
**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION (Draft)
Beaumont Master Drainage Plan Line 2,
Stage 1
BEAUMONT, CALIFORNIA**

Prepared for:

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SECTION 1.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

This Initial Study (IS) analyzes the construction of approximately 5,000 linear feet of reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) within the existing right-of-way (ROW) 1) along 6th St from Chestnut to Pennsylvania Ave; 2) along Pennsylvania Ave from 6th St to 1st St; and 3) along 1st St from Pennsylvania to an existing earthen channel (Proposed Project) in the City of Beaumont (City). The IS has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code [PRC] §21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, §15000 et seq.). The City has determined that the preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) would be appropriate under CEQA.

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFC) has partnered with the City to provide funding for the design and construction of the Proposed Project. In July 1983, RCFC developed a Master Drainage Plan (MDP) for the Beaumont area (titled "Master Drainage Plan for the Beaumont Area Zone Five"). As discussed in the MDP, the City has experienced flooding over the years, and as the undeveloped areas become urbanized, flooding damage is expected to increase. Therefore, the installation of drainage systems is required to safely convey storm runoff through the concerned areas with minimal interruption to public services. Particularly, the installation of a channel would eliminate flood concerns for properties between 1st St and Interstate 10 (I-10).

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.2.1 Project Location, Setting, and Surrounding Uses

The City is located in the western area of Riverside County, bounded by Calimesa to the north/northwest, Banning to the east, and San Jacinto to the south. The Proposed Project consists of 3 segments as follows:

- E 6th St between Chestnut Ave and Pennsylvania Ave
- Pennsylvania Ave between E 6th St and E 1st St; and
- E 1st St between Pennsylvania Ave and approximately 100 feet east of Berkshire Ave.

The proposed pipe would begin at E 6th St and Chestnut and terminate at E 1st St and Berkshire Ave, where it would connect to an existing RCP that discharges out of an existing earthen channel immediately east of Berkshire Ave.

Land uses around the Proposed Project consist of developed and undeveloped parcels and open spaces. E 6th St is lined with commercial development. Pennsylvania Ave features commercial and open spaces, with I-10 and the Union Pacific Railroad on the north end. E 1st St consists of open spaces, commercial properties, and single-family residences. The General Plan land use and zoning surrounding the project site are summarized below:

General Plan Land Use Designations

- E 6th St – Downtown Mixed Use

- Pennsylvania Ave – Industrial, General Commercial with Transit Oriented District (TOD) Overlay
- E 1st St – General Commercial with TOD (Transit Oriented Development) Overlay, Single Family Residential, Open Space

Zoning Designations

- E 6th St – Sixth Street Mixed Use, Sixth Street Mixed Use – Residential
- Pennsylvania Ave – Sixth Street Mixed Use, Sixth Street Mixed Use – Residential, Manufacturing, Community Commercial with TOD Overlay
- E 1st St – Community Commercial with TOD Overlay, Recreation/Conservation, Residential Single Family

1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows. Manholes would be constructed for maintenance access at intervals of no more than 500 feet at the end of each line. Additional components to be installed include inlets and outlets to facilitate efficient entry and exit from the system. The RCP would feature grated openings to prevent the accumulation of debris. Some RCP demolition would occur, but most of the existing structures would be protected. Approximately 13,000 cubic yards of material will be removed from the site to allow for the installation of the RCP and subgrade and approximately 5,000 cubic yards of material will be brought back to backfill.

The outlets at Berkshire Avenue will be lowered by 2 feet, and the exit pipe size will increase, requiring reconstruction of the headwalls and grading around the outlet accordingly. Water will be permanently diverted away from the channels to the east and would be discharged at the outlets.

The Proposed Project would include traffic control measures such as signs, barriers, and flaggers to ensure safety and maintain vehicle and pedestrian access along the right-of-way. Best management practices (BMPs) would include basins and silt fences to address soil erosion and protect water quality during construction. The affected right-of-way would be restored after installation of the RCP. The RCP would be installed at a depth no greater than 25 feet to allow for future construction and improvements in the area.

1.4 CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

Construction of the Proposed Project is expected to begin in Summer 2025 and be completed in Spring 2026. Construction will occur during standard working hours to minimize disruption to residents and traffic. Construction equipment to be used during the upgrades may include the following items:

- Excavator
- Dump Trucks
- Backhoe(s)
- Trencher

- Cement Truck
- Compactor
- Utility Pick-Up Trucks
- Concrete Finishing Equipment and Tools
- Traffic control devices
- General PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and safety equipment

Once completed, the Proposed Project will function as an unmanned pipe that will be maintained by RCFC staff. RCFC would also have access to the Berkshire Channel on E 1st St. Maintenance would consist of intermittent trash and debris removal and addressing potential leaks.

1.4.1 Staging Areas

Construction equipment and staging areas will be located within the existing vacant parcels north of I-10 along Pennsylvania Ave. Temporary fence enclosures with lockable gates will be added to the staging areas.

1.4.2 Construction Minimization and Best Management Practices

The following construction BMPs of the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) shall be implemented to minimize impacts on biological resources and address water pollution, erosion control, sediment and hazardous materials, and fueling and equipment practices.

Construction Minimization (Section 7.5.3 of the MSHCP) for Riparian/Riverine and Biological Resources

The following Construction Minimization Measures (Section 7.5.3 of the MSHCP) will be implemented during Project construction to minimize impacts on riparian/riverine resources and/or impacts on biological resources during construction:

- Plans for water pollution and erosion control will be prepared. The plans will describe sediment and hazardous materials control, dewatering or diversion structures, fueling and equipment management practices, and use of plant material for erosion control.
- Avoid work in riparian areas during most active breeding season, typically designated as March 1 to June 30 by the CDFW/MSHCP (California Department of Fish and Wildlife) Guidelines. Disturbance is restricted to a minimum of 300 feet away from any active nest.
- Sediment and erosion control measures will be implemented until such time soils are determined to be successfully stabilized.
- Short-term stream diversions, if needed, will be accomplished by use of sandbags or other methods that will result in minimal instream impacts. Short-term diversions will consider effects on wildlife.
- Silt fencing or other sediment trapping materials will be installed at the downstream end of construction activities to minimize the transport of sediments off-site.
- Settling ponds where sediment is collected will be cleaned in a manner that prevents sediment from re-entering the stream or damaging/disturbing adjacent areas. Sediment from settling

ponds will be removed to a location where sediment cannot re-enter the stream or surrounding drainage area. Care will be exercised during removal of silt fencing to minimize release of debris or sediment into streams.

- No erodible materials will be deposited into water courses. Brush, loose soils, or other debris material will not be stockpiled within stream channels or on adjacent banks.
- The footprint of disturbance will be minimized to the maximum extent feasible. Access to sites will occur on pre-existing access routes to the greatest extent possible.
- Equipment storage, fueling and staging areas will be sited on non-sensitive upland habitat types with minimal risk of direct discharge into riparian areas or other sensitive habitat types.
- The limits of disturbance, including the upstream, downstream, and lateral extents, will be clearly defined and marked in the field. Monitoring personnel will review the limits of disturbance prior to initiation of construction activities.
- During construction, the placement of equipment within the stream or on adjacent banks or adjacent upland habitats occupied by covered species that are outside of the Project footprint will be avoided.
- Exotic species removed during construction will be properly handled to prevent sprouting or regrowth.
- Training of construction personnel will be provided.
- Ongoing monitoring and reporting will occur for the duration of the construction activity to ensure implementation of BMPs.
- When work is conducted during the fire season (as identified by the Riverside County Fire Department) adjacent to vegetation, appropriate firefighting equipment (e.g., extinguishers, shovels, water tankers) shall be available on the site during all phases of Project construction to help minimize the chance of human-caused wildfires. Shields, protective mats, and/or other fire preventative methods shall be used during grinding, welding, and other spark-inducing activities. Personnel trained in fire hazards, preventative actions, and responses to fires shall advise contractors regarding fire risk from all construction-related activities.
- Active construction areas shall be watered regularly to control dust and minimize impacts to adjacent vegetation.
- All equipment maintenance, staging, and dispensing of fuel, oil, coolant, or any other toxic substances shall occur only in designated areas within the proposed grading limits of the Project site. These designated areas shall be clearly marked and located in such a manner as to contain runoff.
- No waste, dirt, rubble, or trash shall be deposited in the Conservation Area or on native habitat.

MSHCP Standard Best Management Practices

The following BMPs will be implemented during Project construction to minimize impacts on riparian/riverine resources and/or impacts on biological resources during construction:

- A qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for project personnel prior to construction activities. The training shall include a description of the species of concern and its habitats, the general provisions of the Endangered Species Act (Act) and the MSHCP, the need to adhere to the provisions of the Act and the MSHCP, the penalties associated with violating the provisions of the Act, the general measures that are being implemented to conserve the species of concern as they relate to the Proposed project, and the access routes to and project site boundaries within which the project activities must be accomplished.

- Water pollution and erosion control plans shall be developed and implemented in accordance with RWQCB requirements. The footprint of disturbance shall be minimized to the maximum extent feasible. Access to sites shall be via preexisting access routes to the greatest extent possible.
- The upstream and downstream limits of Proposed Project disturbance plus lateral limits of disturbance on either side of the stream shall be clearly defined and marked in the field and reviewed by the biologist prior to initiation of work.
- Projects should be designed to avoid the placement of equipment and personnel within the stream channel or on sand and gravel bars, banks, and adjacent upland habitats used by target species of concern.
- Projects that cannot be conducted without placing equipment or personnel in sensitive habitats should be timed to avoid the breeding season of riparian bird species identified in MSHCP Global Species Objective No. 7.
- When stream flows must be diverted, the diversions shall be conducted using sandbags or other methods requiring minimal in stream impacts. Silt fencing or other sediment trapping materials shall be installed at the downstream end of construction activity to minimize the transport of sediments off-site. Settling ponds where sediment is collected shall be cleaned out in a manner that prevents the sediment from reentering the stream. Care shall be exercised when removing silt fences, as feasible, to prevent debris or sediment from returning to the stream.
- Equipment storage, fueling, and staging areas shall be located on upland sites with minimal risks of direct drainage into riparian areas or other sensitive habitats. These designated areas shall be located in such a manner as to prevent any runoff from entering sensitive habitat. Necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent the release of cement or other toxic substances into surface waters. Project related spills of hazardous materials shall be reported to appropriate entities including but not limited to applicable jurisdictional city, USFWS, CDFW, and RWQCB and shall be cleaned up immediately and contaminated soils removed to approved disposal areas.
- Erodible fill material shall not be deposited into water courses. Brush, loose soils, or other similar debris material shall not be stockpiled within the stream channel or on its banks.
- The qualified project biologist shall monitor construction activities when working in identified BUOW (Burrowing Owl) habitat and any other sensitive areas to ensure that practicable measures are being employed to avoid incidental disturbance of habitat and species of concern outside the project footprint.
- The removal of native vegetation shall be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Temporary impacts shall be returned to preexisting contours and revegetated with appropriate native species.
- Exotic species that prey upon or displace target species of concern should be permanently removed from the site to the extent feasible. To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the project site shall be kept as clean of debris as possible.
- All food-related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s).
- Construction employees shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the proposed project footprint and designated staging areas and routes of travel. The construction area(s) shall be the minimal area necessary to complete the project and shall be specified in the construction plans. Construction limits will be fenced with orange snow screen.
- Exclusion fencing should be maintained until the completion of all construction activities.
- Employees shall be instructed that their activities are restricted to the construction areas.

- The City shall have the right to access and inspect any sites of approved projects including any restoration/enhancement area for compliance with project approval conditions including these BMPs.

Construction Minimization for MSHCP Species and Habitats

The following Construction Minimization Measures (Section 7.5.3 of the MSHCP) will be implemented during Project construction to minimize impacts to MSHCP covered species and/or impacts on habitat during construction.

