable and varying course.

Geographically, the APE lies on an alluvial fan/pediment complex near the base of the San Jacinto-Santa Rosa Mountains and dominated by the Whitewater River. Dibblee (2008) maps the surface geology in the APE as mainly *Qg* with some *Qs* on the eastern side and some *Qa* on the western side. The *Qg* represents alluvial sand and gravel along major creeks and storm washes, the *Qs* is defined as sand dune deposits, and the *Qa* represents alluvial sand and gravel on the valley floor (*ibid*.).

Knecht (1980:Map Sheet 6) maps the surface soils within the Whitewater riverbed as *RA*, those east of the river as *CdC*, and those west of the river as *MaB* and *CdC*. The *RA*-type soils are known to form within or adjacent to active river channels (*ibid*.:26). The *CdC*-type soils belong to the Carsitas Series and form on predominantly coarse-textured gravelly or cobbly alluvium (*ibid*.:11). The *MaB*-type soils belong to the Myoma Series and form where alluvial fans merge with finer-textured plain and basin soils (*ibid*.:23).

Judging from its location and environment, the APE probably supported a local growth of mesquite in prehistoric times, and thus may have been used for resource gathering and

possibly short-term camping. However, it does not appear to be a favorable location for long-term settlement. The Whitewater River, the main natural waterway in the Coachella Valley, was seasonal at this location and was subject to flooding during heavy storms, and no springs or other permanent water sources are evident in the immediate area. In more recent times, the APE has experienced extensive disturbances as a result of channelization of the river, road construction, and real estate development. Therefore, the APE is assigned a low sensitivity for buried prehistoric cultural remains.

**PREHISTORY**

Numerous investigations on the history of cultural development in southern California have led researchers to propose a number of cultural chronologies for the desert regions. A specific cultural sequence for the Colorado Desert was offered by Schaefer (1994) on the basis of the many archaeological studies conducted in the area. The earliest time period identified is the Paleoindian (ca. 8,000 to 10,000-12,000 years ago), when "small, mobile bands" of hunters and gatherers, who relied on a variety of small and large game animals as well as wild plants for subsistence, roamed the region (*ibid*.:63). These small groups settled "on mesas and terraces overlooking larger washes" (*ibid*.:64). The artifact assemblage of that period typically consists of very simple stone tools, "cleared circles, rock rings, [and] some geoglyph types" (*ibid*.).

The Early Archaic Period follows and dates to ca. 8,000 to 4,000 years ago. It appears that a decrease in population density occurred at this time and that the indigenous groups of the area relied more on foraging than hunting. Very few archaeological remains have been identified to this time period. The ensuing Late Archaic Period (ca. 4,000 to 1,500 years ago) is characterized by continued low population densities and groups of "flexible" sizes that settled near available seasonal food resources and relied on "opportunistic" hunting of game animals. Groundstone artifacts for food processing were prominent during this time period.

The most recent period in Schaefer's scheme, the Late Prehistoric, dates from ca. 1,500 years ago to the time of the Spanish missions, and saw the continuation of the seasonal settlement pattern. Peoples of the Late Prehistoric Period were associated with the Patayan cultural pattern and relied more heavily on the availability of seasonal "wild plants and animal resources" (Schaefer 1994:66). It was during this period that brown and buff ware ceramics were introduced into the region.

The shores of Holocene Lake Cahuilla, during times of its presence, attracted much settlement and resource procurement; but in times of the lake's desiccation, according to Schaefer (1994:66), the Native people moved away from its receding shores towards rivers, streams, and mountains. Numerous archaeological sites dating to this time period have been identified along the shoreline of Holocene Lake Cahuilla. Testing and mitigative excavations at these sites have recovered brown and buff ware ceramics, a variety of groundstone and projectile point types, ornaments, and cremations.

**ETHNOGRAPHY**

The Coachella Valley is a historical center of Native American settlement, where U.S. surveyors noted large numbers of Indian villages and *rancherías*, occupied by the Cahuilla

people, in the mid-19th century. The Takic-speaking Cahuilla are generally divided by anthropologists into three groups, according to their geographic setting: the Pass Cahuilla of the San Gorgonio Pass-Palm Springs area, the Mountain Cahuilla of the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains and the Cahuilla Valley, and the Desert Cahuilla of the eastern Coachella Valley. The basic written sources on Cahuilla culture and history include Kroeber (1925), Strong (1929), and Bean (1978). The following ethnohistoric discussion is based primarily on these sources.

The Cahuilla did not have a single name that referred to an all-inclusive tribal affiliation. Instead, membership was in terms of lineages or clans. Each lineage or clan belonged to one of two main divisions of the people, known as moieties. Members of clans in one moiety had to marry into clans from the other moiety. Individual clans had villages, or central places, and territories they called their own, for purposes of hunting game, gathering food, or utilizing other necessary resources. They interacted with other clans through trade, intermarriage, and ceremonies.

The Cahuilla people were primarily hunters and gatherers who exploited nearly all of the resources available in a highly developed seasonal mobility system. They were adapted to the arid conditions of the desert floor, the lacustral cycles of Holocene Lake Cahuilla, and the environments of the nearby mountains. When the lake was full, or nearly full, the Cahuilla would take advantage of the resources presented by the body of fresh water. Once the lake had desiccated, they utilized the available terrestrial resources. They also migrated to the higher elevations of the nearby mountains to take advantage of the resources and cooler temperatures available in that environment.

The Cahuilla collected seeds, roots, wild fruits and berries, acorns, wild onions, piñon nuts, and mesquite and screw beans. Common game animals included deer, antelope, big horn sheep, rabbits, wood rats and, when Holocene Lake Cahuilla was present, fish and waterfowls. The Cahuilla hunted with throwing sticks, clubs, nets, traps, snares, as well as bows and arrow (Bean 1978; CSRI 2002). Common tools and utensils included manos and metates, mortars and pestles, hammerstones, fire drills, awls, arrow-straighteners, and stone knives and scrapers. These lithic tools were made from locally available material as well as exotic material procured through trade or travel. They also used wood, horn, and bone spoons and stirrers; baskets for winnowing, leaching, grinding, transporting, parching, storing, and cooking; and pottery vessels for carrying water, storage, cooking, and serving food and drink (*ibid.*).

Population data prior to European contact are almost impossible to obtain, but estimates range from 3,600 to as high as 10,000 persons. During the 19th century, however, the Cahuilla population was decimated as a result of European diseases, most notably smallpox, for which the Native peoples had no immunity. Today, Native Americans of Pass or Desert Cahuilla heritage are mostly affiliated with one or more of the Indian reservations in and near the Coachella Valley, including Agua Caliente, Morongo, Torres Martinez, Augustine, and Cabazon. As mentioned above, the APE includes a part of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, which was created in 1876 for the Kauisiktum ("from the rock") lineage of the Pass Cahuilla (Strong 1929:91).

## HISTORY

### Regional Overview

In 1823-1825, José Romero, José Maria Estudillo, and Romualdo Pacheco became the first noted European explorers to travel through the Coachella Valley when they led a series of expeditions in search of a route to Yuma (Johnston 1987:92-95). Due to its harsh environment, few non-Indians ventured into the desert valley during the Mexican and early American periods, except those traveling along the established trails. The most important of these trails was the Cocomaricopa Trail, an ancient Indian trading route that was "discovered" in 1862 by William David Bradshaw and known after that as the Bradshaw Trail (Gunther 1984:71; Ross 1992:25). In much of the Coachella Valley, this historic wagon road traversed a similar course to that of present-day Highway 111. During the 1860s-1870s, the Bradshaw Trail served as the main thoroughfare between coastal southern California and the Colorado River, until the completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1876-1877 brought an end to its heyday (Johnston 1987:185).

Non-Indian settlement in the Coachella Valley began in the 1870s with the establishment of railroad stations along the Southern Pacific Railroad, and spread further in the 1880s after public land was opened for claims under the Homestead Act, the Desert Land Act, and other federal land laws (Laflin 1998:35-36; Robinson 1948:169-171). Farming became the dominant economic activity in the valley thanks to the development of underground water sources, often in the form of artesian wells. Around the turn of the century, the date palm was introduced into the Coachella Valley, and by the late 1910s dates were the main agricultural crop and the tree an iconic image celebrating the region as the "Arabia of America" (Shields Date Gardens 1957). Then, starting in the 1920s, a new industry featuring equestrian camps, resorts, hotels, and eventually country clubs began to spread throughout the Coachella Valley, transforming it into southern California's premier winter retreat.

The City of Palm Springs owes its origin to the early development efforts led by John Guthrie McCallum, who began purchasing land in the area in 1872 (Gunther 1984:374). The townsite was surveyed and subdivided in 1884, initially under the name of "Palm City" (*ibid.*). After a resurvey in 1887, the new town acquired its present name (*ibid.*). The Palm Springs subdivision was an instant success despite its location in the heart of the southern California desert, thanks to an eight-mile-long irrigation ditch that McCallum built from the Whitewater River to the townsite. By 1892, Welwood Murray had leased the Agua Caliente hot springs from the local Native Americans to establish a health resort (*ibid.*:4), forecasting the future of development in the budding community. In the 1920s-1930s, Palm Springs was "discovered" by the rich and famous of Hollywood, and soon became a favored desert spa, the forerunner and nucleus of the Coachella Valley's resort industry.

Cathedral City, a relative "late boomer" in comparison, was founded in 1925, and named for its location at the mouth of Cathedral Canyon (Gunther 1984:105). Conceived as a development for low- to moderate-income housing, Cathedral City was characterized by its narrow streets lined by small and often odd-shaped lots, and soon became known as the "blue-collar neighbor" of Palm Springs (Hardie 1990; Moore 1990). During the 1930s, the budding town gained impetus by enticing Palm Springs visitors with two prominent gambling casinos (Burke 1978:117, 120). In the post-WWII years, Cathedral City, with

the other "cove communities"—Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, and La Quinta—along State Highway 111, became a major driving force in regional development, and began to play an increasingly important role in the regional economy. In 1981, Cathedral City was incorporated as the 18th city in Riverside County.

**The APE and Vicinity**

Based on the historic maps and aerial photographs consulted for this study, the APE appears to be relatively low in sensitivity for cultural resources from the historic period. In the 1850s-1880s, when the U.S. government conducted the first systematic land surveys in the Coachella Valley, the only man-made feature noted in the project vicinity was a road running along the Whitewater River bed (Figs. 3, 4).

