



Bella Vista Highline Water Main Repair Project

Final Initial Study–Mitigated Negative Declaration

prepared by

Montecito Water District

583 San Ysidro Road

Montecito, California 93108

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Table of Contents

Initial Study	1
1. Project Title	1
2. Lead Agency Name and Address.....	1
3. Contact Person and Phone Number	1
4. Project Location	1
5. General Plan Designation and Zoning.....	4
6. Description of Project	4
7. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting	8
8. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required	8
9. Have California Native American Tribes Traditionally and Culturally Affiliated with the Project Area Requested Consultation Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1?	8
Environmental Factors Potentially Affected.....	9
Determination	9
Environmental Checklist	11
1 Aesthetics.....	11
2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources.....	15
3 Air Quality	17
4 Biological Resources.....	25
5 Cultural Resources	37
6 Energy	43
7 Geology and Soils	45
8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions	53
9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials	55
10 Hydrology and Water Quality	59
11 Land Use and Planning.....	63
12 Mineral Resources	65
13 Noise	67
14 Population and Housing.....	75
15 Public Services.....	77
16 Recreation	79
17 Transportation	81
18 Tribal Cultural Resources	83
19 Utilities and Service Systems	89
20 Wildfire.....	93
21 Mandatory Findings of Significance	97

References 101

 Bibliography.....101

 List of Preparers.....104

Tables

Table 1 Project Site General Plan Land Use Designations and Zoning 4

Table 2 Construction Emissions (tons/year) 21

Table 3 Estimated Construction GHG Emissions.....54

Table 4 Groundborne Vibration Architectural Damage Criteria.....70

Table 5 Estimated Noise Levels by Construction Phase at Sensitive Receptors 71

Table 6 Construction Vibration Levels 72

Figures

Figure 1 Regional Project Location.....2

Figure 2 Project Location.....3

Figure 3 Area of Potential Effects Map 7

Figure 4 Geologic Map and Paleontological Sensitivity of Project Site.....52

Appendices

Appendix A CalEEMod Detailed Report

Appendix B RCNM Results

Initial Study

1. Project Title

Bella Vista Highline Water Main Repair Project

2. Lead Agency Name and Address

Montecito Water District
583 San Ysidro Road
Montecito, California 93108

3. Contact Person and Phone Number

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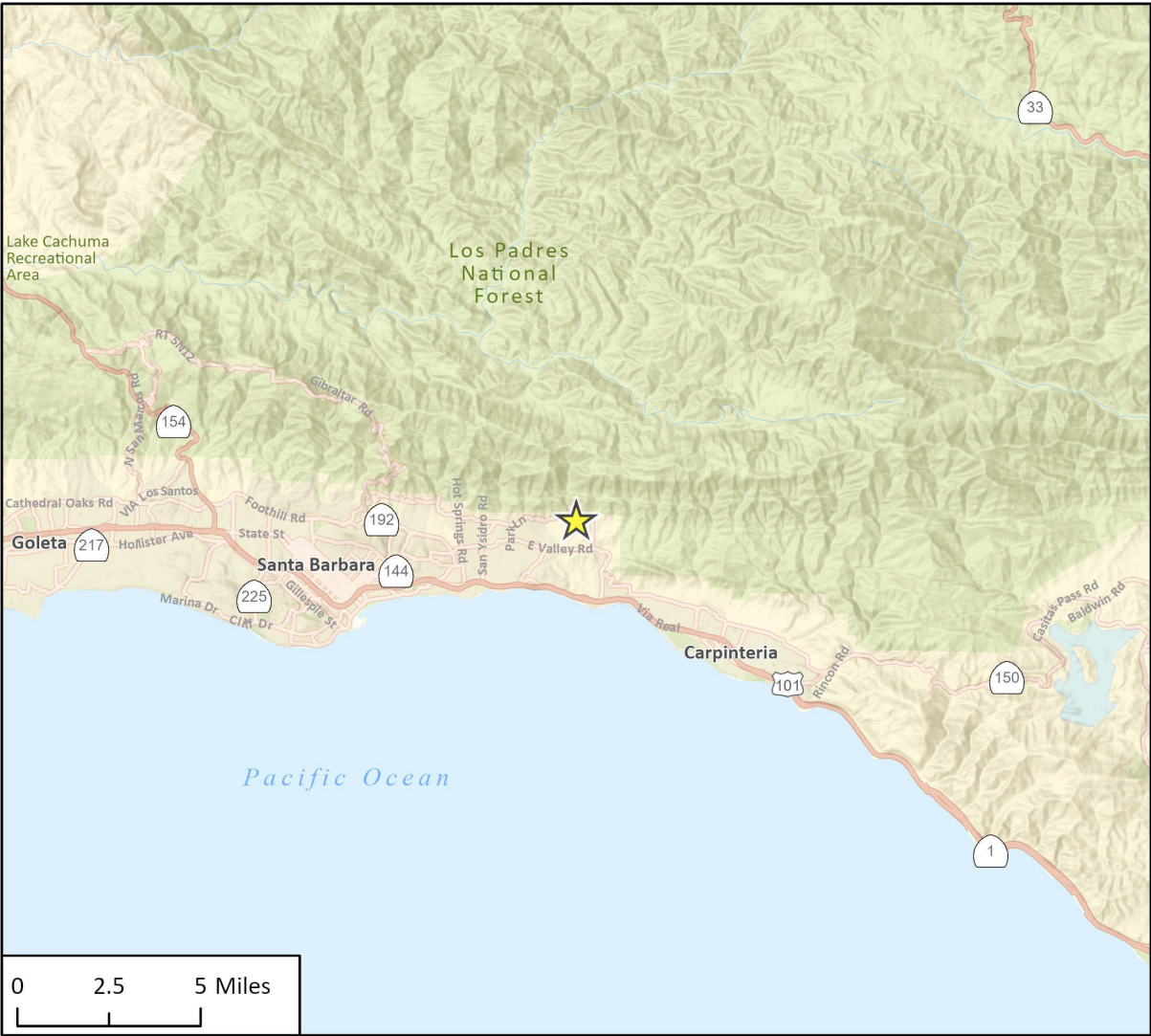
4. Project Location