- Timing of construction activities will consider seasonal requirements for breeding birds and migratory non-resident species. Habitat clearing will be avoided during species' active breeding season defined as March 1 to June 30.
- A qualified biologist should conduct an environmental training session for project personnel prior to construction activities. The training shall include a description of the species of concern and its habitats, the general provisions of the Endangered Species Act (Act) and the MSHCP, the need to adhere to the provisions of the Act and the MSHCP, the penalties associated with violating the provisions of the Act, the general measures that are being implemented to conserve the species of concern as they relate to the project, and the access routes to and project site boundaries within which the project activities must be accomplished.
- During construction, the placement of equipment within upland Habitats occupied by Covered Species that are outside of the project footprint will be avoided.
- Crews should avoid the placement of equipment and personnel within the stream channel or on sand and gravel bars, banks, and adjacent upland habitats used by target species of concern.
- Active construction areas shall be watered regularly to control dust and minimize impacts to adjacent vegetation.
- Waste, dirt, rubble, or trash shall not be deposited in the Conservation Area or on native habitat.

MSHCP Standard Best Management Practices

The following BMPs (Appendix B of the MSHCP) will be implemented during Project construction to minimize impacts on covered species and/or impacts on habitat during construction.

- The footprint of disturbance shall be minimized to the maximum extent feasible. Access to sites shall be via pre-existing access routes to the greatest extent possible.
- Storage, fueling, and staging areas shall be located on upland sites with minimal risks of direct drainage into riparian areas or other sensitive habitats. These designated areas shall be located in such a manner as to prevent any runoff from entering sensitive habitat. Necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent the release of cement or other toxic substances into surface waters.
- Project related spills of hazardous materials shall be reported to appropriate entities, including but not limited to applicable jurisdictional city, USFWS, and CDFW, RWQCB and shall be cleaned up immediately and contaminated soils removed to approved disposal areas.
- The removal of native vegetation shall be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Temporary impacts shall be returned to pre-existing contours and revegetated with appropriate native species.
- Exotic species that prey upon or displace target species of concern should be permanently removed from the site to the extent feasible.

- To avoid attracting predators of the species of concern, the project site shall be kept as clean of debris as possible. All food related trash items shall be enclosed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site(s).
- Construction employees shall strictly limit their activities, vehicles, equipment, and construction materials to the proposed project footprint and designated staging areas and routes of travel. The construction area(s) shall be the minimal area necessary to complete the project and shall be specified in the construction plans. Construction limits will be fenced with orange snow screen.
- Exclusion fencing should be maintained until the completion of all construction activities.
- Employees shall be instructed that their activities are restricted to the construction areas.

1.5 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Responsible Agencies are public entities that have discretionary approval authority for a project or a portion of it. Reviewing Agencies include those agencies that do not have discretionary powers under CEQA but may review the MND for adequacy and accuracy. Potential Reviewing Agencies and Responsible Agencies are listed below.

1.5.1 Responsible Agencies

State of California

- Southern California Edison (SCE)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Regional Agencies

- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

1.5.2 Reviewing Agencies

- Native American Heritage Commission, and tribes requesting consultation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

1.5.3 Permits and Approvals

The following permits may be required prior to construction of the Proposed Project.

- Stormwater Discharge Permit
- Utility Permits
- SCAQMD - Rule 403 dust control
- RWQCB 401 Certification
- CDFW 1602 Permit
- USACE Section 404
- Encroachment Permit

Figure 1 - Project Vicinity Map



Figure 2 – Preliminary Site Plan

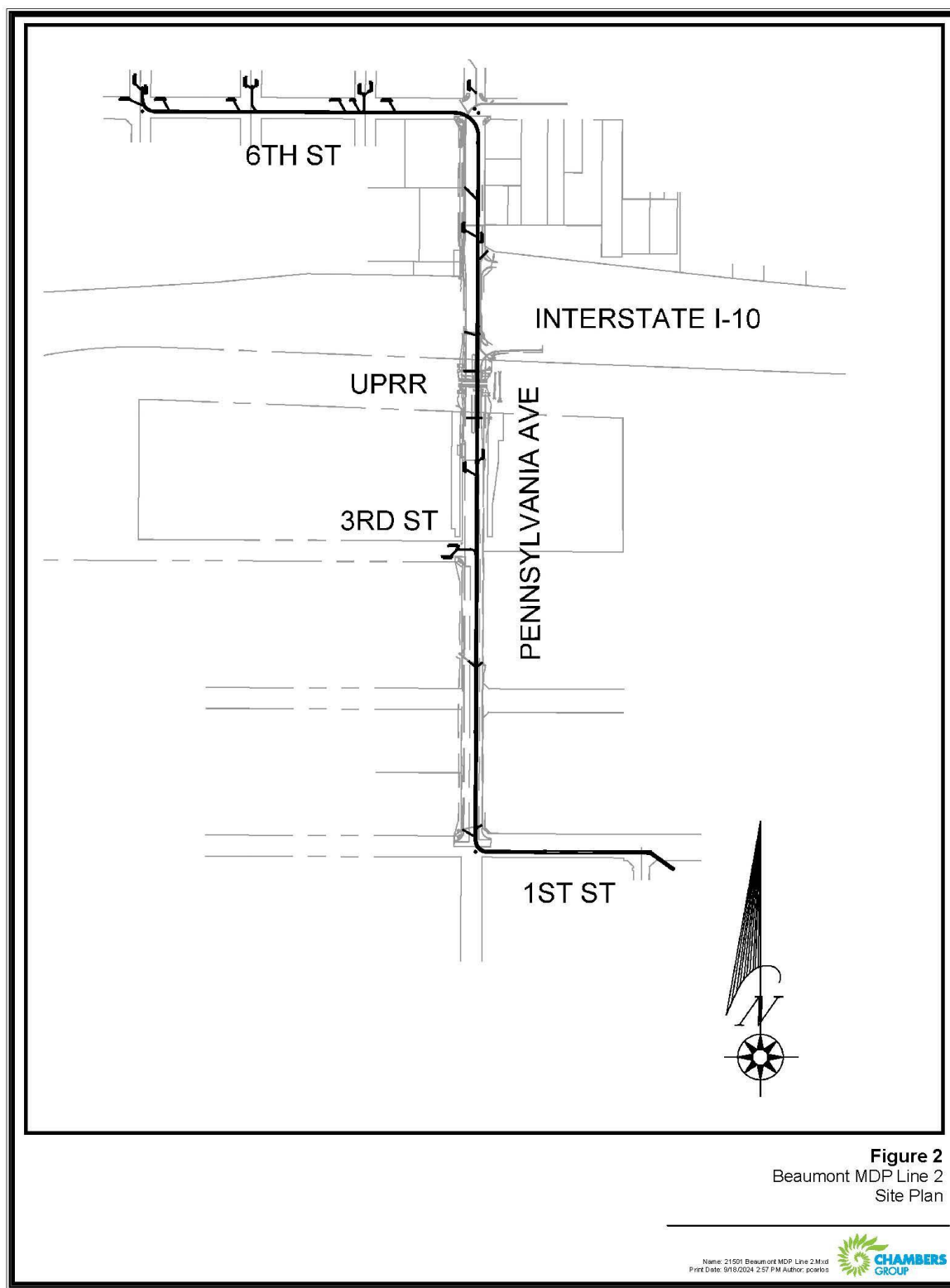
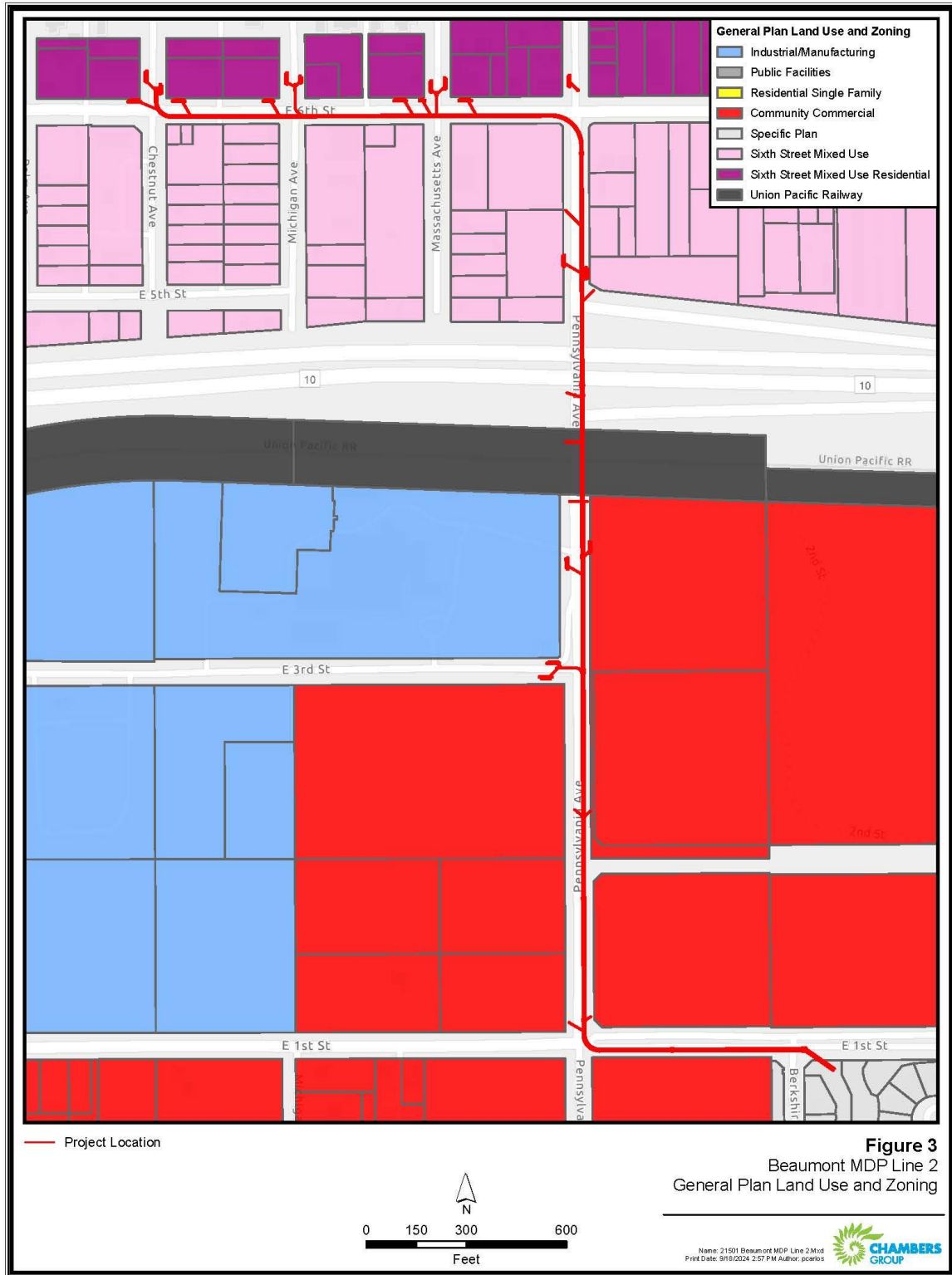


Figure 3 – General Plan Land Use



SECTION 2.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact," as indicated by the checklists on the following pages. For each of the potentially affected factors, mitigation measures are recommended that would reduce the impacts to less than significant levels.

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

2.2 DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

1. I find that the proposed project **could not** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. ☐
2. 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. ☒
3. I find the proposed project **may have a significant effect** on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required. ☐
4. I find that the proposed project **may have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact"** on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. ☐
5. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. ☐


Signature

06/04/2026

Date

Robert Vestal

City Engineer | Public Works Director

Name

Title

SECTION 3.0 – 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. 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 substantial evidence exists that an effect may be significant. If one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries are marked when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation 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. 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.

**Note: Instructions may be omitted from final document.*

SECTION 4.0 – INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

4.1 AESTHETICS

1.	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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.1.1 Environmental Setting

The aesthetic value of an area is a measure of its visual character and quality, combined with the viewer response to the area. Scenic quality can best be described as the overall impression that an individual viewer retains after driving through, walking through, or flying over an area. Aesthetic resources include scenic resources, which include water forms, trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, and scenic highways. Impacts to aesthetic resources include obstruction and destruction of views to or from scenic resources, and/or the degradation of the visual character of the area.