Around the turn of the together century, despite the advent of the nearby town of Palm Springs and the Southern Pacific Railroad in the 1870s-1880s, the APE and the surrounding properties evidently continued to be unsettled and undeveloped (Fig. 5). By the early 1940s, Ramon Road had been laid out across the APE, and three buildings had appeared on its north side, on the east bank of the Whitewater River (Fig. 6). A decade later, those buildings were no longer extant, while another group of three buildings had appeared to the west of the river, also on the north side of Ramon Road (Fig. 7).

An aerial photograph from 1975 shows two buildings in existence in the APE at that time (Historic Aerials 1975). One was located near the northeast corner of Ramon Road and Crossley Road, where it has since been replaced by a convenience store of recent vintage.

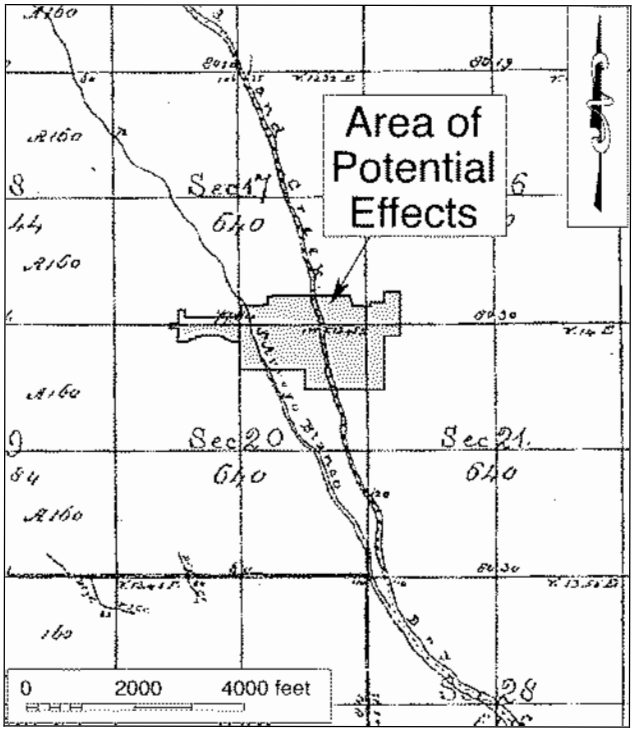



Figure 3. The APE and vicinity in 1855-1856. (Source: GLO 1856)

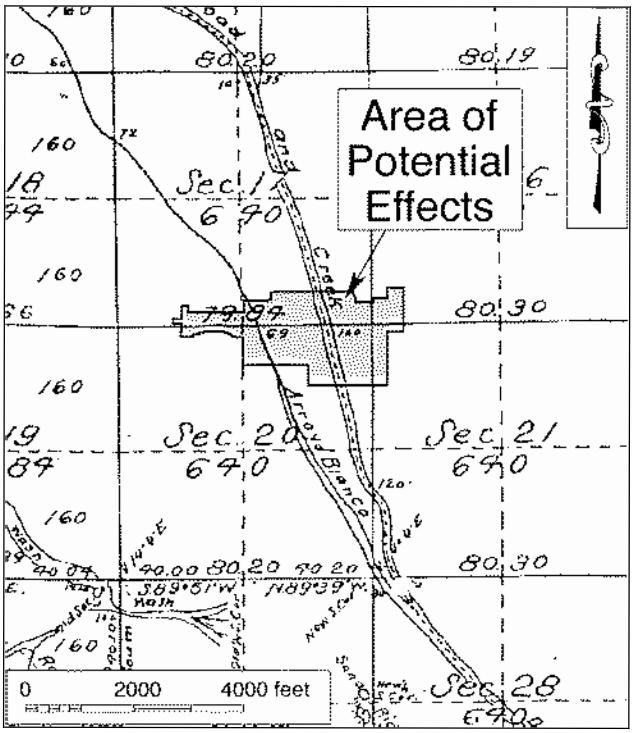



Figure 4. The APE and vicinity in 1885. (Source: GLO 1886)

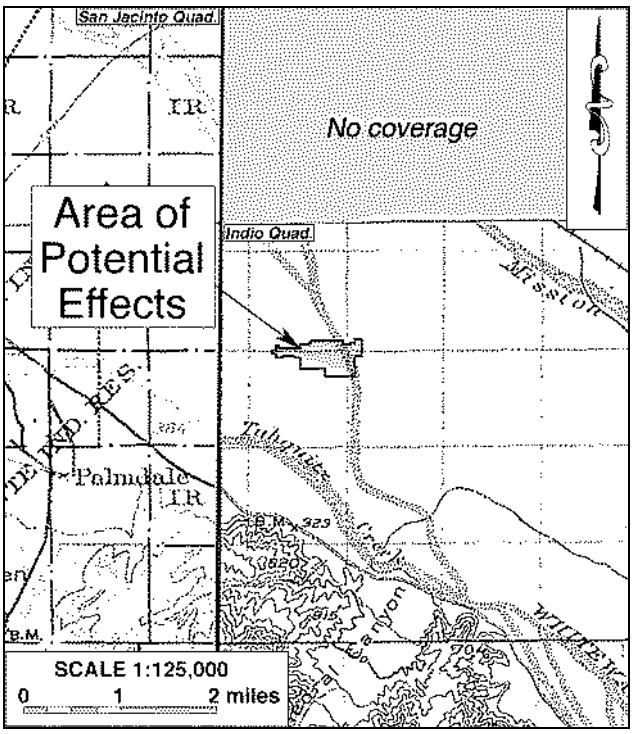



Figure 5. The APE and vicinity in 1897-1901. (Source: USGS 1901; 1904)

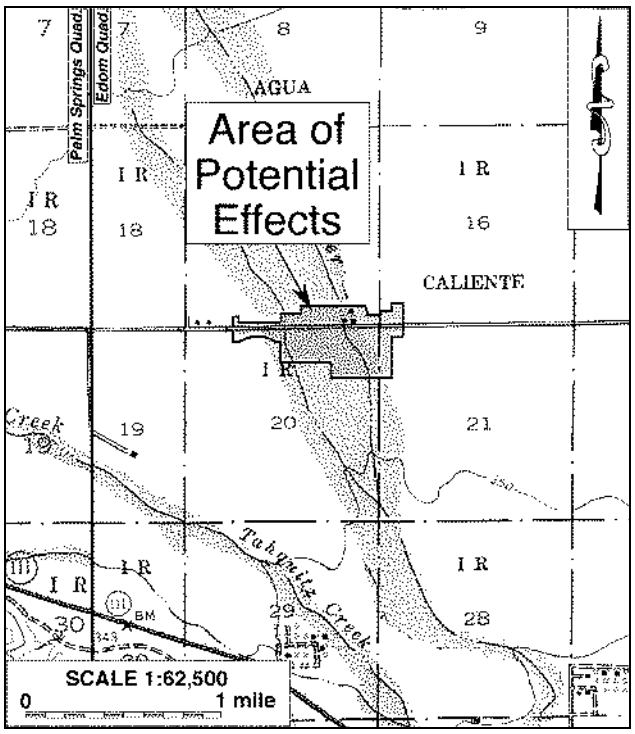



Figure 6. The APE and vicinity in 1940-1941. (Source: USGS 1940; 1941)

The location of the other corresponded to that of a building at 67-450 Ramon Road today, for which a new construction permit was finalized in 1972 (County of Riverside 1972).

## FIELD METHODS

As stated above, CRM TECH archaeologist Daniel Ballester carried out the field survey of the APE on August 13, 2012. The heavily disturbed right-of-way of Ramon Road and fully developed parcels along the street were surveyed at a reconnaissance level by driving along the project route and visually inspecting the surrounding ground surface for any indications of potential cultural resources. On undeveloped land within the APE, including the Whitewater riverbed and the proposed slope easements adjacent to it, a more intensive survey was conducted on foot by walking parallel transects spaced 15 meters (approx. 50 feet) apart.

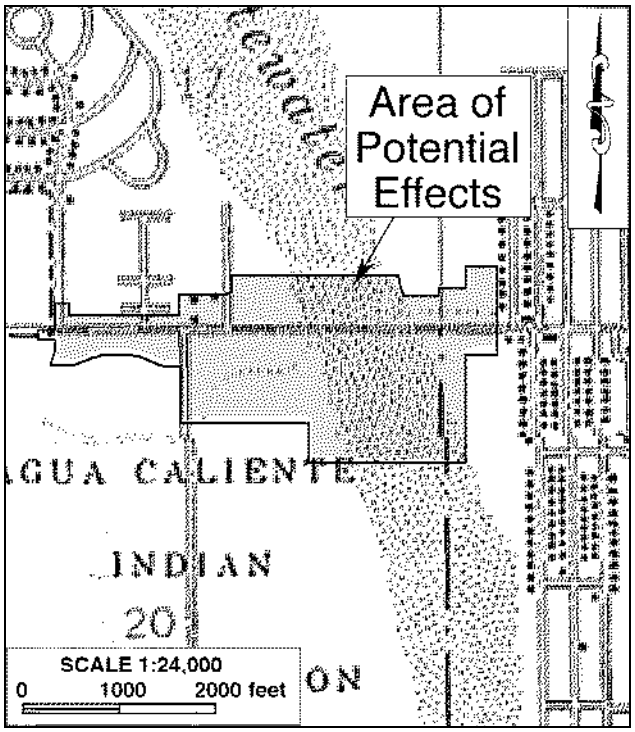



Figure 7. The APE and vicinity in 1956. (Source: USGS 1958)

Using these methods, the entire APE was systematically and carefully examined for any evidence of human activities dating to the prehistoric or historic period (i.e., 50 years or older). Since much of the APE lies under pavement, visibility of the native ground surface was generally poor, but was fair (70%) in areas of cleared and unpaved land.

## STUDY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features or artifact deposits, either prehistoric or historic in origin, were encountered during the survey, and the subsurface sediments in the APE appear to be low in sensitivity for buried cultural remains. Therefore, the present study concludes that no archaeological resources exist within the APE. If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, it is Caltrans' policy that work be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. Additional archaeological survey will be needed if project limits are extended beyond the present survey limits.

## REFERENCES


Bean, Lowell John
1978 Cahuilla. In Robert F. Heizer (ed.): *Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 8: *California*; pp. 575-587. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Bean, Lowell John, and Katherine Siva Saubel
1972 *Temalpakh: Cahuilla Indian Knowledge and Usage of Plants*. Malki Museum Press, Banning, California.

Burke, Tony
1978 *Palm Springs: Why I Love You*. Palmesa, Inc., Palm Desert.

County of Riverside
1972 Building and safety records, 67-450 Ramon Road. On file, Riverside County Building and Safety Department, Records Division, Riverside.

CSRI (Cultural Systems Research, Inc.)
2002 The Native Americans of Joshua Tree National Park: An Ethnographic Overview and Assessment Study. Http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/jotr/history6.htm.