The City is located in the western portion of Riverside County, California and is bounded on the west by Calimesa and unincorporated areas, on the north by the unincorporated County areas (Cherry Valley), on the south by unincorporated County areas and the City of San Jacinto, and on the east by the City of Banning.

The proposed pipe would begin at E 6th St and Chestnut and terminate at E 1st St and Berkshire Ave, where it would connect to an existing RCP that discharges out of an existing earth channel immediately east of Berkshire Ave.

4.1.2 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is relatively flat and is within an area containing primarily residential and industrial uses. The Proposed Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista or substantially damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway. Views from the Project site and surrounding area do not include any potential scenic vistas. Although the

Proposed Project would alter the views of the Project site temporarily during construction activities, no permanent change in views in the area would occur to any designated scenic vistas. Because the Proposed Project involves upgrades to the drainage system, which would be below grade, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact to scenic vistas.

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

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not within or adjacent to a designated state scenic highway, and the closest eligible listed scenic highway is approximately 5 miles east (Caltrans 2020). The Proposed Project would temporarily alter the views of the Project site during construction activities; however, these impacts would be temporary and no permanent change in views would occur because the Proposed Project would be below grade. No impact on scenic resources, including trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway would occur.

- c) *Would the project, 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 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?*

No Impact. The proposed pipe would begin at E 6th St and Chestnut and terminate at E 1st St and Berkshire Ave, where it would connect to an existing RCP that discharges out of an existing earth channel immediately east of Berkshire Ave. The Proposed Project is located in a mostly residential and industrial area. Land use designations for the Proposed Project include downtown mixed use, industrial, general commercial with transit-oriented district (TOD) overlay, single family residential, and open space. The Proposed Project includes the construction of an approximately 5,000 linear feet RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows. The Proposed Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. As stated above in impact a) and b), views would be altered temporarily due to construction impacts, however, no permanent impacts to views would occur. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact to visual character or quality of public views.

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

No Impact. The Project site currently contains lighting sources from residential areas and street lighting. The Proposed Project includes constructing approximately 5,000 linear feet RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows. The Proposed Project would not change light or glare in the existing area and does not propose installation of new light sources. No impact would occur.

4.2 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES

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

4.2.1 Impact Analysis

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

No Impact. Prime farmland is land that has a combination of characteristics to be used as cropland, pasture, rangeland, and forest land. According to the Department of Conservation (DOC) California Important Farmland Finder mapping system, the Proposed Project's alignment is located within Urban and Built-Up and Farmland of Local Importance designated parcels. This land type is defined as land

of importance to the local agricultural economy, as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee (DOC 2022a).

While the alignment crosses farmland of local importance, the proposed pipeline would be installed within the right-of-way and not be constructed within the open space areas. The installation of the Proposed Project does not include construction of any buildings or facilities that would result in converting the farmland properties into non-farmlands. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impacts related to farmlands.

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

No Impact. The Project site is surrounded by areas zoned for mixed use, mixed use residential, manufacturing, community commercial with TOD overlay recreation/conservation, and residential single family. There are no areas adjacent to or on the Proposed Project site that are zoned for agricultural use, and it is not located on land under a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract, and no impact would occur.

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))?

No Impact. Please refer to discussion on Section 4.2.1 impact b). The City does not have any designated forest lands or timberland. Although open space is present throughout the City, these portions of the City would not be significantly impacted by the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not take place within the forest lands. The Proposed Project would be compatible with the existing uses in the surrounding area. The Project would not result in an impact associated with forest land or timberland.

d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in any change to land use on the Project Site. The Proposed Project does not contain forest lands or lands for forest uses. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with forest land or the conversion of forest land into non-forest use. Therefore, there would not be a loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use and no impact would occur.

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 the conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. There are no agricultural uses surrounding the site. The Project Site is not within an area identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (DOC 2024). The Proposed Project includes constructing approximately 5,000 linear feet RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows. The Proposed Project does not include activities involving conversion of agricultural or forest lands; therefore, no impact would occur.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

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

The Proposed Project would operate as a passive, unmanned channel, and there are no anticipated significant impacts that would be associated with the Project operations. Therefore, a Construction Air Quality Screening Evaluation for the Proposed Project was prepared by LDN Consulting in February 2025 and is located in Appendix A.

4.3.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of a linear project constructing a concrete pipeline along within a City ROW. The Proposed Project would not modify existing uses to the area and would be consistent with the General Plan. The Proposed Project is shown to generate construction emissions that would be less than significant when compared to the City's air quality significance thresholds. Therefore, as the Proposed Project would not create a new land use or generate construction missions exceeding the City's approved air quality thresholds, it would not conflict with the implementation of the General Plan or SCAQMD air quality management plans. Impacts would be less than significant.

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 standard?*

Less Than Significant Impact. To determine whether a project would create air quality impacts, the screening thresholds and results of air quality findings utilizing the CalEEMod model are provided below.

Table 4-1: Screening Threshold for Criteria Pollutant

Pollutant	Total Emissions – Pounds per Day (lb/day)
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5})	150 and 55
Nitrogen Oxide (NO _x)	100
Sulfur Oxide (SO _x)	150

Pollutant	Total Emissions – Pounds per Day (lb/day)
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	550
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) - Construction	75

Table 4-2: Expected Construction Emissions Summary (lb/day)

Season and Year of Construction	Pollutant Emissions (pounds/day)					
	ROG (reactive organic gases)	NOx	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Construction Emissions	0.94	24.5	25	0.06	1.78	1.2
City Screening Threshold	75	100	500	150	150	55
LTS at 25 meters from Project		149	1,541		10	6
Exceeds Screening Threshold	No	No	No	No	No	No

The results of the modeling found that the Proposed Project would not generate emissions that exceed the thresholds. The cumulative impacts or impacts which would be additive between the Proposed Project and any nearby Project, would not likely increase emissions to a point where SCAQMD thresholds would be exceeded in the general vicinity of the Proposed Project. Additionally, the Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned pipeline and would not create significant operational emissions. Operational activities would be limited to maintenance of the channel. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less Than Significant Impact. Residential homes are located along the Project Site and the Proposed Project has the potential to release pollutants into the air. As stated above in impact a), the Proposed Project does not exceed SCAQMD thresholds and is not expected to generate a significant level of air quality emissions.

Additionally, the Proposed Project would use Tier 3 construction equipment or better and diesel particulates would be filtered during the four-month construction period. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors to significant air quality emissions, and impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Individual responses to odors are highly variable and can result in a variety of effects. Generally, the impact of an odor results from a variety of factors, such as frequency, duration, offensiveness, location, and sensory perception. The frequency is a measure of how often an individual is exposed to an odor in the ambient environment. The intensity refers to an individual's or group's perception of the odor strength or concentration. The duration of an odor refers to the elapsed time over which an odor is experienced. The offensiveness of the odor is the subjective rating

of the pleasantness or unpleasantness of an odor. The location accounts for the type of area in which a potentially affected person lives, works, or visits; the type of activity in which he or she is engaged; and the sensitivity of the impacted receptor.

The Proposed Project would have the potential to generate on-site odors during construction, which normally include short term activities such as paving and possibly painting. Impacts associated with these sources are short term and would therefore be considered less than significant. Since operational odors are not typically generated from drainage facilities, a less than significant odor impact would be expected from operations. Given this, the Project would not create a significant odor impact affecting a substantial number of people. Impacts would be less than significant.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

4.4.1 Environmental Setting

Biological resources include habitats and vegetative communities, migratory corridors, plants, wildlife, fisheries, special status species (regulated by a law, regulation, or policy, such as threatened and endangered species), and waters of the United States. A Biological Resources and Jurisdictional Delineation Report was prepared for the Proposed Project in May 2026 (Appendix B). The report was completed to determine the potential for impacts to biological resources associated with construction of

the Proposed Project. A reconnaissance-level survey and jurisdictional delineation within the Project site was completed to identify the potential for occurrence of special status species, vegetation communities, and habitats that could support special status wildlife species, as well as the existing conditions of the site.

Results from the survey documented developed and bare ground areas, including ten vegetation communities. No special status plants were observed within the survey areas. No BUOW or active burrows with signs, including cough pellets and whitewash, were observed. Potential jurisdictional water features were observed throughout the survey area. The boundaries of the hydrological feature were mapped and distinguished by the respective Agencies' jurisdiction, based on current Agency guidance documents.

4.4.2 Impact Analysis

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

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. Land uses around the Proposed Project consist of developed and undeveloped parcels, as well as open space. E 6th St is lined with commercial development. Pennsylvania Ave features commercial and open spaces, with I-10 and the Union Pacific Railroad on the north end. E 1st St consists of open spaces, commercial properties, and single-family residences.

Ten vegetation communities were documented during the survey of the Project area: Annual Non-native Grassland, Upland Mustard and Star-thistle Field, Disturbed Goodding's Willow Woodland, Disturbed Perennial Buckwheat/Sand-aster Field, Disturbed California Buckwheat Scrub, Disturbed Fremont Cottonwood Woodland, Disturbed Palmer's Goldenbush Scrub, Giant Reed Marsh, Ruderal, and Ornamental Landscaping. In addition, two other land types were present: Bare Ground and Developed. The majority of the area is developed.

Special Status Plants

After the literature review and the reconnaissance-level survey, it was determined that 64 of the 69 special status plants species are considered absent based on the assessment of the various habitat types observed in the area of the site. Five plant species are considered to have a low potential to be present in the site, including Jaeger's milk-vetch, thread-leaved brodiaea, smooth tarplant, slender-horned spineflower, and Santa Ana River woollystar. Given habitat surrounding the Project site consists of developed areas and non-native grassland, these five plant species are not anticipated to be found within the Project site or the associated buffer. Furthermore, all five of the special status plant species are MSHCP Covered Species, and thus, no additional surveys are required to be conducted for these species as they are considered adequately conserved through reserve assembly and management actions.

Special Status Wildlife

After a literature review and the assessment of the various habitat types within the Project site, including a database search through the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), it was determined that 18 of the 32 special status wildlife species are considered absent based on the lack

of suitable habitat present within the site. 14 wildlife species are considered to have a low potential to be present in the site due to low-quality habitat present within the site.

Least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and western yellow-billed cuckoo are not anticipated to occur within the Project site. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to occur to these species and no additional mitigation is recommended. While there is low potential for these species to occur, in order to minimize potential impacts to these species' mitigation, BIO-1 shall be implemented prior to the start of construction activities. If any of the above species are identified, measures to avoid or minimize impacts on these species shall be submitted to resource agencies for approval prior to construction.

After conducting the biological reconnaissance-level survey, it was determined that BUOW has a low potential to occur within the Project site. The Project site occurs in a MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey Area, however, and marginally suitable habitat is present in the Project site. Therefore, focused burrowing owl surveys will be required to comply with Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP and as outlined in BIO-2. If BUOW are not found during the focused surveys, a burrowing owl pre-construction survey shall be conducted within 30 days prior to ground disturbance to ensure that no owls have colonized suitable habitat areas in the days or weeks preceding the ground-disturbing activities to avoid direct take of burrowing owl. If burrowing owls are identified on site, avoidance measures will be developed in compliance with the MSHCP and in coordination with CDFW and RCA, as outlined in BIO-3.

MM BIO-1: Pre-construction Survey for Nesting Birds

Nesting birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). During construction, the Proposed Project would comply with the MBTA, which requires that nesting bird surveys be conducted prior to the start of vegetation clearance activities should they occur during nesting season: February 15 through September 15. In compliance with the MBTA requirements, should vegetation clearance occur during the nesting bird season, a qualified biologist would conduct a nest survey within one week of the start of these activities to ensure no active nests were lost. If an active nest is located, then the nest should be flagged and construction within an appropriate distance of the nest should be postponed until the biologist has confirmed that the nest is no longer active. If this is not possible, prior to ground-disturbing activities, a qualified biologist should conduct and submit a migratory nesting bird and raptor survey report. The survey should occur no more than three days prior to initiation of Project activities, and any occupied passerine and/or raptor nests occurring within or adjacent to the Project site should be delineated. Additional follow-up surveys may be required by the resource agencies. To the maximum extent practicable, a minimum buffer zone around occupied nests should be maintained during physical ground-disturbing activities. The buffer zone should be sufficient in size to prevent impacts to the nest. Once nesting has ceased, the buffer may be removed. If work activities within the buffer cannot be avoided, a biological monitor shall be present during all construction activities within the avoidance buffer.

MM BIO-2: MSHCP Focused BUOW Survey

MSHCP Focused BUOW Surveys will be required to comply with Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP. All MSHCP Focused BUOW Surveys must be conducted in accordance with the MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions, including three stages (habitat assessment, burrow survey, and focused surveys) detailed below:

- Habitat Assessment: If a habitat assessment yields suitable habitat for BUOW, a focused burrow survey is required within the suitable habitat and 150 meters around the suitable habitat.
- Burrow Survey: If suitable burrows are found during the focused burrow survey within the suitable habitat, including the 150-meter buffer, then four breeding season focused burrowing owl surveys will be required.
- Focused Surveys: All four focused BUOW survey visits should be conducted during the breeding season (March 1-August 31), and no less than two weeks apart, when suitable habitat is present.

MM BIO-3: Pre-Construction BUOW Survey

If BUOW are not found during the MSHCP Focused BUOW Surveys, a Pre-Construction BUOW Survey shall be conducted within 30 days prior to ground disturbance to ensure that no owls have colonized suitable habitat areas in the days or weeks preceding the ground-disturbing activities (e.g., vegetation clearing, clearing and grubbing, tree removal, site watering, equipment staging, grading, etc.) and to avoid direct take of BUOW, in accordance with MSHCP Species Specific Objective 6.

If BUOW are identified on-site, avoidance measures will be developed in compliance with the MSHCP and in coordination with the CDFW and/or Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA). These measures would include the following as well as any others developed in coordination with CDFW and/or RCA:

- A biologist with knowledge of BUOW and its habitat will be retained to function as a biological monitor.
- The biological monitor will develop and implement a contractor education program with regard to the BUOW to be provided to all personnel (including temporary contractors and subcontractors) before beginning work on the Proposed Project.
- The biological monitor will be present during vegetation clearing, grading, and construction, to monitor occupied BUOW burrows and any construction-related impacts.
- Prior to any ground disturbance, all limits of Project construction will be delineated and marked to be clearly visible to personnel on foot and in heavy equipment. All construction-related activities (e.g., vegetation removal, grading, equipment lay-down and storage, and contractor parking) will occur inside the limits of construction and designated staging areas.
- Construction staging and equipment storage will be located outside any occupied BUOW burrow locations.
- All movement of contractors, subcontractors, or their agents and equipment will be restricted to the limits of construction and staging areas.
- A qualified biologist will conduct any necessary BUOW passive relocation that may be required to avoid Project effects to BUOW.
- If BUOW must be moved away from the proposed work area, passive relocation techniques would be used rather than actual avian trapping. At least one or more weeks would be necessary to accomplish this to allow the birds to acclimate to alternate burrows.
- The Proposed Project would provide funding for long-term management and monitoring of the protected lands acquired for BUOW impacts. This monitoring would include an annual report submittal to the CDFW. The agencies will make the final determination of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures.

General Plants and Wildlife

A total of 54 plant species were observed during the survey. Plant species observed or detected during the site survey were characteristic of the existing Survey Area conditions. No special status species were observed during the survey effort. A total of 15 wildlife species were observed during the survey. Wildlife species observed or detected during the site survey were characteristic of the existing conditions. No special status species were observed during the survey effort.

Based on the Project site conditions, and implementation of the mitigation measures BIO 1-3 identified above, impacts would be less than significant.

- 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, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project site is located in a predominantly developed area. The Project site contains an ephemeral drainage that has riparian vegetation; however, the Proposed Project has been designed to leave most of the RCP in place to avoid and minimize impacts by Project activities. The Project site is located within the Potrero Creek Watershed and contains disturbed riparian vegetation.

The Project site contains three ephemeral drainages and one NWI mapped riverine feature that contains mostly disturbed upland vegetation and a few patches of disturbed riparian vegetation; however, the Project has been designed to leave most of the RCP in place to avoid and minimize impacts by Project activities. If these areas are affected by Project activities, they may be subject to USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW jurisdiction. This delineation would need to be verified and determined by the regulatory agencies to confirm which permits the applicant may be required to obtain prior to construction, as outlined in MM BIO-4. Table 4-3 provides a summary of acreages of Jurisdictional Waters and the potential impacts to waters that occur within the Project site if they were to be affected.

Table 4-3: Summary of Acreages of Potential Jurisdictional Waters that Occur Within the Impact Areas of the Project Site

Feature	USACE		RWQCB		CDFW		MSHCP Riparian	
	Area (acres)	Linear Feet	Area (acres)	Linear Feet	Area (acres)	Linear Feet	Area (acres)	Linear Feet
Drainage 1	-	-	0.09	808	0.19	808	-	-
Drainage 2	-	-	0.68	2516	1.41	2516	0.26	380
Drainage 3	-	-	0.04	415	0.26	415	-	-
Drainage 4	0.07	133	0.07	133	0.3	133	0.11	100
Total	0.07	133	0.88	3872	2.16	3872	0.37	480

Potential USACE Jurisdiction

The USACE asserts jurisdiction over the San Jacinto River as a TNW. Therefore, USACE will likely take jurisdiction over Drainage 4, which is located in the southern portion of the Project and exits the

Project site. The feature lacks one of the three wetland parameters (i.e., no hydric soils). Therefore, the site does not support a wetland under the jurisdiction of the USACE. For individual impacts, refer to Table 4-3. USACE jurisdictional acreage for the Project, as defined by the OHWMs, totals 0.07 acre. Up to 0.07 acre of temporary impacts may occur during the removal of the existing RCP, should removal of the RCP or other structural work around the East 1st Street culvert be required. As such, a CWA Section 404 Permit may be required for this Project. The exact work areas and acreage of these temporary impacts are currently undetermined. Potential impacts will be thoroughly analyzed and documented during the permit application process required for this project.

Potential RWQCB Jurisdiction

RWQCB jurisdiction includes all USACE jurisdictional areas, OHWMs, and any other features that influence surface or subsurface water quality within the State. The RWQCB would have jurisdiction over surface waters, which may be identified as ephemeral waters, including those indicated by a change in the average sediment texture, a change in vegetation cover, and/or a break in bank slope. The Project site contains three ephemeral drainages and one riverine feature. The limits of RWQCB jurisdiction, as defined by the OHWM and indicator features within the Project site, total 0.88 acre. Therefore, a total of 0.81 acre of permanent impacts and up to 0.07 acre of temporary impacts to waters of the State under the potential jurisdiction of the RWQCB occur in the Project site. As such, a 401 Water Quality Certification may be required from the RWQCB for this Project. The exact work areas and acreage of temporary impacts to Drainage 4 are currently undetermined. Potential impacts will be thoroughly analyzed and documented during the permit application process required for this project.

Potential CDFW Jurisdiction

There are 2.16 acres of disturbed upland and disturbed riparian vegetation within the B2B of the Project site that are potentially regulated by CDFW's Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement program. CDFW's jurisdiction extends from the top of bank to top of bank and any adjacent wetlands or riparian canopies. The drainages provide surface waters when water is present and would be considered State waters. Hydrophytic vegetation and indicators of hydrology were observed within the Project site; however, soils within the drainages did not exhibit hydric characteristics. Due to the absence of hydric soils and the disturbed condition of the drainages, these features do not meet the classification of a wetland. Permanent impacts to 1.86 acres within Drainages 1 through 3 will occur due to Project activities by directing stormwater runoff and nuisance water away from the mapped drainages and through the new RCP that empties into the riverine feature (Drainage 4). Up to 0.3 acre of temporary impacts to Drainage 4 may result from Project activities surrounding the existing culvert and should not occur outside of the Project boundary. Therefore, a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) may be required from CDFW for this Project. The exact work areas and acreage of temporary impacts to Drainage 4 are currently undetermined. Potential impacts will be thoroughly analyzed and documented during the permit application process required for this project.

Potential MSHCP Jurisdiction

A total of 0.37 acre of vegetated streambed was mapped within the Project site. Of the 0.37 acre of vegetated streambed mapped, 0.26 acre will be permanently impacted within Drainage 2 and up to 0.11 acre may be temporarily impacted within Drainage 4; however, the exact work areas and acreage of temporary impacts to Drainage 4 are currently undetermined and potential impacts will be

thoroughly analyzed and documented during the permit application process required for this project. The riparian vegetation mapped is heavily disturbed, lacking the mature forest and canopy required by the riparian species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP. Therefore, while flows from the drainages may contribute to the support of downstream habitat, the Riparian/Riverine habitat within the site likely does not contribute to the overall biological functions and values of downstream habitat for Covered Species within the MSHCP Conservation Area. Although the species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP are not present and are not expected to occur within the Project site, the City, as a Permittee to the MSHCP, has determined that a Determination of Biological Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) is warranted for this Project. The DBESP is being prepared under separate cover (Appendix C).

Based on the conditions summarized in the BTR and Jurisdictional Delineation Report, up to 2.16 acres within the Project site may be subject to USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW jurisdiction if affected by Project activities. The drainages exhibit channelization and eventually connect to Potrero Creek which terminates at the San Jacinto River, a TNW. Implementation of construction minimization measures and best management practices related to erosion protection and sediment control identified in Section 1.4.2, in addition to implementation of MM BIO-4, will result in a less than significant impact to the drainages.

MM BIO-4: Jurisdictional Waters Permitting

Prior to issuance of any grading permit or initiation of ground-disturbing activities, the applicant shall coordinate with appropriate regulatory agencies, including the USACE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW, to verify potential impacts to jurisdictional features and determine required permits. If the Proposed Project would result in impacts to jurisdictional waters, the applicant shall obtain all required permits and/or approvals from the applicable agencies (e.g., USACE CWA Section 404 permit, RWQCB 401 Water Quality Certification, and/or a CDFW LSAA). As part of the permit application process, the applicant shall quantify all permanent and temporary impacts to jurisdictional features and demonstrate impacts have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

As a condition of Project approval, the applicant shall implement all avoidance, minimization, and compensatory mitigation measures required by these agencies, which may include, but are not limited to:

- Redesign to avoid waters to the maximum extent feasible;
- Establishment of protective setbacks or buffers;
- Implementation of erosion and sediment control measures;
- Restoration of temporarily disturbed areas; and,
- Compensatory mitigation through on-site or off-site habitat restoration or credit purchase.

Implementation of the above shall ensure impacts to jurisdictional waters are reduced to a less-than-significant level, consistent with applicable regulatory requirements.

- 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?*

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed in Section 4.4.2 impact b) above, the Project site contains three ephemeral drainages and one riverine feature that contains mostly disturbed upland vegetation and a few patches of disturbed riparian vegetation. While the Project has been designed to leave most of the RCP in place to avoid and minimize impacts by Project activities, these areas may be subject to USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW jurisdiction, verified and determined by the regulatory agencies, if they are affected by Project activities.