Dibblee, Thomas W.
2004 Geologic Map of the Thousand Palms and Lost Horse Mountain 15-Minute Quadrangles, Riverside County, California. Dibblee Geology Center Map #DF-372. Santa Barbara, California.

GLO (General Land Office, U.S. Department of the Interior)
1856 Plat map: Township No. IV South Range No. V East, San Bernardino Meridian; surveyed in 1855-1856.
1886 Plat map: Township No. 4 South Range No. 5 East, San Bernardino Meridian; surveyed in 1885.

Gunther, Jane Davies
1984 *Riverside County, California, Place Names: Their Origins and Their Stories*. J. D. Gunther, Riverside.

Hardie, George
1990 Revitalizing Area Carries High Price Tag. *The Desert Sun* (Palm Springs) August 4:D1, D5.

Historic Aerials
1975 Aerial photograph, Cathedral City. Photograph No. 3310441, 7.5x7.5, revised 1977. Http://www.historicaerials.com/aerials.php?op=account.

Johnston, Francis J.
1987 *The Bradshaw Trail*; revised edition. Historical Commission Press, Riverside.

Knecht, Arnold A.
1980 *Soil Survey of Riverside County, California—Coachella Valley Area*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C.

Kroeber, Alfred L.
1925 *Handbook of the Indians of California*. Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 78. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Laflin, Patricia
1998 *Coachella Valley California: A Pictorial History*. The Donning Company, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Moore, Steve
1990 City's '25 Layout Hard to Redesign. *The Press-Enterprise* (Riverside) December 4:B1, B5.

Munz, Philip A.
1974 *A Flora of Southern California*. University of California Press, Berkeley.
Robinson, W. W.
1948 *Land in California*. University of California Press, Berkeley.
Ross, Delmer G.
1992 *Gold Road to La Paz: An Interpretive Guide to the Bradshaw Trail*. Tales of the Mojave Road Publishing Company, Essex, California.
Schaefer, Jerry
1994 The Challenge of Archaeological Research in the Colorado Desert: Recent Approaches and Discoveries. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 16(1):60-80.
Shields Date Gardens
1957 *Coachella Valley Desert Trails and the Romance and Sex Life of the Date*. Shields Date Gardens, Indio.
Strong, William Duncan
1929 *Aboriginal Society in Southern California*. University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology, Vol. 26. Reprinted by Malki Museum Press, Banning, California, 1972.
USGS (United States Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior)
1901 Map: San Jacinto, Calif. (30', 1:125,000); surveyed in 1897-1898.
1904 Map: Indio, Calif. (30', 1:125,000); surveyed in 1901.
1940 Map: Palm Springs, Calif. (15', 1:62,500); aerial photographs taken in 1940.
1941 Map: Edom, Calif. (15', 1:62,500); aerial photographs taken in 1941.
1958 Map: Cathedral City, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); aerial photographs taken in 1956.
1981 Map: Cathedral City, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); 1958 edition photorevised in 1978.
1996 Map: Palm Springs, Calif. (7.5', 1:24,000); 1957 edition photorevised in 1994.

## ATTACHMENT D

# CORRESPONDENCE WITH NATIVE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES*

* A total of 19 local Native American representatives were contacted; a sample letter is included in this attachment.

**Subject:** 2597 Ramon Road Widening Project NAHC Request
**Date:** Friday, August 24, 2012 10:36 AM
**From:** Nina <ngallardo@crmtech.us>
**To:** Dave Singleton <ds_nahc@pacbell.net>

Hi Dave,

This is to request a Sacred Lands records search.

Name of project:
Ramon Road Widening (CRM TECH #2597)

Project size:
Approx. 145 Acres

Location:
Cities of Cathedral City and Palm Springs, Riverside County

USGS 7.5' quad sheet data:
Cathedral City, Calif.
Sections 16, 17, 20, and 21, T4S R5E, SBBM

Map included. Please call if you need more information or have any questions. Results may be faxed to the number below.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Thanks,

Nina Gallardo
CRM TECH
1016 E. Cooley Dr., Ste. A/B
Colton, CA 92324
(909) 824-6400 Tel.
(909) 824-6405 Fax

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
ds_nahc@pacbell.net

August 27, 2012

Ms. Nina Gallardo, RPA
**CRM TECH**
1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324

Sent by FAX to: 909-824-6405
No. of Pages: 5

Re: Sacred Lands File Search and Native American Contacts list for the proposed Sacred Lands File Search and Native American Contacts list for the proposed **"Ramon Road Widening Projec (CRM TECH #2597)"** located in the Coachella Valley (City of Cathedral City); Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Gallardo

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) conducted a Sacred Lands provided and **Native American cultural resources were not identified** within one-half mile of the project site, the 'area of potential effect' (e.g. APE): you specified.. Also, please note; the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory is not exhaustive and does not preclude the discovery of cultural resources during any project groundbreaking activity..

California Public Resources Code §§5097.94 (a) and 5097.96 authorize the NAHC to establish a Sacred Land Inventory to record Native American sacred sites and burial sites. These records are exempt from the provisions of the California Public Records Act pursuant to. California Government Code §6254 (r). The purpose of this code is to protect such sites from vandalism, theft and destruction.

In the 1985 Appellate Court decision (170 Cal App 3rd 604), the court held that the NAHC has jurisdiction and special expertise, as a state agency, over affected Native American resources, impacted by proposed projects including archaeological, places of religious significance to Native Americans and burial sites

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – CA Public Resources Code §§ 21000-21177, amendments effective 3/18/2010) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as 'a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of physical conditions within an area affected by the proposed project, including ...objects of historic or aesthetic significance." In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE), and if so, to mitigate that effect. CA Government Code §65040.12(e) defines "environmental justice" provisions and is applicable to the environmental review processes.

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries once a project is underway. Local Native Americans may have knowledge of the religious and cultural significance of the historic properties of the proposed project for the area (e.g. APE). Consultation with Native American communities is also a matter of environmental justice as defined by California Government Code §65040.12(e). We urge consultation with those tribes and interested Native Americans on the list that the NAHC has provided in order to see if your proposed project might impact Native American cultural resources. Lead agencies should consider avoidance as defined in §15370 of the CEQA Guidelines when significant cultural resources as defined by the CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 (b)(c)(f) may be affected by a proposed project. If so, Section 15382 of the CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as "substantial," and Section 2183.2 which requires documentation, data recovery of cultural resources.

The 1992 *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* were revised so that they could be applied to all historic resource types included in the National Register of Historic Places and including cultural landscapes. Also, federal Executive Orders Nos. 11593 (preservation of cultural environment), 13175 (coordination & consultation) and 13007 (Sacred Sites) are helpful, supportive guides for Section 106 consultation. The aforementioned Secretary of the Interior's *Standards* include recommendations for all 'lead agencies' to consider the historic context of proposed projects and to "research" the cultural landscape that might include the 'area of potential effect.'

Partnering with local tribes and interested Native American consulting parties, on the NAHC list, should be conducted in compliance with the requirements of federal NEPA (42 U.S.C 4321-43351) and Section 106 4(f), Section 110 and (k) of the federal NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq*), Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (23 CFR 774); 36 CFR Part 800.3 (f) (2) & .5, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CSQ, 42 U.S.C 4371 *et seq.* and NAGPRA (25 U.S.C. 3001-3013) as appropriate. The 1992 *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* were revised so that they could be applied to all historic resource types included in the National Register of Historic Places and including cultural landscapes. Also, federal Executive Orders Nos. 11593 (preservation of cultural environment), 13175 (coordination & consultation) and 13007 (Sacred Sites) are helpful, supportive guides for Section 106 consultation. The NAHC remains concerned about the limitations and methods employed for NHPA Section 106 Consultation.

Also, California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, California Government Code §27491 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for accidentally discovered archeological resources during construction and mandate the processes to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery', another important reason to have Native American Monitors on board with the project.

To be effective, consultation on specific projects must be the result of an ongoing relationship between Native American tribes and lead agencies, project proponents and their contractors, in the opinion of the NAHC. An excellent way to reinforce the relationship between a project and local tribes is to employ Native American Monitors in all phases of proposed projects including the planning phases.

Confidentiality of "historic properties of religious and cultural significance" may also be protected under Section 304 of he NHPA or at the Secretary of the Interior discretion if not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Secretary may also be

advised by the federal Indian Religious Freedom Act (cf. 42 U.S.C., 1996) in issuing a decision on whether or not to disclose items of religious and/or cultural significance identified in or near the APE and possibility threatened by proposed project activity.

If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton

Attachment: Native American Contact List

**Native American Contacts**
**Riverside County**
**August 27, 2012**

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
David Roosevelt, Chairperson
84-245 Indio Springs Cahuilla
Indio , CA 92203-3499
(760) 342-2593
(760) 347-7880 Fax

Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians
John Marcus, Chairman
P.O. Box 391820 Cahuilla
Anza , CA 92539
(951) 659-2700
(951) 659-2228 Fax

Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians
Shane Chapparosa, Chairman
P.O. Box 189 Cahuilla
Warner , CA 92086
(760) 782-0711
(760) 782-2701 - FAX

Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
Mary Ann Green, Chairperson
P.O. Box 846 Cahuilla
Coachella , CA 92236
(760) 398-4722
760-369-7161 - FAX

Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
Joseph Hamilton, Chairman
P.O. Box 391670 Cahuilla
Anza , CA 92539
admin@ramonatribe.com
(951) 763-4105
(951) 763-4325 Fax

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Michael Contreras, Cultural Heritage Prog.
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning , CA 92220 Serrano
**(951) 201-1866 - cell**
mcontreras@morongo-nsn.
gov
(951) 922-0105 Fax

Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Mary Resvaloso, Chairperson
PO Box 1160 Cahuilla
Thermal , CA 92274
mresvaloso@torresmartinez.
(760) 397-0300
(760) 397-8146 Fax

Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Diana L. Chihuahua, Vice Chairperson, Cultural
P.O. Boxt 1160 Cahuilla
Thermal , CA 92274
760) 397-0300, Ext. 1209
(760) 272-9039 - cell (Lisa)
(760) 397-8146 Fax

**This list is current only as of the date of this document.**

**Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.**

**This list is applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Ramon road Widening Project (CRM #2597); located in the City of Cathedral City; Riverside County, California for which a Sacred Lands File search and Native American Contacts list were requested.**

**Native American Contacts**
**Riverside County**
**August 27, 2012**

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians THPO
Patricia Tuck, Tribal Historic Perservation Officer
5401 Dinah Shore Drive Cahuilla
Palm Springs, CA 92264
ptuck@augacaliente-nsn.gov
(760) 699-6907

(760) 699-6924- Fax

Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
Karen Kupcha
P.O. Box 849 Cahuilla
Coachella , CA 92236
(760) 398-4722
916-369-7161 - FAX

Cahuilla Band of Indians
Chairperson
PO Box 391760 Cahuilla
Anza , CA 92539
tribalcouncil@cahuilla.net
915-763-5549

**This list is current only as of the date of this document.**

**Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.**

**This list is applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Ramon road Widening Project (CRM #2597); located in the City of Cathedral City; Riverside County, California for which a Sacred Lands File search and Native American Contacts list were requested.**

**CRM TECH**
1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324

August 31, 2012

Mike Contreras, Jr.
Cultural Heritage Program Coordinator
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA 92220

RE: Ramon Road Widening Project
145 Acres in the Cities of Cathedral City and Palm Springs
Riverside County, California
CRM TECH Contract #2597

Dear Mr. Contreras:

Caltrans is proposing to widen and make other improvements to Ramon Road between San Luis Rey Drive to Landau Boulevard in the Cities of Cathedral City and Palm Springs, Riverside County, California. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) encompasses a total of 145 acres of land on both sides of Ramon Road, which includes portions of Agua Caliente reservation land in the City of Palm Springs and a mix of open land and residential and commercial properties in the City of Cathedral City. The enclosed map depicts the location of the APE in Sections 16, 17, 20, and 21, T4S R5E, SBBM, based on the USGS Cathedral City, Calif., 7.5' quadrangle. CRM TECH has been hired to conduct a cultural resource study for the proposed project, including Native American scoping.

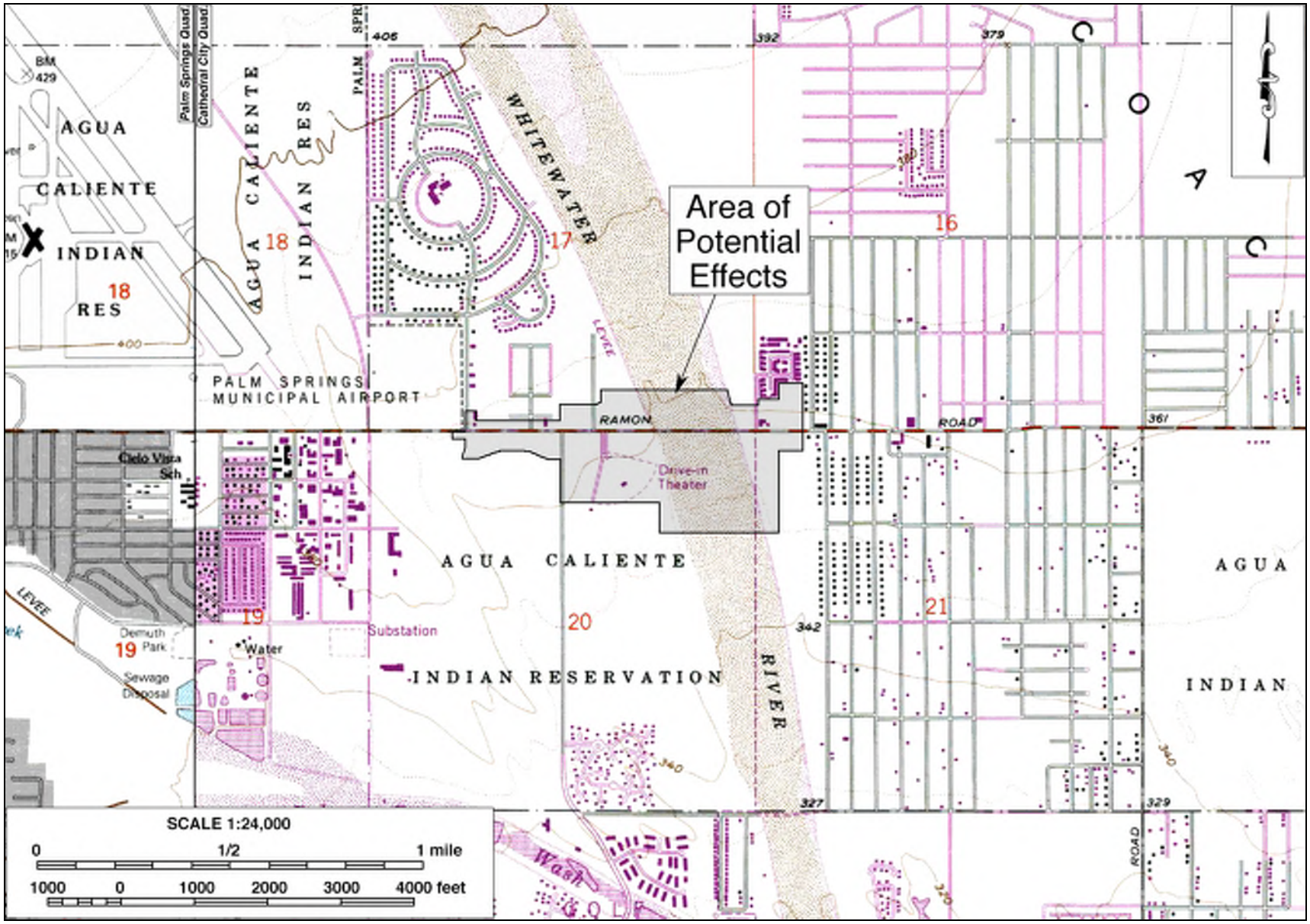
In a letter dated August 27, 2012, the Native American Heritage Commission reports that the sacred lands record search identified no Native American cultural resources within the APE, but recommends that local Native American groups be contacted for further information. Therefore, I am writing to request your input on potential Native American cultural resources in or near the APE as part of the cultural resources study.

According to records on file at the Eastern Information Center, located on the campus of the University of California, Riverside, there are no known historical/archaeological sites within the boundaries of the APE, and a systematic field survey of the APE on August 13 encountered no Native American cultural resources.

Please respond at your earliest convenience if you have any specific knowledge of sacred/ religious sites or other sites of Native American traditional cultural value within or near the APE. Information and comment may be forwarded to CRM TECH by telephone, e-mail, facsimile, or standard mail. Requests for documentation or information we cannot provide will be forwarded to our client and/or the lead agency, which is Caltrans District 8 for Section 106-compliance purposes. We would also like to clarify that CRM TECH, as the cultural resources consultant for the project, is not the appropriate entity to initiate government-to-government consultations. Thank you for the time and effort in addressing this important matter.

Respectfully,

Nina Gallardo
CRM TECH
Email: ngallardo@crmtech.us
Encl.: APE map




Project location (based on the USGS Cathedral City and Palm Springs, Calif., 1:24,000 quadrangles)

## SUMMARY OF NATIVE AMERICAN INPUT AND FOLLOW-UP CONTACTS

| Name | Tribe/Affiliation | Telephone Contacts | Comments | Responses to Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Patricia Garcia, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer | Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians | 9/14/2012, 2:02 pm<br>9/17/2012, 9:10 am<br>9/17/2012, 9:20 am<br>9/27/2012, 9:30 am<br>10/2/2012, 3:44 pm | Ms. Garcia responded in letters dated October 2, 2012, July 26, 2013, and August 8, 2013 (copies attached). Ms. Garcia outlined the following requirements by the tribe: a 100% cultural resources survey of the APE, copies of this report for tribal review, proper treatment of human remains, and Native American monitoring of ground-disturbing activities on reservation land. | An intensive-level survey of the APE was completed. Records search results were forwarded to the tribe, and the final report will be when completed. Native American monitoring requirement will be addressed in accordance with Caltrans policies and in consultation with the tribe. |
| Sean Milanovich, Cultural Specialist | Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians | None | Patricia Garcia is the designated spokesperson for the tribe (see above). | |
| Mary Ann Green, Chairperson | Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians | None | Ms. Green responded in a letter dated September 14, 2012 (copy attached). Ms. Green encouraged contact with tribes in the immediate vicinity of the APE and the implementation of Native American monitoring during pre-construction and construction phases of the undertaking, and requested immediate notification of any archaeological discoveries. | The Agua Caliente Band was contacted. Native American monitoring recommendation will be addressed in accordance with Caltrans policies. Ms. Green will be notified upon discovery of archaeological resources. |
| Karen Kupcha | Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians | 9/14/2012, 2:05 pm | Wrong number | |
| David L. Saldivar, Tribal Government Affairs Manager | Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians | 9/14/2012, 2:39 pm | Mr. Saldivar stated that the tribe's response was being prepared. | |
| David Roosevelt, Chairperson | Cabazon Band of Mission Indians | None | Judy Stapp responded on behalf of the tribe (see below). | |
| Judy Stapp, Director of Cultural Affairs | Cabazon Band of Mission Indians | None | Ms. Stapp responded in a letter dated September 6, 2012 (copy attached), deferring further consultation to the Agua Caliente Band. | The Agua Caliente Band was contacted. |

| Name | Tribe/Affiliation | Telephone Contacts | Comments | Responses to Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yvonne Markle, Environmental Office Manager | Cahuilla Band of Indians | 9/14/2012, 2:39 pm | Ms. Markle stated that the tribe wished to defer to the Agua Caliente Band, but strongly recommended Native American monitoring during ground-disturbing activities. If a Native American monitor is difficult to locate, the Cahuilla Band would offer the service of its monitoring team. | The Agua Caliente Band was contacted. Native American monitoring recommendation will be addressed in accordance with Caltrans policies. |
| Luther Salgado, Sr., Chairperson | Cahuilla Band of Indians | None | Yvonne Markle is the designated spokesperson for the tribe (see above). | |
| Shane Chapparosa, Chairperson | Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians | 9/14/2012, 2:28 pm<br>9/17/2012, 9:06 am<br>6/21/2013, 4:00 pm<br>6/21/2013, 4:48 pm | Left messages; no response to date. | |
| Mike Contreras, Jr., Cultural Heritage Program Coordinator (2012) | Morongo Band of Mission Indians | 9/14/2012, 2:32 pm<br>9/17/2012, 9:05 am | Left messages; no response. | |
| William Madrigal, Jr., Cultural Heritage Program Coordinator (2013) | Morongo Band of Mission Indians | 6/21/2013, 4:45 pm | Mr. Madrigal stated that the tribe had no concerns regarding the undertaking and wished to defer to the Agua Caliente Band. | The Agua Caliente Band was contacted. |
| John Gomez, Jr., Cultural Resources Coordinator | Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians | 9/14/2012, 2:30 pm<br>9/14/2012, 9:02 am<br>6/21/2013, 9:14 am | Mr. Gomez responded by e-mail on June 25, 2013 (copy attached), and recommended the Agua Caliente Band as the most appropriate tribe to consult with. | The Agua Caliente Band was contacted. |
| Joseph Hamilton, Chairman | Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians | None | John Gomez, Jr., is the designated spokesperson for the tribe (see above). | |
| Steven Estrada, Environmental Director | Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians | 9/14/2012, 3:53 pm<br>9/17/2012, 8:59 am | Mr. Estrada stated that the tribe wished to defer to the Agua Caliente Band. | The Agua Caliente Band was contacted. |
| John Marcus, Chairman | Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians | None | Steven Estrada is the designated spokesperson for the tribe (see above). | |
| Dianna Chihuahua, Vice-Chairperson | Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians | None | Matthew Krystal is the designated spokesperson for the tribe (see below). | |

| Name | Tribe/Affiliation | Telephone Contacts | Comments | Responses to Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Matthew Krystall, Tribal Resource Manager | Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians | 9/14/2012, 3:36 pm<br>9/17/2012, 8:56 am<br>6/21/2013, 9:40 am<br>6/21/2013, 4:50 pm | Left messages; no response to date. | |
| Mary Resvaloso, Chairperson | Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians | None | Matthew Krystal is the designated spokesperson for the tribe (see above). | |

September 6, 2012

Nina Gallardo
CRM TECH
1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324

Re.: Ramon Road Widening Project
145 Acres in the Cities of Cathedral City and Palm Springs
Riverside County, California
CRM TECH Contract #2597

Dear Ms. Gallardo:

Thank you for contacting the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians regarding the above referenced project.