To maintain compliance with the agencies, the Proposed Project will submit a CWA Section 404 Permit, 401 Water Quality Certification, and LSAA, as outlined in MM BIO-4. A DBESP is warranted for this Project and is being prepared under a separate cover. Compliance with the regulatory agencies would result in a less than significant 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?*

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project site is currently urbanized and developed with pockets of open spaces. While not designated as a wildlife corridor, the open spaces areas have potential for certain species to have low potential to occur. As discussed in Section 4.4.2 impact a) above, the Proposed Project will include a pre-construction survey for nesting birds (BIO-1), a MSHCP focused BUOW survey (BIO-2), and pre-construction BUOW survey (BIO-3). Implementation of BIO 1-3, in accordance with MBTA during construction and MSHCP Species Specific Objective 6, would result in less than significant impacts.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is located within the San Timoteo and Badlands Unit, of the Pass Area Plan, and is not within a Criteria Area Cell of the MSHCP areas. Given the Project site is located outside of the mapped MSHCP Criteria Area, it is only required to comply with "Other Section 6.1.2 Species," which establishes a framework for protecting the biological functions and values of riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools, ensuring that these resources continue to support all plant and wildlife species dependent on them.

As noted in Section 4.4.2 impact b) above, existing habitat within the Survey Area does not support any of these species, and therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and no additional mitigation is recommended at this time. Although the species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP are not present and are not expected to occur within the Survey Area, the City, as a Permittee to the MSHCP, has determined that a Determination of Biological Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) is warranted for this Project. The DBESP is being prepared under separate cover. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

- f) *Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservancy Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is not within the area of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan,

MSHCP Criteria Area, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with any approved plans, and impacts would be less than significant.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

A Cultural Resources Survey Report was prepared for the Proposed Project in March 2025. A records search and pedestrian survey was completed for the site. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search identified no sacred sites within the Project site. The California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) records search identified four previous cultural resource studies and three previously recorded cultural resources within the Project site; however, no impacts to these resources are expected. Background research yielded no findings of cultural or archaeological significance. Based on the results of the records search review, background research, and field survey, no impacts to cultural resources are expected. The complete study is found in Appendix D.

4.5.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?

Less Than Significant Impact. A review was conducted of the built environment, survey plats, and historical aerial photographs. There were no recorded built environment resources within the Project site but properties were identified within a half-mile. A review of historical aerial photographs covering the Project site revealed historic-period structures within the open parcels that are no longer existing. Between 1940 and 1972, there was increased development within the Project site, including buildings, paved roads, and anthropized landscape.

Based on the conditions of the Project site, and the proposed work, the Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts involving historical resources. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The Proposed Project consists of installation of an RCP pipe along the ROW to convey runoff. According to the results from the NAHC

SLF, CHRIS, and SCIC, in addition to desktop studies and the completed pedestrian survey, there were no findings of cultural or archaeological significance. However, given that ground disturbing activities could have the potential of uncovering undiscovered resources, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented to ensure a less than significant impact to these resources.

MM CUL-1 The City shall retain the services of a Qualified Archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior Standards, for the duration of ground-disturbing construction activity. All construction-related ground disturbing activity that includes cutting into native intact soils shall be monitored by a cultural resources specialist proficient in construction monitoring settings. The Qualified Archaeologist or cultural resources specialist working under the direction of the Qualified Archaeologist shall provide training to inform all construction personnel prior to construction activities about the proper procedures in the event of an archaeological discovery. The training shall be held in conjunction with the Project's initial on-site safety meeting and shall explain the importance and legal basis for the protection of significant archaeological resources.

In the event of an inadvertent discovery of potential archaeological resources (artifacts or features) during ground-disturbing activities, construction activities within a 50-foot radius of the discovery shall be halted while the Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the City and any participating Tribal representatives, assesses the find. If the resource is determined to be significant or unique through significance evaluation, and site avoidance is not possible, appropriate site-specific mitigation measures shall be established and undertaken. These might include an archaeological mitigation and monitoring plan, treatment, or data recovery programs. All monitoring or associated plans would be prepared and implemented under the direction of a Qualified Archaeologist. All required close-out reporting would be completed in accordance with the Office of Historic Preservation's Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR).

c) *Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project includes ground disturbing activities and therefore has the potential to discover human remains. In the event that human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, then the Proposed Project would be subject to California Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA Section 15064.5, and California PRC Section 5097.98. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact to human remains.

HUMAN REMAINS – LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. In the event that human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, then the Project would be subject to California Health and Safety Code 7050.5, CEQA Section 15064.5, and California PRC) Section 5097.98. If human remains are found during ground-disturbing activities, State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Medical Examiner-Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Medical Examiner-Coroner shall be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be of Native American ancestry, the Medical Examiner-Coroner shall notify the NAHC, which shall notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may

recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials (NPS 1983).

4.6 ENERGY

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

4.6.1 Impact Analysis

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Energy source emissions would be generated due to electricity and natural gas usage associated with the Proposed Project. Primary uses of electricity and natural gas by the Proposed Project would be for space heating and cooling, water heating, ventilation, lighting, appliances, and electronics.

The Proposed Project would impact energy resources during construction and operation. Energy resources that would potentially be impacted include electricity and petroleum-based fuel supplies and distribution systems. A general definition of each of these energy resources is provided below.

Electricity is a man-made consumptive utility. The production of electricity requires the consumption or conversion of energy resources, including water, wind, oil, gas, coal, solar, geothermal, and nuclear resources, into energy. The delivery of electricity involves a number of system components, including substations and transformers that lower transmission line power to an appropriate level for on-site distribution and use. The electricity generated is distributed through a network of transmission and distribution lines commonly called a power grid. Conveyance of electricity through transmission lines is typically responsive to market demands.

Petroleum-based fuels currently account for a majority of California's transportation energy sources and primarily consist of diesel and gasoline types of fuels. However, the state has been working on developing strategies to reduce petroleum use. Over the last decade, California has implemented several policies, rules, and regulations to improve vehicle efficiency, increase the development and use of alternative fuels, reduce air pollutants and GHGs from the transportation sector, and reduce VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled). Accordingly, petroleum-based fuel consumption in California has declined.

Construction

The Proposed Project would consume energy resources during construction in three general forms:

1. Petroleum-based fuels used to power off-road construction vehicles and equipment on the Project site, construction worker travel to and from the Project site, as well as delivery and haul truck trips (e.g., hauling demolition material to off-site reuse and disposal facilities).
2. Electricity associated with the conveyance of water that would be used during Proposed Project construction for dust control (supply and conveyance) and electricity to power any necessary lighting during construction, electronic equipment, or other construction activities necessitating electrical power.
3. Energy used in the production of construction materials, such as asphalt, steel, concrete, pipes, and manufactured or processed materials, such as lumber and glass.

Project construction activities would require energy consumption that would not result in an adverse impact on available energy supplies and infrastructure. Energy consumed during construction would be obtained from the existing electrical and gas lines in the vicinity of the Proposed Project and would be temporary. Project construction would not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, and impacts are less than significant.

Operations

The ongoing operation of the Proposed Project would be an unmanned pipeline with limited maintenance. Any use of energy resources during maintenance would be minimal. Therefore, the operational use of energy resources during operations would be less than significant.

- b) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would follow applicable energy standards and regulations during the construction phases. The operations of the Proposed Project would be mostly unmanned with some maintenance involved. The construction and use of the Proposed Project is consistent with the land uses and would not involve or interfere with any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency, such as the City's Energy Action Plan. The Proposed Project would not introduce needs that require high demand of new electricity or utility connections that would require additional renewable energy facilities.

4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

7.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				

7.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐

4.7.1 Impact Analysis

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project Site is located in the seismically active region of Southern California and has the potential to be subjected to ground shaking hazards associated with earthquake events on active faults throughout the region. The Project Site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (DOC 2023). The Proposed Project would not result in risk of loss, injury, or death involving the rupture of a known earthquake fault. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. The Proposed Project does not involve the construction of structures that could be affected by the rupture of a fault; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed in Section VI(a)(i) above, the Proposed Project is located in the seismically active region of Southern California and has the potential to be subjected to ground shaking hazards associated with earthquake events on active faults throughout the region. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. The Proposed Project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (DOC 2023). Implementation of the Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. The Proposed Project does not include construction of new buildings or structures; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Liquefaction can occur when soils lose cohesion and their ability to support structures when subjected to strong ground motion. The Proposed Project site is not located in an area identified as a generalized liquefaction susceptibility zone on the State of California Seismic Hazard Zones Map (DOC 2024). The Proposed Project does not include construction of new buildings or structures. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects to people in structures that could be affected by liquefaction. Impacts would be less than significant.

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

No Impact. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. The Proposed Project is not located within an area identified as a Landslide Hazard Zone on the State of California Seismic Hazard Zones Map (DOC 2024). The Proposed Project does not include construction of new buildings or structures that could result in a risk of loss, injury, or death to its inhabitants. The Proposed Project would not result in the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides, and no impact would occur.

b) *Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. According to the General Plan, the Project site is located in an area containing Ramona soil types which are found in areas used for production of grain, hay, pasture, citrus, and other agricultural uses. Uncultivated areas with this soil type have a cover of annual grasses, forbs, chamise, or chaparral (City 2021a).

Erosion occurs when the soil is exposed to wind or water which would create a depletion of the topsoil. During construction, the soil would be disturbed and exposed which could result in soil erosion and loss of topsoil. The Proposed Project site is located within the existing ROW and is not used for

agricultural/cultivation purposes and therefore, there would be no impact relating to the use of the soil for agricultural purposes. In relation to erosion, the Proposed Project would implement wind, dust, and stormwater management BMPs to address potential erosion at the Project site during ground disturbing activities. Additionally, the Proposed Project would comply with the California Building Code Chapter 18 and 33 that deals with foundation, cut and fill, drainage and erosion, and Land Use and Design policies under the General Plan. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact, and there would not be long term impacts to erosion and loss of topsoil.

- 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?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site and surrounding areas are relatively flat with no dramatic sloping. The Proposed Project would remove compressible soils and replace them with engineered fill. As mentioned above, the Proposed Project is not in an area prone to liquefaction (DOC 2024). Therefore, impacts to on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse are expected to be less than significant.

- 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?*

Less Than Significant Impact. Expansive soils possess clay particles that react to moisture changes by shrinking when dry or swelling when wet. These types of soil have the potential to crack building foundations and, in some cases, structurally distress the buildings themselves. Minor to severe damage to overlying structures is possible. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the City requires grading plans to be submitted and address geotechnical recommendations. Additionally, all development within the City's planning area is required to be compliant with the California Building Code in Title 24 as it relates to construction on expansive soils. However, given that the Proposed Project does not involve building structures and facilities, there would be a less than significant impact on risks to life or property.

- 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?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. The Proposed Project does include installation of a septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal system. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- f) *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?*

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. A Paleontological Review was prepared for the Proposed Project by Chambers Group on March 2025 (Appendix F). A paleontological localities search (records search) was conducted on January 17, 2025; while no localities were identified within one mile of the Project site, localities have been previously identified within alluvial unit mapped within the proposed Project site. Riverside County has designated much of the area surrounding the Project site as of unknown sensitivity for paleontological resources, under which assessment the

County recommends that a more in-depth study, including a pedestrian survey. A pedestrian survey of the Project site was conducted on February 20, 2025; no evidence of paleontological resources was observed on the visible ground surface.

While no evidence of resources was found during the survey, there is potential for resources to be uncovered given that there have been documented resources found outside the Project site. Due to the overall sensitivity of the area, mitigation measures MM PAL-1 are included to reduce potential impacts associated with ground disturbances. Impacts would then be less than significant.

MM PAL-1 The City shall be required to obtain the services of a Qualified Paleontologist to remain on-call for the duration of the ground-disturbing construction activity. Upon approval or request by the City, a paleontological mitigation plan (PMP) outlining procedures for paleontological monitoring and inadvertent discovery protocols shall be prepared for the Project and submitted to the City for review and approval. The development and implementation of the PMP shall include, but not be limited to, additional research and further assessment of paleontological sensitivity in the Project site, consultations with the City's engineering geologist, as well as a requirement that the curation of all specimens recovered under any scenario shall be through an appropriate repository agreed upon by the City. The PMP shall also include developing a multilevel ranking system, or Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC), as a tool to demonstrate the potential yield of fossils within a given stratigraphic unit. The PMP shall outline the monitoring and salvage protocols to address inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources encountered during Project-related ground-disturbing activities. As well as the appropriate recording, collection, processing, curation, and reporting protocols to appropriately address any monitoring conducted or resources discovered.