The project is located outside of Cabazon Reservation lands. The Cabazon Band has no specific archival information on the site indicating that it may be a sacred/religious site or other site of Native American traditional cultural value. The Cabazon Band will defer future consultation to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

We look forward to continued collaboration in the preservation of cultural resources or areas of traditional cultural importance.

Sincerely,

Judy Stapp

Judy Stapp
Director of Cultural Affairs

RECEIVED SEP 08 2012

84-245 INDIO SPRINGS PARKWAY • INDIO, CALIFORNIA 92203-3499 • (760) 342-2593 FAX (760) 347-7880

# AUGUSTINE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

P.O. Box 846 • Coachella, CA 92236 • (760) 398-4722 • Fax (760) 398-4252

Tribal Chairperson: MaryAnn Green


September 14, 2012

Nina Gallardo
CRM Tech
1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324

RE: Ramon Road Widening Project (Cathedral City and Palm Springs, CA)

Dear Ms. Gallardo:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer input concerning the development of the above-identified project. We appreciate your sensitivity to the cultural resources that may be impacted by your project, and the importance of these cultural resources to the Native American peoples that have occupied the land surrounding the area of your project for thousands of years. Unfortunately, increased development and lack of sensitivity to cultural resources has resulted in many significant cultural resources being destroyed or substantially altered and impacted. Your invitation to consult on this project is greatly appreciated.

At this time we are unaware of specific cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed project. We encourage you to contact other Native American Tribes and individuals within the immediate vicinity of the project site that may have specific information concerning cultural resources that may be located in the area. We also encourage you to contract with a monitor who is qualified in Native American cultural resources identification and who is able to be present on-site full-time during the pre-construction and construction phase of the project. Please notify us immediately should you discover any cultural resources during the development of this project.

Very truly yours,

Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians

Mary Ann Green

Mary Ann Green
Tribal Chairperson

RECEIVED SEP 19 2012

**Subject:** Ramon Road Improvement Project
**Date:** Tuesday, September 18, 2012 2:01 PM
**From:** B. Tom Tang <ttang@crmtech.us>
**To:** <ptuck@aguacaliente-nsn.gov>

Hi, Pattie!

Laura mentioned to me yesterday that you would be sending in a comment letter soon on the Ramon Road Improvement Project, and I'm just following up to see how that's coming along. Since the APE is partially on Agua Caliente land, I would really like to hear from you before we finalize the report.

Thanks!

*Bai Tom Tang, M.A.*
Principal, CRM TECH
1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324
Phone: 909.824.6400
Fax: 909.824.6405

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

October 2, 2012

Laura Hensley Shaker
CRM TECH
1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite B
Colton, CA 92324

**Re**: Native American Cultural Resources: Ramon Road Widening Project, Riverside County, CRM TECH Contract #2597

Dear Ms. Shaker:

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians appreciates your efforts to include the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in the Ramon Road Widening Project. The proposed project location is located on the ACBCI Reservation. A records check of the Agua Caliente Register indicates no previously recorded archaeological sites within one mile of the APE, although; there have been some surveys completed around the APE but not on the APE. Because of this, the Agua Caliente THPO requires:

1. A 100% cultural resources inventory of the project area by a qualified archaeologist prior to any development activities in this area. A records check of the Agua Caliente Register indicates no survey of the APE has been conducted.

2. The presence of an approved Native American Cultural Resource Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities (including archaeological testing and surveys). Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor may request that destructive construction halt and the Monitor shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to investigate and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Agua Caliente Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

3. Please forward copies of any cultural resource documentation (report and site records) generated in connection with these efforts to the Tribal Historic Preservation Office for review and comment.

4. Should human remains be discovered during construction of the proposed project, the project contractor would be subject to the State law regarding the discovery and disturbance of human remains. In that circumstance destructive activity in the immediate vicinity shall halt and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5. If the

5401 DINAH SHORE DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264
T 760/699/6800 F 760/699/6924 WWW.AGUACALIENTE-NSN.GOV

remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be contacted. The NAHC will make a determination of the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The City and Developer will work with the designated MLD to determine the final disposition of the remains.

Again, the Agua Caliente appreciates your interest in our cultural heritage. If you have questions or require additional information, please call me at (760) 699-6907. You may also email me at ptuck@aguacaliente-nsn.gov.

Cordially,

Patricia Garcia-Tuck
Director
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
AGUA CALIENTE BAND
OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

C: Agua Caliente Cultural Register

X:\CONSULTATIONS Letters\2012\External\TUA\CRMTECH_ 2597_10_02_12.doc

**From:** Nina <ngallardo@crmtech.us>
**Date:** Fri, 21 Jun 2013 16:34:23 -0700
**To:** Shane Chapparosa <loscoyotes@earthlink.net>, William Madrigal <WMadrigal@morongo-nsn.gov>, John Gomez <jgomez@ramonatribe.com>, Matthew Krystall <mkrystall@tmdci-nsn.gov>
**Subject:** Ramon Road Widening Follow-up

CRM TECH is following up on the Ramon Road Widening Project. Telephone calls were made today as an attempt to re-contact those tribes who had not previously responded to the August 2012 consultation letter for this project. Attached is a copy of the original letter along with the APE map.

---

**From:** John Gomez <jgomez@ramona-nsn.gov>
**Date:** Tue, 25 Jun 2013 10:23:16 -0700
**To:** Nina <ngallardo@crmtech.us>
**Cc:** Shane Chapparosa <loscoyotes@earthlink.net>, William Madrigal <WMadrigal@morongo-nsn.gov>
**Subject:** Re: Ramon Road Widening Follow up

Nina:

Based on the location of the proposed action which is on or adjacent to the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians would be the most appropriate Tribe to seek input and consult with.

Thanks,

John Gomez, Jr.
Project Manager
Ramona Band of Cahuilla

---

**From:** John Criste <jcriste@terranovaplanning.com>
**Date:** Monday, July 22, 2013 10:50 AM
**To:** "Garcia, Pattie (TRBL)" <pagarcia@aguacaliente.net>
**Subject:** Revised Dft ACBCI Ltr for RR Bridge 08-RIV-0-PSp Ramon Road Widening from San Luis Rey Drive to Landau Boulevard BHLS-5282(040)

Hi, Pattie:

I just left a phone message for you and, as I mentioned, have sent this email in the hope that you can help us help Caltrans.

It looks like we are going into the fourth revision to the HPSR/ASR for the Ramon Road widening project. At this juncture it also looks like Caltrans would like the Tribe to be definite now on where Tribal monitoring should occur in the project area, as opposed to when a formal response from the THPO is requested when the Caltrans-approved report is sent.

I have attached the APE for this project, which may help to clarify matters for the Tribe. Tom Tang at CRM Tech is the project principal and we are both working to satisfy Caltrans but it looks like we really need your help.

Please take a look at the first email below, the rest not being especially relevant but the last one. I have excepted in red below the relevant question posed by Caltrans.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

John

Terra Nova Planning & Research, Inc.®
42635 Melanie Place, Ste 101
Palm Desert, CA 92211
Phone: 760-341-4800
Fax: 760-341-4455
E-Mail: jcriste@terranovaplanning.com

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

July 26, 2013

[VIA EMAIL TO:Victoria.Stosel@calsta.ca.gov]
Caltrans
Ms. Victoria Stosel
464 W. Fourth Street, 6th Floor, MS-825
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Re: RR Bridge 08-RIV-0-PSp Ramon Road Widening from San Luis REy Drive to Landau Boulevard BHLS-5282(040)

Dear Ms. Victoria Stosel,

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) appreciates your efforts to include the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in the Ramon Road Widening project. A records check of the ACBCI cultural registry revealed that the project area is both on and off ACBCI reservation land. However, the entire project area is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area (TUA). For this reason, the ACBCI THPO requests the folllowing:

> *The presence of an approved Native American Cultural Resource Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities (including archaeological testing and surveys). Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor may request that destructive construction halt and the Monitor shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to investigate and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Agua Caliente Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Again, the Agua Caliente appreciates your interest in our cultural heritage. If you have questions or require additional information, please call me at (760)699-6907. You may also email me at ptuck@aguacaliente.net.

Cordially,

Pattie Garcia
Director
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
AGUA CALIENTE BAND
OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

5401 DINAH SHORE DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264
T 760/699/6800 F 760/699/6924 WWW.AGUACALIENTE-NSN.GOV

**From:** John Criste <jcriste@terranovaplanning.com>
**Date:** Friday, August 2, 2013 2:51 PM
**To:** "Garcia, Pattie (TRBL)" <pagarcia@aguacaliente.net>
**Cc:** Kelly Clark <kclark@terranovaplanning.com>, "B. Tom Tang" <ttang@crmtech.us>
**Subject:** Revised Dft ACBCI Ltr for RR Bridge 08-RIV-0-PSp Ramon Road Widening from San Luis Rey Drive to Landau Boulevard BHLS-5282(040)

Pattie:

I am again writing to ask if you can help us get the Ramon Road widening project through Caltrans. My original recommendation to have the Tribe assume monitoring responsibility for the entire project was based on Caltrans staff's either/or recommendation; as I explained below this was incorrect.