4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

A Construction Air Quality and GHG Screening Evaluation was prepared for the Proposed Project by Ldn Consulting in February 2025 and is located in Appendix A. The City uses the County of Riverside screening thresholds to determine whether a project would create potential impacts. GHG impacts related to construction were calculated using CalEEMod 2022.1.

4.8.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project is located within Riverside County and is subject to its GHG screening thresholds. The GHG emissions were calculated using CalEEMOD version 2022.1 and the inputs are located in Attachment A in Appendix A. The Proposed Project would not construct a facility or building, and significant operational trips are not expected. The GHG emissions were calculated and do not exceed the County's threshold. The Proposed Project is expected to generate approximately 203 metric ton (MT) of CO₂e (carbon monoxide equivalent) during construction in 2025 and 60.6 in 2026. These emissions would not exceed the County's screening threshold of 3,000 MT of (carbon dioxide equivalent) CO₂e. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not generate GHG emissions that would significantly impact the environment, and impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project will not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions. The Proposed Project is expected to produce no more than a total of 263.6 MT of CO₂e per year, contributing minimally to the cumulative environmental impact. This amount is considered less than significant in the context of the overall GHG inventory. Therefore, it aligns with existing policies and regulations aimed at reducing emissions and does not require further analysis or mitigation. Impacts therefore would be less than significant.

4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

9.	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

(e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.9.1 Impact Analysis

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The potential impacts from the route transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials are outlined below for both the construction and operation phases.

Construction

Short-term construction activities for the Proposed Project would involve the use of hazardous materials typical for construction, including fuel for construction equipment such as gasoline, diesel fuels, and solvents. No other hazardous materials would be transported to or from the Project site or be utilized in the construction process. The transport, use, and disposal of construction-related hazardous materials would occur in conformance with all applicable regulations governing such activities. By following proper handling in accordance to the manufacturer's guidelines on equipment and materials, health and safety practices, hazards communication, and emergency response procedures as required under the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and contractor guidelines, any impact that would create a significant hazard to the public, or the environment through the routine transport or use of hazardous materials at the Project site, would be less than significant.

Operation

The Proposed Project will function as an unmanned RCP that will be maintained by City staff. There will be no routine storage or use of hazardous materials. Impacts would be less than significant.

- b) *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not 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 site would operate as an RCP and would not currently involve the routine use or storage of hazardous materials. Construction and

operational activities would comply with all applicable regulations governing such activities. During operations, use of vehicles and maintenance equipment will be handled according to manufacturer standards and maintenance procedures by RCFC. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact in regard to creating a significant hazard to the public.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Palm Innovation Academy is located within one-quarter mile of the Proposed Project site. Construction and operational activities that would involve the use of hazardous materials (such as fuel, gasoline) would be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable local and state regulations. The RCP would be unmanned, and operations would involve typical maintenance of the area, such as debris and vegetation removal. These activities would not result in potentially emitting hazardous emissions or hazardous material to the nearby schools because all work would remain within the RCP. Any potential spills would be addressed according to RCFC maintenance guidelines. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact in regard to emitting hazardous emissions or handling hazardous materials within one-quarter mile of an existing school.

- 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?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The following databases compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 were checked for known hazardous materials contamination at the Project site:

- GeoTracker (SWRCB): list of leaking underground storage tank sites
- EnviroStor (California DTSC): list of hazardous waste and substances sites

The Proposed Project is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65862.5 (DTSC 2023; SWRCB 2024). The Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned RCP and not be used as a site for residential or commercial use that could expose persons to recognized environmental conditions (RECs). Use of potentially hazardous materials would be limited during construction. Once operational, no hazardous materials will be routinely transported to and from the site or used for the Proposed Project outside of maintenance equipment. No significant hazard would be created as a result of the Proposed Project, and impacts would be less than significant.

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 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?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project is located more than 6 miles from the Banning Municipal Airport. The Project site is more than 2 miles from a public airport, airport land use plan, or a private airstrip, therefore there would be no impact associated with an airport.

- f) *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project would be designed to provide unobstructed access and would comply with the County of Riverside Emergency Operations Plan (County 2019). No roads would be permanently closed because of the construction or operation of the Proposed Project, and no structures would be developed that could impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

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

No Impact. The Project site is located in a residential area of the City and does not include wildlands or high fire hazard terrain or vegetation. An open space exists adjacent to the Project site; however, the open space is not in a wildland or fire hazard area. The Proposed Project would not expose persons or structures to the risk of wildland fires during construction or operation. The Proposed Project is not located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Operations involve an unmanned RCP. The RCP would be maintained by RCFC including clearing brush and vegetation and will continue to do so once the Proposed Project is operational. In addition, no roads would be permanently closed because of the construction or operation of the Proposed Project, and no structures would be developed that could impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

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

10.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.10.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project Site is located within the Potrero Creek Watershed of the Upper Santa Ana Valley groundwater basin. The Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) runs through the survey area and is designated as Zone AO (areas that have a 1 percent annual chance of flooding or 100-year flood) and Zone X (areas having a 0.2 percent annual chance of flooding or 500-year flood).

The Proposed Project would install an unmanned RCP. Potential short-term surface water quality impacts related to Project construction activities include runoff of loose soils and/or construction wastes and fuels that could potentially percolate into the ground or runoff onto the street. Erosion and sediment control BMPs would be implemented as part of the construction procedures to manage construction runoff, including but not limited to, silt fences and straw wattles, conducting general housekeeping and material management, and spill prevention procedures. During operations, the area would be unmanned. Therefore, implementation of construction and maintenance BMPs identified in Section 1.4.2 would result in less than significant impacts with regard to surface and groundwater quality.

- 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?*

Less Than Significant Impact. Although a nominal amount of water may be used during construction, these activities would be minimal and temporary in nature and would not substantially impact groundwater supplies. Additionally, the Project site is not currently utilized as a groundwater recharge area. The Proposed Project would not result in any water demand at Project completion and therefore would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. A less than significant impact would occur.

- 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:*

- i) *result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;*

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The Proposed Project would not result in large areas of exposed soil that would be subject to runoff. Rather, it would include

improvements to the existing drainage by safely conveying storm runoff. Construction of the Proposed Project would comply to applicable federal, State, and regional regulations and impacting drainage courses as discussed in Section 4.4 Biological Resources, with regard to Section 401, 404, and LSAA permits. Therefore, compliance with the regulations, construction BMPs, and MM BIO-4 would result in a less than significant impact.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project consists of installing an unmanned RCP to convey storm runoff. The Proposed Project does not involve installation of structures or parking lots that would result in a significant increase of impervious surfaces that would increase runoff. Impacts therefore would be less than significant.

- iii) *create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources or polluted runoff; or*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would facilitate storm flows efficiently by installing an unmanned RCP. The Proposed Project does not include new construction that would require an increase in capacity of existing drainage systems such as residential, commercial, and industrial development. During construction, the Proposed Project may result in polluted runoff; however, as part of general construction practices, spill control and material management procedures would be implemented to control any potential runoff during construction. Because the Proposed Project would not result in a significant contribution to polluted runoff, and would not affect capacities of existing drainage systems, impacts would be less than significant.

- iv) *impede or redirect flood flows?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would install an RCP to facilitate storm flows which would provide flood protection to the area and adjacent properties. The SFHA runs through the northern area of the alignment and is designated as Zone AO (areas that have a 1 percent annual chance of flooding or 100-year flood) and Zone X (areas having a 0.2 percent annual chance of flooding or 500-year flood). However, the Proposed Project would be installed below ground and does not propose construction of any standing structures that could significantly impact flood flows. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- d) *Would the project in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project is located inland and away from any open water source or flood control dam that could result in a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. The Proposed Project is approximately 6 miles northeast of Mystic Lake and 50 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The Proposed Project would not cause or expose people and structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No impact would occur.

- e) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not obstruct with the implementation of water quality control plan or groundwater management plan. The Proposed Project intends to improve the storm flows by installing an unmanned RCP which would discharge out of an existing earthen channel. The Project site is not a designated groundwater recharge area and the proposed activities would not affect any groundwater management plan. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

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

4.11.1 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project physically divide an established community?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. The Proposed Project would not physically divide an established community as there are no proposed construction that would divide an established community. No impact would occur.

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?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. The Proposed Project's designated land use and zoning designations are described as follows:

General Plan Land Use Designations

- E 6th St – Downtown Mixed Use
- Pennsylvania Ave – Industrial, General Commercial with Transit Oriented District (TOD) Overlay
- E 1st St – General Commercial with TOD Overlay, Single Family Residential, Open Space

Zoning Designations

- E 6th St – Sixth Street Mixed Use, Sixth Street Mixed Use – Residential
- Pennsylvania Ave – Sixth Street Mixed Use, Sixth Street Mixed Use – Residential, Manufacturing, Community Commercial with TOD Overlay

- E 1st St – Community Commercial with TOD Overlay, Recreation/Conservation, Residential Single Family

The construction of the RCP would not conflict with the zoning because the Proposed Project involves updates to public and utility infrastructure. The Proposed Project would not alter the general function of the existing site and would be compliant with the land use plan, policies, and regulations. The proposed uses would be consistent with the current land use and zoning designations for the Project site and no impact would occur.

4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

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

4.12.1 Impact Analysis

- 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?*

No Impact. The General Plan states that there have been no significant amounts of mineral deposits in the City and there are no delineated sites or locations of mineral resources within the City or sphere boundaries (City 2021b). Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resource that would be of value to the region. Thus, no impact would occur.

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

No Impact. As noted above, the General Plan states that there have been no significant amounts of mineral deposits in the City and there are no delineated sites or locations of mineral resources within the City or sphere boundaries (City 2021b). Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource, and no impact would occur.

4.13 NOISE

13.	NOISE Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

(a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

A Construction Noise Evaluation was prepared for the Proposed Project by Ldn Consulting in February 2025 and is located in Appendix E. The noise evaluation examined the construction noise conditions for the Proposed Project. Construction noise levels were based on typical noise levels generated by construction equipment published by the Federal Transit Association (FTA) and Federal Highway Association (FHWA). Construction noise is assessed in A-weighted decibels (dBA) equivalent sound level (Leq); this unit is appropriate because Leq can be used to describe noise level from operation of each piece of equipment separately, and levels can be combined to represent the noise level from all equipment operating during a given period. Construction noise modeling was conducted using the FHWA Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM).

4.13.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The unit of measurement used to describe a noise level is the decibel (dB). The human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies within the sound spectrum. Therefore, the “A-weighted” noise scale, which weights the frequencies to which humans are sensitive, is used for measurements. Noise levels using A-weighted measurements are written dB(A) or dBA. Noise standards for land use compatibility are stated in terms of the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) and the Day-Night Average Noise Level (DNL). CNEL is a 24-hour average weighted average measure of community noise. CNEL is obtained by adding five decibels to sound levels in the evening (7:00 PM to 10:00 PM) and by adding ten decibels to sound levels at night (10:00 PM to 7:00 AM). This weighting accounts for the increased human sensitivity to noise during the evening and nighttime hours. DNL is very similar to 24-hour average measure that weights only the nighttime hours. The equivalent continuous noise level, Leq, is a level of steady state sound that in a stated time period, and a stated location, has the same A-weighted sound energy as the time-varying sound.

Construction Noise

Construction noise is regulated within Section 9.02.110(F) of the City Municipal Code. Accordingly, the Proposed Project would result in a significant impact if:

- Project construction occurs outside the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM during the months of June through September; or,

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- Project construction occurs outside the hours of 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM during the months of October through May; or,
 - Project construction noise exceeds 55 dBA at the interior of an occupied residence or school for any 15-minute period.