Since no cultural resources were found in the project surveys, Caltrans policy (see Gary Jone's email below) does not allow them to require monitoring.

Please know that I am not trying to be presumptuous; for your consideration I have drafted an alternative letter that withdraws the Tribe's July 26th version and replaces it with one that requests monitoring on that portion of the project occurring on Reservation lands.

There will still be conditions on the project that require work stoppage and the calling in of a monitor in the unlikely event that resources are encountered, regardless of whether on Reservation of non-Reservation lands.

I hope the attached prototype can work and that you can send the replacement to Ms. Stosel at Caltrans. Until we resolve this matter, we cannot move the cultural resources portion of our project forward.

Thanks for your understanding and consideration.

John

Terra Nova Planning & Research, Inc.®
42635 Melanie Place, Ste 101
Palm Desert, CA 92211
Phone: 760-341-4800
Fax: 760-341-4455
E-Mail: jcriste@terranovaplanning.com

> **From:** "Jones, Gary A@DOT" <gary.jones@dot.ca.gov>
> **Date:** Tuesday, July 30, 2013 2:33 PM
> **To:** John Criste <jcriste@terranovaplanning.com>, Victoria Stosel <Victoria.Stosel@dot.ca.gov>
> **Cc:** "B. Tom Tang" <ttang@crmtech.us>, "Duff, Gabrielle@DOT" <gabrielle.duff@dot.ca.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: RR Bridge 08-RIV-0-PSp Ramon Road Widening from San Luis Rey Drive to Landau Boulevard BHLS-5282(040)

Hi John,

I'm going to step in here briefly and see if I can help this project along. We are in a unique position here with the Agua Caliente Band in that they are the only tribal group in the Inland Empire with a THPO. As such, we consult with Pattie on two levels. The first stage of consultation is conducted with Pattie as the cultural resource coordinator for the tribe. This is where we work out all the details of her requests and resolve the project requirements with her, just like we do with the other tribal groups in the area. The second stage is after the cultural study is done and we submit the finalized, signed report to her for her concurrence as THPO.

For Ramon Road, we are still in the midst of the first stage. Pattie has requested monitoring of the entire project footprint. As I understand it, there are no known cultural resources within the project footprint. By Caltrans policy (the Winters Memo 2003), we do not allow monitoring of projects if there are no known resources or a high probability of hitting resources during construction for known reasons. Because part of this project is on reservation lands, Pattie can have monitoring on the part of the footprint within the reservation boundaries on her say so. This is not the case for the portion of the project outside the reservation boundary. Pattie's request for monitoring outside the reservation will have to be officially denied with a request for additional information about the potential resources she is concerned about if she wishes to pursue monitoring in the area off the reservation. Each of the requests in Pattie's original response letter as well as her clarification letter that requests monitoring of the entire project footprint must be closed out before Caltrans will consider consultation with Agua Caliente completed for this stage of the project. The Cultural technical study cannot be signed by District staff until the consultation is complete.

Because this project seems to be having some issues, I recommend a focus meeting, or at least a conference call to outline our path to a successful resolution of the technical study.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary Jones
Associate Environmental Planner, Archaeologist
District Native American Coordinator
Environmental Support/Cultural Studies
California Department of Transportation, District 8
464 W. Fourth Street, 8th Floor, MS-825
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400
909/383-7505

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

August 08, 2013

[VIA EMAIL TO:Victoria.Stosel@calsta.ca.gov]
Caltrans
Ms. Victoria Stosel
464 W. Fourth Street, 6th Floor, MS-825
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Re: Native American Monitoring requested on reservation land only for RR Bridge 08-RIV-0-PSp Ramon Road Widening from San Luis Rey Drive to Landau Boulevard BHLS-5282(040).

Dear Ms. Victoria Stosel,

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) appreciates your efforts to include the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in the Ramon Road Widening project. A records check of the ACBCI cultural registry revealed that the project area is both on and off ACBCI reservation land. However, the entire project area is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area (TUA). For this reason, the ACBCI THPO requests the folllowing:

*The presence of an approved Native American Cultural Resource Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities occuring on reservation land.

Again, the Agua Caliente appreciates your interest in our cultural heritage. If you have questions or require additional information, please call me at (760)699-6907. You may also email me at ptuck@aguacaliente.net.

Cordially,

Pattie Garcia
Director
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
AGUA CALIENTE BAND
OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

5401 DINAH SHORE DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264
T 760/699/6800 F 760/699/6924 WWW.AGUACALIENTE-NSN.GOV

**Subject:** Ramon Road Widening Project 08-RIV-0-PSp BHLS-5282 (040) Native American Consultation
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2014 1:00 PM
**From:** B. Tom Tang <ttang@crmtech.us>
**To:** Pattie Garcia <pagarcia@aguacaliente.net>
**Cc:** "Stosel, Victoria@DOT" <victoria.stosel@dot.ca.gov>, John Criste <jcriste@terranovaplanning.com>, Kelly Clark <kclark@terranovaplanning.com>, "Jones, Gary A@DOT" <gary.jones@dot.ca.gov>

Hi, Pattie!

This is a follow-up to your previous response regarding the project referenced above. In your letter dated October 2, 2012, you requested copies of all cultural resources documentation generated from this project for tribal review and comment. Recently, a question was raised on whether that request includes, in additional to our report, the records search results from the Eastern Information Center.

As I recall, your office has previously informed us that copies of the records search results would not be necessary for our initial contact with the tribe during the information-gathering process because of the coverage of the Agua Caliente Register, and we have followed that advice for all subsequent projects since then. For this project, however, Caltrans has requested that we obtain from your office a specific clarification whether or not copies of our records search results from the EIC are among the documentation that was requested in your letter. Your timely response to this question will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for your time!

*Bai Tom Tang, M.A.*
*Principal, CRM TECH*
*1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B*
*Colton, CA 92324*
*Phone: 909.824.6400*
*Fax: 909.824.6405*

---

**Subject:** RE: Ramon Road Widening Project 08-RIV-0-PSp BHLS-5282 (040) Native American Consultation
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2014 2:39 PM
**From:** Garcia, Patricia (TRBL) <pagarcia@aguacaliente.net>
**To:** "'B. Tom Tang'" <ttang@crmtech.us>
**Cc:** "Stosel, Victoria@DOT" <victoria.stosel@dot.ca.gov>, John Criste <jcriste@terranovaplanning.com>, Kelly Clark <kclark@terranovaplanning.com>, "Jones, Gary A@DOT" <gary.jones@dot.ca.gov>

Happy New Year!

Actually we typically request a copy of all record searches for all projects. You can forward these documents to our address below.

Best regards,
Pattie

Patricia Garcia, Director
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264
Direct (760) 699-6907
Cell (760) 567-3761
Fax (760) 699-6924

---

**Subject:** Re: Ramon Road Widening Project 08-RIV-0-PSp BHLS-5282 (040) Native American Consultation
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2014 2:45 PM
**From:** B. Tom Tang <ttang@crmtech.us>
**To:** "Garcia, Patricia (TRBL)" <pagarcia@aguacaliente.net>
**Cc:** "Stosel, Victoria@DOT" <victoria.stosel@dot.ca.gov>, John Criste <jcriste@terranovaplanning.com>, Kelly Clark <kclark@terranovaplanning.com>, "Jones, Gary A@DOT" <gary.jones@dot.ca.gov>

Pattie:

I am sorry about the misconception. I will have the records search results for this project scanned and forwarded to you right away.

Tom

---

**Subject:** Re: Ramon Road Widening Project 08-RIV-0-PSp BHLS-5282 (040) Native American Consultation
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2014 3:13 PM
**From:** B. Tom Tang <ttang@crmtech.us>
**To:** "Garcia, Patricia (TRBL)" <pagarcia@aguacaliente.net>
**Cc:** "Stosel, Victoria@DOT" <victoria.stosel@dot.ca.gov>, John Criste <jcriste@terranovaplanning.com>, Kelly Clark <kclark@terranovaplanning.com>, "Jones, Gary A@DOT" <gary.jones@dot.ca.gov>

Hi, Pattie!

The records search results package is attached. The PDF file contains the original records search map, a list of all previous studies in the records search scope, and copies of four reports that covered parts of the APE. As stated in the initial letter seeking your comments, no historical/archaeological sites were found within the records search scope.

Tom

---

**Subject:** Re: Ramon Road Widening Project 08-RIV-0-PSp BHLS-5282 (040) Native American Consultation
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2014 3:17 PM

**From:** B. Tom Tang <ttang@crmtech.us>
**To:** "Garcia, Patricia (TRBL)" <pagarcia@aguacaliente.net>
**Cc:** "Stosel, Victoria@DOT" <victoria.stosel@dot.ca.gov>, John Criste <jcriste@terranovaplanning.com>, Kelly Clark <kclark@terranovaplanning.com>, "Jones, Gary A@DOT" <gary.jones@dot.ca.gov>

P.S. The final report will be forwarded to you upon the completion of Caltrans review.

# ATTACHMENT E

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES*

* Two local government agencies and two local historical societies were contacted; a sample letter is included in this attachment.

**From:** D. Encarnación Slaughter <dencarnacion@crmtech.us>
**Date:** Thursday, September 13, 2012 9:28 AM
**To:** Leisa Lukes <llukes@cathedralcity.gov>
**Subject:** Historical research inquiry: Ramon Road Widening Project

Hello, Ms. Lukes,

I am currently preparing a cultural resources report for a CalTrans undertaking to widen and make other improvements to Ramon Road between San Luis Rey Drive and Landau Boulevard in the Cities of Cathedral City and Palm Springs, Riverside County, California. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) encompasses a total of 145 acres of land on both sides of Ramon Road, which includes a mix of open land and residential and commercial properties in Cathedral City and portions of Agua Caliente reservation land in the City of Palm Springs.

Since the Area of Potential Effects is mostly within areas that have been previously disturbed, it likely has a low sensitivity for any historical/archaeological resources to be encountered. As a requirement of the cultural resources environmental compliance report, however, city agencies and local historical organizations must be contacted to see if there are cultural resources concerns in association with the undertaking.

Please respond at your earliest convenience if you have any cultural resources concerns regarding the proposed undertaking. Thank you for the time and effort in addressing this important matter.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Encarnación

--
Deirdre Encarnación, M.A.
Report Writer
CRM TECH
1016 East Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324
(909) 824-6400 Office
(909) 824-6405 FAX
(619) 892-5265 Cell
dencarnacion@crmtech.us

## TELEPHONE LOG

| Name and Affiliation | Contacts | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Janey Ash, Director, Cathedral City Historical Society | 10:03 am, Sept. 12, 2012<br>3:43 pm, Sept. 21, 2012 | Ms. Ash stated that the historical society was not aware of any cultural resources within the APE, and thus foresaw no negative impact. |
| Leisa Lukes, Planner, City of Cathedral City | 12:34 pm, Sept. 25, 2012 | Ms. Lukes commented that since the portion of the APE within Cathedral City was already developed, it contained no cultural resources that she was aware of, and that she therefore had no concerns. |
| Ken Lyon, Associate Planner, City of Palm Springs | 10:40 am, Sept. 12, 2012 | Mr. Lyon stated that he was not aware of any cultural resources in the area, but recommended further consultation with Patricia Garcia-Tuck, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. |
| Palm Springs Historical Society | 9:57 am, Sept. 12, 2012 | Left message, no response to date. |
| Bill Simmons, City Engineer, City of Cathedral City | 3:05 pm, Sept. 12, 2012 | Mr. Simmons indicated that recent widening of another segment of Ramon Road had encountered no cultural resources, but did not comment specifically on the current undertaking. |

# ATTACHMENT B

# NATIVE AMERICAN RESPONSES

# NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON
**Reginald Pagaling**
*Chumash*

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
**Buffy McQuillen**
*Yokayo Pomo, Yuki, Nomlaki*

SECRETARY
**Isaac Bojorquez**
*Ohlone-Costanoan*

PARLIAMENTARIAN
**Wayne Nelson**
*Luiseño*

COMMISSIONER
**Sara Dutschke**
*Miwok*

COMMISSIONER
**Stanley Rodriguez**
*Kumeyaay*

COMMISSIONER
**Bennae Calac**
*Pauma-Yuima Band of Luiseño Indians*

COMMISSIONER
**Vacant**

COMMISSIONER
**Vacant**

ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
**Michelle Carr**

**NAHC HEADQUARTERS**
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

September 16, 2025

Nina Gallardo
CRM TECH

Via Email to: ngallardo@crmtech.us

**Re: Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District's Interconnection No. 2 Project, Riverside County**

To Whom It May Concern:

As requested, a search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed based on information submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. Be aware that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the SLF, nor are they required to do so. As such, an SLF search is not a substitute for consultation with all tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with a project's geographic area.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project's geographic area. Please contact all of the listed tribes as they may have information about sacred sites within the project area that is not listed with the NAHC.

If within two weeks of notification, a response has not been received, the Commission requests that you follow up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information was received.

If you receive notification of a change of address or phone number from a tribe, please inform the NAHC so that we can assure that our lists contain current information.

In addition to engaging in tribal consultation, you should consult the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) information center to determine whether it has information regarding the presence of recorded archaeological sites within the project area.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Green

Andrew Green
*Cultural Resources Analyst*

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission**
**Native American Contact List**
**Riverside County**
**9/16/2025**

| Tribe Name | Fed (F) Non-Fed (N) | Contact Person | Contact Address | Phone # | Fax # | Email Address | Cultural Affiliation | Counties |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians | F | Lacy Padilla, Director of Historic Preservation/THPO | 5401 Dinah Shore Drive<br>Palm Springs, CA, 92264 | (760) 333-5222 | (760) 699-6919 | ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net | Cahuilla | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians | F | Tribal Operations, | 84-001 Avenue 54<br>Coachella, CA, 92236 | (760) 398-4722 | | info@augustinetribe-nsn.gov | Cahuilla | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians | F | Doug Welmas, Chairperson | 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway<br>Indio, CA, 92203 | (760) 342-2593 | (760) 347-7880 | jstapp@cabazonindians-nsn.gov | Cahuilla | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Cahuilla Band of Indians | F | Anthony Madrigal, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer | 52701 CA Highway 371<br>Anza, CA, 92539 | (951) 763-5549 | | anthonymad2002@gmail.com | Cahuilla | Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Cahuilla Band of Indians | F | BobbyRay Esparza, Cultural Director | 52701 CA Highway 371<br>Anza, CA, 92539 | (951) 763-5549 | | besparza@cahuilla-nsn.gov | Cahuilla | Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Cahuilla Band of Indians | F | Erica Schenk, Chairperson | 52701 CA Highway 371<br>Anza, CA, 92539 | (951) 590-0942 | (951) 763-2808 | chair@cahuilla-nsn.gov | Cahuilla | Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians | F | Ray Chapparosa, Chairperson | P.O. Box 189<br>Warner Springs, CA, 92086-0189 | (760) 782-0711 | (760) 782-0712 | raycloscoyotes@gmail.com | Cahuilla<br>Cupeno | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians | F | Doris Willis, Assistant | P.O. Box 189<br>Warner Springs, CA, 92086-0189 | (760) 782-0711 | (760) 782-0712 | dwillis@loscoyotesband.org | Cahuilla<br>Cupeno | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Morongo Band of Mission Indians | F | Bernadette Ann Brierty, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer | 12700 Pumarra Road<br>Banning, CA, 92220 | (951) 663-2842 | | abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov | Cahuilla<br>Serrano | Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Morongo Band of Mission Indians | F | Lena Broderick, Executive Assistant to Tribal Chairman | 12700 Pumarra Road<br>Banning, CA, 92220 | (951) 755-5110 | | lbroderick@morongo-nsn.gov | Cahuilla<br>Serrano | Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Morongo Band of Mission Indians | F | Charles Martin, MBMI Chairman | 12700 Pumarra Road<br>Banning, CA, 92220 | (951) 755-5110 | | chairman@morongo-nsn.gov | Cahuilla<br>Serrano | Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Morongo Band of Mission Indians | F | Sarah Bertman, Tribal Archaeologist | 12700 Pumarra Road<br>Banning, CA, 92220 | (951) 755-5110 | | sbertman@morongo-nsn.gov | Cahuilla<br>Serrano | Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Morongo Band of Mission Indians | F | Joan Schneider, Tribal Archaeologist | 12700 Pumarra Road<br>Banning, CA, 92220 | (951) 755-5110 | | jschneider@morongo-nsn.gov | Cahuilla<br>Serrano | Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Quechan Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation | F | Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer | P.O. Box 1899<br>Yuma, AZ, 85366-1899 | (928) 261-0254 | | historicpreservation@quechantribe.com | Quechan | Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Quechan Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation | F | Jonathan Koteen, President, Quechan Tribal Council | P.O.Box 1899<br>Yuma, AZ, 85366-1899 | (760) 919-3600 | | executivesecretary@quechantribe.com | Quechan | Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Ramona Band of Cahuilla | F | Joseph Hamilton, Chairperson | P.O. Box 391670<br>Anza, CA, 92539 | (951) 763-4105 | (951) 763-4325 | admin@ramona-nsn.gov | Cahuilla | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Ramona Band of Cahuilla | F | John Gomez, Environmental Coordinator | P. O. Box 391670<br>Anza, CA, 92539 | (951) 763-4105 | (951) 763-4325 | jgomez@ramona-nsn.gov | Cahuilla | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians | F | Vanessa Minott, Tribal Administrator | P.O. Box 391820<br>Anza, CA, 92539 | (951) 659-2700 | (951) 659-2228 | vminott@santarosa-nsn.gov | Cahuilla | Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians | F | Mercedes Estrada, Cultural Director | P.O. Box 391820<br>Anza, CA, 92539 | (951) 659-2700 | (951) 659-2228 | mestrada@santarosa-nsn.gov | Cahuilla | Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians | F | Steven Estrada, Tribal Chairman | P.O. Box 391820<br>Anza, CA, 92539 | (951) 659-2700 | (951) 659-2228 | sestrada@santarosa-nsn.gov | Cahuilla | Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians | F | Joseph Ontiveros, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer | P.O. Box 487<br>San Jacinto, CA, 92581 | (951) 663-5279 | (951) 654-4198 | jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov | Cahuilla<br>Luiseno | Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians | F | Jessica Valdez, Cultural Resource Specialist | P.O. Box 487<br>San Jacinto, CA, 92581 | (951) 663-6261 | (951) 654-4198 | jvaldez@soboba-nsn.gov | Cahuilla<br>Luiseno | Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians | F | Alesia Reed, Cultural Committee Chairwoman | P.O. Box 1160<br>Thermal, CA, 92274 | (760) 397-0300 | | lisareed990@gmail.com | Cahuilla | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians | F | Abraham Becerra, Cultural Coordinator | P.O. Box 1160<br>Thermal, CA, 92274 | (760) 397-0300 | | Abecerra@tmdci-nsn.gov | Cahuilla | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |

**Native American Heritage Commission**
**Native American Contact List**
**Riverside County**
**9/16/2025**

| Tribe Name | Fed (F) Non-Fed (N) | Contact Person | Contact Address | Phone # | Fax # | Email Address | Cultural Affiliation | Counties |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians | F | Gary Resvaloso, TM MLD | P.O. Box 1160<br>Thermal, CA, 92274 | (760) 777-0365 | | grestmtm@gmail.com | Cahuilla | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians | F | Mary Belardo, Cultural Committee Vice Chair | P.O. Box 1160<br>Thermal, CA, 92274 | (760) 397-0300 | | belardom@gmail.com | Cahuilla | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |
| Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians | F | Thomas Tortez, Chairperson | P.O. Box 1160<br>Thermal, CA, 92274 | (760) 397-0300 | (760) 397-8146 | thomas.tortez@tmdci.org | Cahuilla | Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego |

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

Record: PROJ-2025-005178
Report Type: List of Tribes
Counties: Riverside
NAHC Group: All

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District's Interconnection No. 2 Project, Riverside County.

**From:** Jill Mccormick <historicpreservation@quechantribe.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 11:07 AM
**To:** elopez@crmtech.us <elopez@crmtech.us>
**Subject: Re:** [EXTERNAL]:NA Scoping Letter for the Proposed Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District's Interconnection No. 2 Project in the City of Cathedral City, Riverside Co. (CRM TECH #4325)

Good morning,

This email is to inform you that the Historic Preservation Office of the Ft. Yuma Quechan Tribe does not wish to comment on this project. We defer to the local Tribes and support their determinations on this matter.

Jill

H. Jill McCormick, M.A.
Historic Preservation Office
Ft. Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366-1899
Office: 760-919-3631
Cell: 928-920-6521

# AUGUSTINE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

84-001 AVENUE 54 COACHELLA, CA 92236 | T: 760-398-4722 F: 760-369-7161

TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON: AMANDA AUGUSTINE TRIBAL TREASURER: WILLIAM VANCE


Date: 10/02/2025

Eulices Lopez

**SUBJECT: Identification of Historic Properties Study Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District's Interconnection No. 2 Project In the City of Cathedral City Riverside County, California CRM TECH Contract #4325**

Thank you for contacting Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians about the proposed **aforementioned project.** We appreciate your consideration of the cultural resources in the project area.