The FTA threshold for 80 dBA (8-hour Leq) for residential uses and for 90 dBA (8-hour Leq) for non-residential uses is used as a conservative standard for evaluating construction noise impacts. The Construction Noise Evaluation determined that, at a distance as close as 50 feet, the anticipated worst-case noise level would be below the FTA's 80 dBA Leq 8-hour standard at the nearest residential property lines. Additionally, the noise analysis construction hours would occur within the City's specified hours and the Proposed Project would comply with the City's noise standards at the FTA's 80 dbA Leq 8-hour standard. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in ambient noise levels and impacts would be less than significant.

b) Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less Than Significant Impact. Vibration amplitudes are usually expressed as either peak particle velocity (PPV) or the root mean square (RMS) velocity. The PPV is defined as the maximum instantaneous peak of the vibration signal in inches per second. The RMS of a signal is the average of the squared amplitude of the signal in vibration decibels (VdB), ref one micro-inch per second. The Federal Railroad Administration uses the abbreviation "VdB" for vibration decibels to reduce the potential for confusion with sound decibel.

The City has not established thresholds of significance concerning groundborne vibration. In the absence of City-established thresholds, groundborne vibration impacts are based on guidance from the Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual (Caltrans 2020). Accordingly, the Proposed Project would result in a significant impact if:

- Groundborne vibration levels generated by the Proposed Project have the potential to cause architectural damage at nearby buildings by exceeding the following PPV:
 - 0.08 in/sec at extremely fragile historic buildings, ruins, ancient monuments
 - 0.10 in/sec at fragile buildings
 - 0.25 in/sec at historic and some old buildings
 - 0.30 in/sec at older residential structures
 - 0.50 in/sec at new residential structures and modern industrial/commercial buildings.
- Groundborne vibration levels generated by the Proposed Project have the potential to cause severe annoyance to people living or working in nearby buildings by exceeding a PPV of 0.4 in/sec.

The Proposed Project involves the use of typical construction equipment such as excavators, dump trucks, backhoes, laser-graders, compactors, and concrete trucks. These types of equipment are common in construction projects and are not typically associated with excessive groundborne vibration. All construction equipment would be properly fitted with mufflers and staging and maintenance would be conducted away from residences (Appendix E). Furthermore, the Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned drainage channel and the generation of significant groundborne vibration or noise is not expected. Therefore, the Proposed Project would comply with

noise standards and is not expected to generate vibration or noise levels. Impacts would be less than significant.

- 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 us airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or within two miles of a public airport. Therefore, it would not expose people residing or working at the Project Site to excessive noise levels and no impact would occur.

4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

4.14.1 Impact Analysis

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

No Impact. The Proposed Project does not involve construction that would induce substantial unplanned population growth in the area. The Proposed Project would construct an unmanned RCP in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. The Proposed Project would be maintained by RCFC staff and would not result in population growth. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not induce population growth directly or indirectly and no impact would occur.

- b) *Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No Impact. As mentioned above, the Proposed Project does not involve construction that would induce substantial unplanned population growth in the area. Residential uses exist in the Proposed Project site; however, the Proposed Project would not result in the displacement of existing housing, and no people would be displaced. The Proposed Project focuses on constructing an RCP. Therefore, no impact on population and housing would occur.

4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

15.	PUBLIC SERVICES.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(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:				
	i) Fire Protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	ii) Police Protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	iii) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	iv) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	v) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.15.1 Impact Analysis

- a) i) *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 fire protection?*

No Impact. Fire protection services for the Project site would be provided by CalFire and Riverside County Fire Department. The fire station nearest to the Project Site is City of Beaumont Fire Station 1, located approximately 0.15 miles to the start of the Project site on E 6th St, and approximately 1 mile from the end of the Project site on E 1st St. The Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned RCP and would not result in an increase in the demand for fire services resulting from the implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in an impact regarding fire protection services.

- ii) *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 police protection?*

No Impact. The police station nearest to the Project Site is City of Beaumont Police Station, located approximately 0.15 miles to the start of the Project site on E 6th St, and approximately 1 mile from the end of the Project site on E 1st St. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of physically altered governmental facilities, nor would it require the need for new facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur.

iii) *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 schools?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. The Proposed Project will not result in the need for altered or new governmental facilities. Construction and operation of the RCP would not affect the performance and operation of nearby schools. No Impact would occur.

iv) *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 parks?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project would not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities to maintain acceptable opportunities for parks. The closest to the Project site is Stewart Park, located approximately 0.4 mile north. The Proposed Project would not induce population growth and would not create new residents that would result in the need for new or expanded parks. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in a significant impact associated with parks.

v) *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 other public facilities?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not expected to impact any other public facilities, such as hospitals or libraries. The Proposed Project would not increase the capacity of the existing residential community or generate any new permanent residents that would require upgrades to existing public service infrastructure. Construction of the Proposed Project would be temporary, and maintenance of the Project site would be done by existing staff. No impact would occur.

4.16 RECREATION

16.	RECREATION. Would the project:	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.16.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*

No Impact. The increased use of existing parks and recreational facilities typically results from a substantial increase in population growth or a lack of recreational facilities in an area. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. The Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in population growth that would increase the use of existing recreational facilities as it does not propose new residential facilities, nor does it involve the construction or removal of recreational facilities.

The Proposed Project would create temporary and permanent employment with construction and operation of the Proposed Project. The anticipated number of temporary and permanent employees would not result in increased use of existing neighborhoods due to the temporary presence of the construction workers. Additionally, employees of the Proposed Project are expected to be filled by existing agency employees. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in the substantial physical deterioration of recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts would occur associated with parks or recreational facilities.

- b) *Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project does not include construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not create an adverse physical effect on the environment through construction or expansion of recreational facilities, resulting in no impact.

4.17 **TRANSPORTATION**

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

4.17.1 Impact Analysis

- a) *Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would generate minor increases in traffic associated with the short-term construction activities. The temporary and limited increase in construction traffic would not conflict with any applicable plans, ordinances, or policies establishing measures of effectiveness for circulation systems.

The Proposed Project would include traffic control measures such as signs, barriers, and flaggers to ensure safety and maintain vehicle and pedestrian access along the right-of-way. The affected right-of-way would be restored after installation of the RCP. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned RCP and would not result in an increase in transportation to and from the Project site that would affect existing circulation or conflict with existing plans or ordinances. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system.

- b) *Would the project Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The metric used to evaluate the transportation impact of land use and transportation projects under CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision (b) is known as Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). In general terms, VMT quantifies the amount of distance of automobile travel attributable to a project or region. California Senate Bill (SB) 743 directs the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to amend the CEQA Guidelines for evaluating transportation impacts to provide alternatives to LOS that “promote the reduction of GHG emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses.” In general terms, VMT quantifies the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project or region.

Projects involving residential, office, and retail tend to have the greatest influence on VMT. The Proposed Project involves the construction of an unmanned RCP. The Proposed Project would require vehicle trips during construction and minimal transit during operations. The Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned RCP and would only require maintenance by City staff. Because the Proposed Project is not a residential, office or retail project, and would be unmanned with minimal trips required for maintenance, impacts would be less than significant and would not conflict with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision (b).

- 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)?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project will not substantially increase hazards due to design features. The Proposed Project would include traffic control measures such as signs, barriers, and flaggers to ensure safety and maintain vehicle and pedestrian access along the right-of-way. The affected right-of-way would be restored after installation of the RCP. The Proposed Project would limit the proposed construction within the channel limits and not include new design features that would be incompatible to the area. The RCP would not interfere with the design of the area and would not include major adjustments to roadways. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

d) *Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not impede emergency access during temporary construction activities because work equipment and staging would not be adjacent to a roadway. The Proposed Project would include traffic control measures such as signs, barriers, and flaggers to ensure safety and maintain vehicle and pedestrian access along the right-of-way. The affected right-of-way would be restored after installation of the RCP. The operation of the Proposed Project would not interfere with emergency access to and from the site, nor the surrounding neighborhoods. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

4.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

18.	TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

4.18.1 Impact Analysis

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 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)?*

Less Than Significant Impact. As previously discussed in Section 4.5, Cultural Resources, the Proposed Project would not result in impacts to historical resources as there were none identified within the Project areas. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is a 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?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. Assembly Bill (AB) 52 requires public agencies to consult with tribes that may have a traditional affiliation to a project area to gather information on a site's sensitivity and identify if any mitigation measures would be required to preserve discovered or undiscovered tribal cultural resources.

On behalf of the City, Chambers Group sent AB 52 notification letters via email to the 35 tribal representatives on the Native American contact list. Responses were received from the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe, Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. The City received responses to consult from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. Based on the provided information of the Proposed Project, the following mitigation measures have been requested to be included.

TCR-1: Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the applicant shall enter into a Tribal Monitoring Services Agreement with a participating tribal entity for the Project. The Tribal Monitor shall be on-site during all ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind). The Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbing activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources.

TCR-2: Prior to any ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post replacement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), and prior to the issuance of grading permits, the Applicant shall retain a Qualified Archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Standards (SOI). The Archaeologist shall be present during all ground disturbing activities to identify any known or suspected archaeological and/or cultural resources. The Archaeologist will conduct a Cultural Resource Sensitivity Training, in conjunction with the Tribe[s] Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and/or designated Tribal Representative. The training session will focus on the archaeological and tribal cultural resources that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities as well as the procedures to be followed in such an event.

TCR-3: Prior to any ground-disturbing activities the project Archaeologist shall develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and/or Archaeological Monitoring and Treatment Plan (AMTP) to address the details, timing, and responsibilities of all archaeological and cultural resource activities that occur on the project site. This Plan shall be written in consultation with the consulting Tribe[s] and shall include the following: approved Mitigation Measures (MM)/Conditions of Approval (COA), contact information for all pertinent parties, parties' responsibilities, procedures for each MM or COA, and an overview of the project schedule.

TCR-4: The retained Qualified archeologist and Consulting Tribe[s] representative shall attend the pre-grade meeting with the grading contractors to explain and coordinate the requirements of the monitoring plan.

TCR-5: During all ground-disturbing activities the Qualified Archaeologist and the Tribal Monitor shall be onsite full-time. The frequency of inspections shall depend on the rate of excavation, the materials excavated, and any discoveries of Tribal Cultural Resources as defined in California Public Resources Code Section 21074. Archaeological and Tribal Monitoring will be discontinued when the depth of grading and the soil conditions no longer retain the potential to contain cultural deposits. The Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the Tribal Monitor, shall be responsible for determining the duration and frequency of monitoring.

TCR-6: In the event that previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction, the Qualified Archaeologist and the Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert and/or temporarily halt ground-disturbance operations in the area of discovery to allow for the evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. Isolates and clearly non-significant deposits shall be minimally documented in the field and collected so the monitored grading can proceed.

If a potentially significant cultural resource(s) is discovered, work shall stop within a 60-foot perimeter of the discovery and an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) physical demarcation/barrier constructed. All work shall be diverted away from the vicinity of the find, so that the find can be evaluated by the Qualified Archaeologist and Tribal Monitor[s]. The Archaeologist shall notify the City and consulting Tribe[s] of said discovery. The Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the Lead Agency, the consulting Tribe[s], and the Tribal Monitor, shall determine the significance of the discovered resource. A recommendation for the treatment and disposition of the Tribal Cultural Resource shall be made by the Qualified Archaeologist in consultation with the Tribe[s] and the Tribal Monitor[s] and be submitted to the Lead Agency for review and approval. Below are the possible treatments and dispositions of significant cultural resources in order of CEQA preference:

- A. Full avoidance.
- B. If avoidance is not feasible, Preservation in place.
- C. If Preservation in place is not feasible, all items shall be reburied in an area away from any future impacts and reside in a permanent conservation easement or Deed Restriction.
- D. If all other options are proven to be infeasible, data recovery through excavation and then curation in a Curation Facility that meets the Federal Curation Standards (CFR 79.1)

TCR-7: In order to protect Native American human remains and/or cremations, no photographs are to be taken except by the coroner, with written approval by the consulting Tribe[s].

- A. Should human remains and/or cremations be encountered on the surface or during any and all ground-disturbing activities (i.e., clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all water supply, electrical, and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall immediately stop within a 100-foot perimeter of the discovery. The area shall be protected; project personnel/observers will be restricted. The County Coroner is to be contacted within 24 hours of discovery. The County Coroner has 48 hours to make his/her determination pursuant to State and Safety Code §7050.5. and Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5097.98.
- B. In the event that the human remains and/or cremations are identified as Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of determination pursuant to subdivision (c) of HSC §7050.5.