At this time, we are not aware of any specific cultural resources within the project area that would be affected by the proposed development. Therefore, we do not believe that formal consultation is necessary at this stage.

If any cultural resources are discovered during the project, we ask that you contact the California Native American Heritage Commission immediately to take appropriate steps to evaluate and protect them.

Thank you once again for your attention to this important matter.

Analise Perez

Analise Perez , Tribal Executive Assistant
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

01-024-2025-006

November 06, 2025

[VIA EMAIL TO ngallardo@crmtech.us]
CRM TECH
Ms. Nina Gallardo
1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324

**Re: Interconnection No.2**

Dear Ms. Nina Gallardo,

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) appreciates your efforts to include the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in the Interconnection No. 2 project. The project area is not located within the boundaries of the ACBCI Reservation. However, it is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. A records check of the ACBCI registry indicates this area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources but no cultural resources were identified. In consultation, the ACBCI THPO requests the following:

*Copies of any cultural resource documentation (report and site records) generated in connection with this project.

*The presence of an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities (including archaeological testing and surveys). Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor may request that destructive construction halt and the Monitor shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to investigate and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Agua Caliente Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

* ACBCI THPO requests to be contacted by the lead agency regarding this project.

Again, the Agua Caliente appreciates your interest in our cultural heritage. If you have questions or require additional information, please call me at (760) 883-1134. You may also email me at ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net.

Cordially,

Clarissa Duarte

Clarissa Duarte
Cultural Resources Analyst
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
AGUA CALIENTE BAND
OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

5401 DINAH SHORE DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264
T 760/699/6800 F 760/699/6924 WWW.AGUACALIENTE-NSN.GOV

**TELEPHONE LOG**

| Name | Tribe/Affiliation | Telephone Contacts | Note |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lacy Padilla, Director of Historic Preservation/THPO | Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians | 2:30 pm, October 1, 2025<br>11:00 am, October 23, 2025 | Clarisa Duarte, Cultural resources Analyst, responded on behalf of the tribe in a letter dated November 6, 2025 (copy attached). |
| Tribal Operations | Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians | 2:34 pm, October 1, 2025 | Analise Perez, Tribal Executive Assistant, responded on behalf of the tribe in a letter dated October 2, 2025 (copy attached). |
| Michael Mirelez, Director of Cultural Affairs | Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians | 2:37 pm, October 1, 2025 | Mr. Mirelez stated that the tribe would like to defer to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for this project. |
| BobbyRay Esparza, Cultural Director | Cahuilla Band of Indians | 2:42 pm, October 1, 2025<br>11:04 am, October 23, 2025 | Left messages; no response to date. |
| Ray Chapparosa, Chairperson | Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians | 2:48 pm, October 1, 2025<br>11:06 am, October 23, 2025 | Left messages; no response to date. |
| Bernadette Ann Brierty, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer | Morongo Band of Mission Indians | 2:50 pm, October 1, 2025<br>11:09 am, October 23, 2025 | Ms. Brierty stated the tribe would review the letter and respond in writing later; no further response to date. |
| Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer | Quechan Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation | None | Ms. McCormick responded by email on September 17, 2025 (copy attached). |
| John Gomez, Environmental Coordinator | Ramona Band of Cahuilla | 2:55 pm, October 1, 2025<br>11:12 am, October 23, 2025 | Left messages; no response to date. |
| Mercedes Estrada, Cultural Director | Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians | 2:59 pm, October 1, 2025 | Ms. Estrada stated that the tribe had no comments at this time and would like to defer to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. |
| Jessica Valdez, Cultural Resource Specialist | Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians | 3:01 pm, October 1, 2025 | Ms. Valdez stated that the tribe would like to defer to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. |
| Abraham Becerra, Cultural Coordinator | Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians | 3:04 pm, October 1, 2025<br>11:13 am, October 23, 2025 | Mr. Becerra stated on both occasions that the tribe would respond in writing soon; no further response to date. |

# APPENDIX D

# AIR QUALITY CALCULATIONS

# DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 Summary Report

## Table of Contents

1. Basic Project Information

1.1. Basic Project Information

1.2. Land Use Types

1.3. User-Selected Emission Reduction Measures by Emissions Sector

2. Emissions Summary

2.1. Construction Emissions Compared Against Thresholds

6. Climate Risk Detailed Report

6.2. Initial Climate Risk Scores

6.3. Adjusted Climate Risk Scores

7. Health and Equity Details

7.3. Overall Health & Equity Scores

7.5. Evaluation Scorecard

# 1. Basic Project Information

## 1.1. Basic Project Information

| Data Field | Value |
|---|---|
| Project Name | DWA/CVWD Interconnection No. 2 |
| Construction Start Date | 6/1/2026 |
| Lead Agency | Desert Water Agency |
| Land Use Scale | Project/site |
| Analysis Level for Defaults | County |
| Windspeed (m/s) | 3.30000 |
| Precipitation (days) | 10.00000 |
| Location | 33.8171734987899, -116.4790976660702 |
| County | Riverside-Salton Sea |
| City | Cathedral City |
| Air District | South Coast AQMD |
| Air Basin | Salton Sea |
| TAZ | 5642 |
| EDFZ | 11 |
| Electric Utility | Southern California Edison |
| Gas Utility | Southern California Gas |
| App Version | 2022.1.1.37 |

## 1.2. Land Use Types

| Land Use Subtype | Size | Unit | Lot Acreage | Building Area (sq ft) | Landscape Area (sq ft) | Special Landscape Area (sq ft) | Population | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| User Defined Linear | 0.30000 | Mile | 1.000000 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 | — | — | — |

### 1.3. User-Selected Emission Reduction Measures by Emissions Sector

| Sector | # | Measure Title |
|---|---|---|
| Construction | C-11 | Limit Vehicle Speeds on Unpaved Roads |

# 2. Emissions Summary

## 2.1. Construction Emissions Compared Against Thresholds

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

| Un/Mit. | TOG | ROG | NOx | CO | SO2 | PM10E | PM10D | PM10T | PM2.5E | PM2.5D | PM2.5T | BCO2 | NBCO2 | CO2T | CH4 | N2O | R | CO2e |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily, Summer (Max) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unmit. | 1.08505 | 0.91174 | 7.44017 | 11.8310 | 0.02478 | 0.25630 | 0.00000 | 0.25630 | 0.23579 | 0.00000 | 0.23579 | — | 2,682.93 | 2,682.93 | 0.10883 | 0.02177 | 0.00000 | 2,692.14 |
| Mit. | 1.08505 | 0.91174 | 7.44017 | 11.8310 | 0.02478 | 0.25630 | 0.00000 | 0.25630 | 0.23579 | 0.00000 | 0.23579 | — | 2,682.93 | 2,682.93 | 0.10883 | 0.02177 | 0.00000 | 2,692.14 |
| % Reduced | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Average Daily (Max) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unmit. | 0.03016 | 0.02534 | 0.26628 | 0.48818 | 0.00083 | 0.00753 | 0.00000 | 0.00753 | 0.00692 | 0.00000 | 0.00692 | — | 89.3999 | 89.3999 | 0.00363 | 0.00073 | 0.00000 | 89.7067 |
| Mit. | 0.03016 | 0.02534 | 0.26628 | 0.48818 | 0.00083 | 0.00753 | 0.00000 | 0.00753 | 0.00692 | 0.00000 | 0.00692 | — | 89.3999 | 89.3999 | 0.00363 | 0.00073 | 0.00000 | 89.7067 |
| % Reduced | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Annual (Max) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unmit. | 0.00550 | 0.00462 | 0.04860 | 0.08909 | 0.00015 | 0.00137 | 0.00000 | 0.00137 | 0.00126 | 0.00000 | 0.00126 | — | 14.8012 | 14.8012 | 0.00060 | 0.00012 | 0.00000 | 14.8520 |
| Mit. | 0.00550 | 0.00462 | 0.04860 | 0.08909 | 0.00015 | 0.00137 | 0.00000 | 0.00137 | 0.00126 | 0.00000 | 0.00126 | — | 14.8012 | 14.8012 | 0.00060 | 0.00012 | 0.00000 | 14.8520 |
| % Reduced | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

# 6. Climate Risk Detailed Report

## 6.2. Initial Climate Risk Scores

| Climate Hazard | Exposure Score | Sensitivity Score | Adaptive Capacity Score | Vulnerability Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Temperature and Extreme Heat | 1 | 0 | 0 | N/A |
| Extreme Precipitation | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Sea Level Rise | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Wildfire | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Flooding | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A |
| Drought | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A |
| Snowpack Reduction | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Air Quality Degradation | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

The sensitivity score reflects the extent to which a project would be adversely affected by exposure to a climate hazard. Exposure is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest exposure.
The adaptive capacity of a project refers to its ability to manage and reduce vulnerabilities from projected climate hazards. Adaptive capacity is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest ability to adapt.
The overall vulnerability scores are calculated based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity assessments for each hazard. Scores do not include implementation of climate risk reduction measures.

## 6.3. Adjusted Climate Risk Scores

| Climate Hazard | Exposure Score | Sensitivity Score | Adaptive Capacity Score | Vulnerability Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Temperature and Extreme Heat | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Extreme Precipitation | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Sea Level Rise | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Wildfire | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Flooding | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Drought | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Snowpack Reduction | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Air Quality Degradation | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

The sensitivity score reflects the extent to which a project would be adversely affected by exposure to a climate hazard. Exposure is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest exposure.
The adaptive capacity of a project refers to its ability to manage and reduce vulnerabilities from projected climate hazards. Adaptive capacity is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest ability to adapt.
The overall vulnerability scores are calculated based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity assessments for each hazard. Scores include implementation of climate risk reduction measures.

# 7. Health and Equity Details

## 7.3. Overall Health & Equity Scores

| Metric | Result for Project Census Tract |
|---|---|
| CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Score for Project Location (a) | 53.0000 |
| Healthy Places Index Score for Project Location (b) | 7.00000 |
| Project Located in a Designated Disadvantaged Community (Senate Bill 535) | No |
| Project Located in a Low-Income Community (Assembly Bill 1550) | Yes |
| Project Located in a Community Air Protection Program Community (Assembly Bill 617) | No |

a: The maximum CalEnviroScreen score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects a higher pollution burden compared to other census tracts in the state.
b: The maximum Health Places Index score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects healthier community conditions compared to other census tracts in the state.

## 7.5. Evaluation Scorecard

Health & Equity Evaluation Scorecard not completed.