C. The Native American Heritage Commission shall immediately notify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours, upon being granted access to the Project site, to inspect the site of discovery and make his/her recommendation for final treatment and disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the remains and all associated grave goods pursuant to PRC §5097.98

D. The MLD may wish to rebury the human remains and/or cremation and sacred items in their place of discovery with no further disturbance where they will reside in perpetuity. The place(s) of reburial will not be disclosed by any party and is exempt from the California Public Records Act (California Government Code § 6254[r]). Reburial location of human remains and/or cremations will be determined by the Tribe's MLD, the landowner, and the City Planning Department.

TCR-8: The final report[s] created as a part of the project (AMTP, isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be submitted to the Lead Agency and Consulting Tribe[s] for review and comment. After approval of all parties, the final reports are to be submitted to the Eastern Information Center, and the Consulting Tribe[s].

4.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

19.	UTILITIES/SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid wastes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.19.1 Impact Analysis

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. The Proposed Project does not propose any new land uses that would result in the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, electricity, telecommunications, or natural gas facilities. The construction of the Proposed Project would not result in the need for new utility structures. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and the Proposed Project would not cause significant environmental effects.

- b) *Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal dry and multiple dry years?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would temporarily require the use of water for dust control; however, this water use would be temporary and cease at the end of construction. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St in the City to handle anticipated future flows and reconstruction of the headwall. The Proposed Project would not introduce new land uses or new construction that would significantly increase water demand to the area. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

- 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?*

No Impact. Utilities and service systems include potable water and wastewater treatment. The quantity of water consumed and wastewater generated by a project is determined by several factors including the size, type, and characteristics of the project. The need for construction of new or replacement water and wastewater treatment facilities (e.g., reservoirs, storage tanks, water mains, filtration plants, pumps, wells, and other connections or distribution facilities) would depend on the existing capacity and anticipated demand for the Project area. The Proposed Project would not construct any uses capable of producing wastewater. The operation of the site would be a passive, unmanned RCP. No impacts would occur in this regard.

- 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?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project may require the disposal of construction debris during the grading/excavation process including soil, asphalt, concrete, and other construction related materials. The generation of these materials would be short-term in nature and would not 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. The Proposed Project would operate as an unmanned RCP and would not continually generate solid waste. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact in regard to generation of significant solid waste.

- e) *Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would comply with all federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, including the California Integrated Waste Management Act, Mandatory Commercial Recycling Law, and County of Riverside requirements for solid waste generated during the construction process. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

4.20 WILDFIRE

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

4.20.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is located outside of any Fire Hazard Severity Zones (CalFire 2024). The Proposed Project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan. The Proposed Project does not include any modifications of main roads that could be designated as emergency evacuation routes, nor does the Proposed Project include construction of facilities that would interfere with an emergency response or evacuation plan. While there are pockets of open spaces along Pennsylvania Ave, it is not a wildland area, nor does it contain significant amounts of vegetation that could create an adverse impact regarding wildlands. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) (CalFire 2024). The Project site is located in a relatively flat, urbanized location with little vegetation and therefore will not exacerbate wildfire risks. Due to the absence of significant sloping features or notable prevailing winds, and the fact that the area is highly developed, the Proposed Project would

not exacerbate wildfire risks and expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentration; impacts would be less than significant.

- 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?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project does not include installation or maintenance of associated infrastructures that would exacerbate a fire risk. In addition, the Proposed Project is not located within a VHFHSZ. No impact would occur.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 84-inch to 102-inch RCP along 6th St, Pennsylvania Ave, and E 1st St along with the headwall in the City to handle anticipated future flows. The Proposed Project site is absent of significant sloping features. The Project site is relatively flat and does not include activities that would significantly change the slope of the Project site, nor would it construct facilities that would expose people or structures to significant fire risks. Impacts would be less than significant.

4.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

21.	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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects?)	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.21.1 Impact Analysis

- 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?*

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation. The Proposed Project would have low potential for sensitive species to occur. To minimize potential impacts to these species' mitigation BIO-1 shall be implemented prior to the start of construction activities. If any of the species discussed Section 4.4 Biological Resources (and Appendix B) are identified, measures to avoid or minimize impacts on these species shall be submitted to resource agencies for approval prior to construction.

The BUOW has a low potential to occur within the Project site. In addition, the site occurs in a MSHCP designated BUOW area; therefore, a MSHCP focused BUOW focused survey is required in accordance with the MSHCP as outlined in BIO-2. If BUOW are not found during the MSHCP Focused BUOW Surveys, a Pre-Construction BUOW Survey shall be conducted as outlined in BIO-3.

The Proposed Project site is subject to USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW jurisdiction. As discussed in Section 4.4, and outlined in the Jurisdictional Delineation Report, the Proposed Project will require compliance with USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW permitting requirements through the submittal of Section 404, 401, and LSAA applications, as outlined in BIO-4. Compliance with the MBTA and regulatory agencies would result in a less than significant impact.

As discussed in Section 4.5 Cultural Resources, the Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to cultural, historic, or archaeological resources. The Proposed Project consists of installation of an RCP pipe along the ROW to convey runoff. According to the results from the NAHC SLF, CHRIS, and SCIC, in addition to desktop studies and the completed pedestrian survey, there were no findings of cultural or archaeological significance. However, given that ground disturbing activities could have the potential of uncovering undiscovered resources, CUL-1 shall be implemented to ensure a less than significant impact to these resources.

- b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would occur concurrently with the Pennsylvania Avenue Grade Separation Project, which is a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposed traffic and safety improvement project in the Project vicinity (City 2026).

Pennsylvania Ave Grade Separation Project

The Proposed Project would overlap in timing and location with the Pennsylvania Avenue Grade Separation Project (Grade Separation Project), located at the existing Pennsylvania Avenue intersection with the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) at-grade crossing. The Grade Separation Project includes construction of an underpass and associated roadway improvements along Pennsylvania

Avenue, extending from south of 3rd Street to just north of the Interstate 10 (I-10) off-ramp on the north.

The purpose of the Grade Separation Project is to replace an existing at-grade rail crossing with a grade-separated underpass, thereby improving safety and maintaining a four-lane roadway while adding sidewalks for pedestrian access. The Grade Separation Project also includes installation of new traffic signals at the I-10 ramp intersections and widening of the eastbound on-ramp to improve safety and provide a vehicle pullout area. The Grade Separation qualified for a statutory exemption pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.13 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15282(g) which exempts projects related to grade separation. A Notice of Exemption (NOE) was filed on November 21, 2025.

Cumulative Impact Assessment

Construction of the Grade Separation Project is anticipated to be underway in April 2027, overlapping with construction of the Proposed Project in both time and geographic extent. Specifically, the Grade Separation Project overlaps with Segment 2 of the Proposed Project along Pennsylvania Avenue between E 6th Street and E 1st Street. It is important to note that the City will coordinate with Riverside County Transportation Commission and Caltrans on construction schedule and timing for the Proposed Project and the Grade Separation Project, as well as the funding timeline for the Grade Separation Project.

Cumulative impacts could occur where overlapping construction activities contribute to combined effects related to air quality, biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, transportation, and noise.

As discussed in Section 4.3 (Air Quality) and Section 4.8 (Greenhouse Gas Emissions and documented in the Air Quality Report (Appendix A), the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts related to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions due to its small scale and temporary construction duration and with the operation of the Project which would consist of an unmanned drainage. Construction of the Grade Separation project would be temporary, and operations would not generate emissions that would exceed existing thresholds. In fact, the Grade Separation Project would enhance traffic flow, reducing emissions from vehicle idling and contributing to improved air quality.

Impacts to biological resources were evaluated in Section 4.4, supported by the Biological Resources and Jurisdictional Delineation Report prepared for the Proposed Project in May 2026 (Appendix B). With implementation of construction minimization measures, best management practices, and MM BIO-4, the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact to the drainages. Based on the “Delineation of Waters of the State” report prepared for the Grade Separation Project in November 2024, potential impacts to jurisdictional waters would require coordination with appropriate regulatory agencies (e.g., CDFW and RWQCB) and compliance with agency recommendations.

In regards to transportation, as discussed in Section 4.17, the Proposed Project would result in a temporary and limited increase in construction-related traffic and minimal operational trips, resulting in a less than significant impact related to vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and trip generation. Implementation of the Grade Separation Project would enhance transportation safety by eliminating

the risk of collisions between trains, vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. It would also improve traffic flow, reducing vehicle idling time and enabling faster emergency response times.

Noise impacts were evaluated in the Construction Noise Evaluation (Appendix E), which determined that construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would comply with the City's noise standards and the Federal Transit Administration's 80 dBA Leq (8-hour) threshold, resulting in a less than significant impact. Similarly, the Noise Report prepared for the Grade Separation Project confirms that no adverse noise impacts from construction are anticipated because construction would be conducted in accordance with the Caltrans' Standard Specifications 14-8.02, "Noise Control." Improved traffic flow will result in less vehicle idling time, reducing noise associated with passing trains. Furthermore, the proposed grade separation project was not found to trigger significant increases to the existing noise levels. Construction of both the Proposed Project and Grade Separation project would not result in noise levels that would be considered a significant impact, and it would not result in different noise levels. It would be infeasible for construction equipment for both projects to occur at the same time and same space because the schedules would differ, and each project consists of different tasks. Additionally, the noise results for each project show a less than significant impact, and when combined, is not expected to result in a cumulative increase.

Because the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impacts related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, biological resources, transportation, and noise, its incremental contribution to cumulative impacts when considered in combination with the Grade Separation Project is not cumulatively considerable. The Proposed Project and Grade Separation projects are subject to separate regulatory processes (e.g., permitting) that require City, Caltrans and Riverside County Transportation Commission coordination, in addition to implementation of any project-specific mitigation or avoidance measures. Accordingly, cumulative impacts associated with these resource areas would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Environmental effects that may cause substantial adverse effects on humans typically result from impacts to air quality and GHGs; noise; hazardous materials; ground shaking; hazardous design features with respect to transportation and roadway designs; and wildfire. The analysis of this document indicates that impacts would be less than significant to the environmental areas mentioned above and, therefore, would not cause substantial adverse impacts to human beings. Impacts would be less than significant.

SECTION 5.0 – REFERENCES

The following is a list of references used in the preparation of this document.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire)

- 2024 Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer. Available online at:
<https://calfire-forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=988d431a42b242b29d89597ab693d008>

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

- 2020 List of eligible and officially designated State Scenic Highways. Accessed November 3, 2023 at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>

City of Beaumont (City)

- 2021a Beaumont General Plan 2040 Environmental Impact Report, Geology and Soils. Available at: <https://www.beaumontca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37635/46-Geology-and-Soils>
- 2021b Beaumont General Plan 2040 Environmental Impact Report, Mineral Resources. Available at: https://files.ceganet.opr.ca.gov/151573-2/attachment/FwHwnz4JOFwAacvdybJDkAR367T_VO9dSi0DFPTB8W_fWxGZ7zRaMt6aKR5KmZLqMnMQteeqYcIRk1URO
- 2026 Pennsylvania Avenue Grade Separation Project. Available online: <https://www.beaumontca.gov/1438/Pennsylvania-Avenue-Grade-Separation>

California Department of Conservation (DOC)

- 2022a California Important Farmland Finder. Accessed October 2023. Available online at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>
- 2023 Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation. Accessed November 2023. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/eqzapp/app/>

County of Riverside (County)

- 2019 Riverside County Emergency Operations Plan. Available at: <https://riversideca.gov/utilities/sites/riversideca.gov.utilities/files/2019%20County%20of%20Riverside%20EOP.pdf>

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

- 2023 Envirostor Database. Accessed October 2023. <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

- 2024 GeoTracker Database. Accessed October 2023. <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>