The proposed project would consist of repairs to the existing Highline Water Main Pipeline (Highline) at two locations along 2500 East Valley Road in the community of Montecito in Santa Barbara County:

- Repair 1: Eastern Pipeline Replacement (34.447927°, -119.587045°)
- Repair 2: Western Pipeline Replacement (34.448116°, -119.587860°)

The project area consists of steep topography and vegetative cover. The project area is adjacent to several single-family residences and unpaved roads to north, east, and west. Figure 1 presents the regional location of the project site, and Figure 2 presents the location of the project within a neighborhood context.

Figure 1 Regional Project Location



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Fig 1 Regional Location

★ Project Location

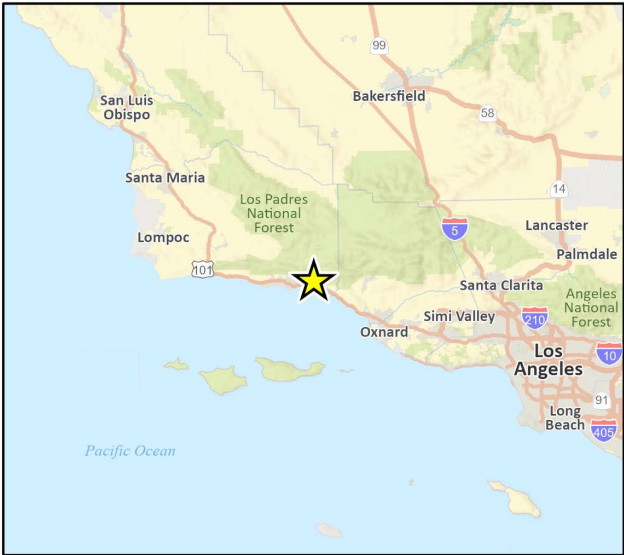
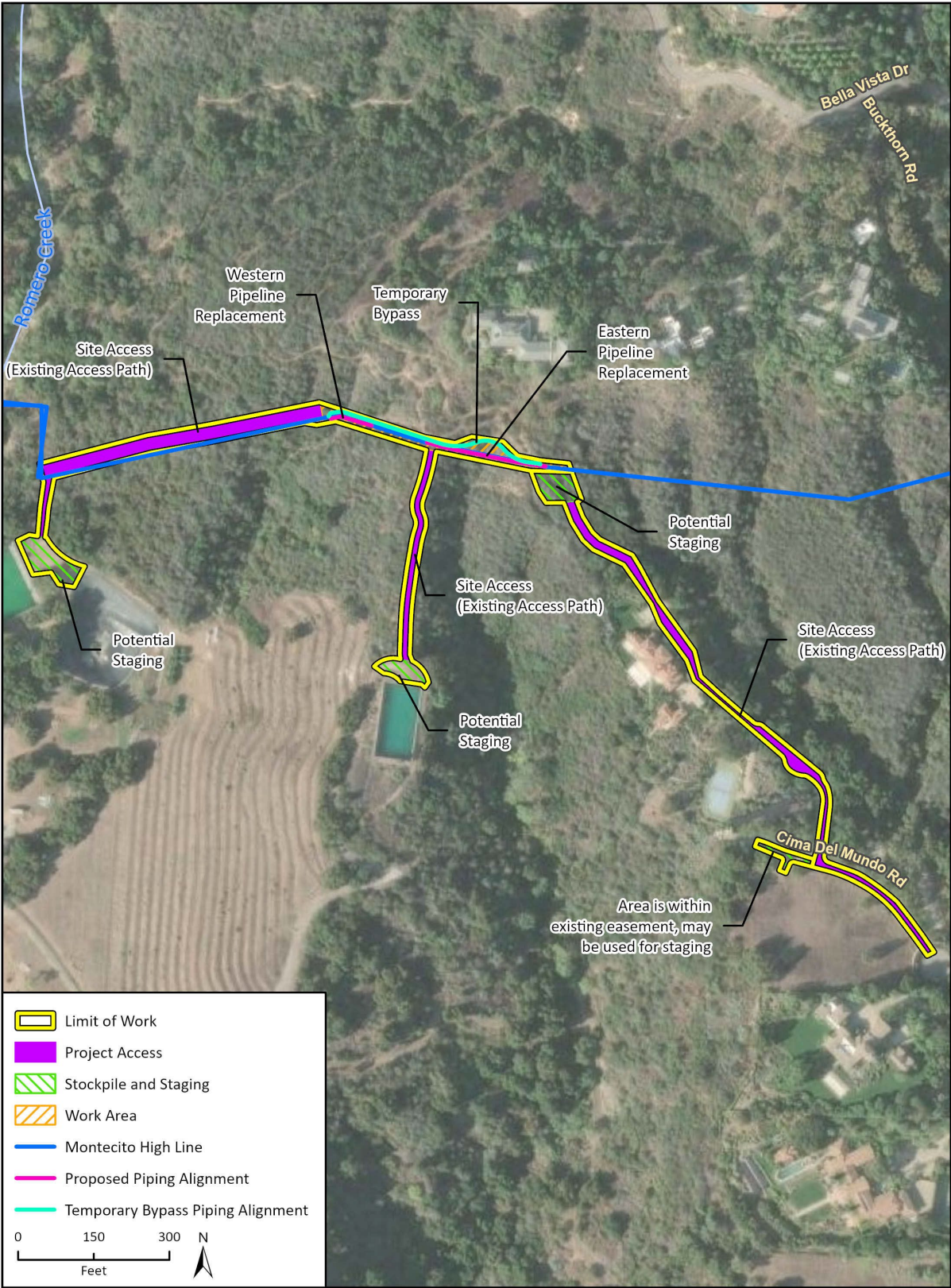


Figure 2 Project Location



5. General Plan Designation and Zoning

Table 1 provides the Santa Barbara County General Plan land use designations and zoning for the proposed project.

Table 1 Project Site General Plan Land Use Designations and Zoning

Assessor's Parcel Number	Land Use Designation	Zoning Designation	Project Activity
155-030-005	MA-40	RMZ-40	Pipeline replacement
155-030-006	MA-40	RMZ-40	Staging and site access
155-030-045	SRR-0.2	5-E-1	Staging and site access
155-030-056	MA-40	RMZ-40	Pipeline replacement and site access
155-250-022	SRR-0.1	10-E-1	Site access
155-250-023	SRR-0.1	10-E-1	Staging and site access

MA = Mountainous Area, SRR = Semi-Rural Residential, RMZ = Resource Management, E-1 = One Family Residential

Per California Government Code Section 53091, building and zoning ordinances of a county or city do not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, storage, or transmission of water, wastewater, or electrical energy by a local agency. The following information is provided for informational purposes.

According to Chapter 35.420 of the Santa Barbara County Montecito Land Use and Development Code, the Resource Management zone (RMZ-40) is intended to limit development because of extreme fire hazards, minimum services, and/or environmental constraints, and to encourage the preservation of these areas for uses including grazing, scientific and educational study, and limited residential uses. According to Chapter 35.420 of the Santa Barbara County Montecito Land Use and Development Code, the One-Family Residential Zone (5-E-1 & 10-E-1) is intended to protect the residential characteristics of an area and to promote a suitable environment for family life.

6. Description of Project

The District proposes to remove and replace two damaged segments of the existing Highline Water Main Pipeline in the foothills of Montecito in unincorporated Santa Barbara County. The work would occur in two ravines above 2500 East Valley Road, where landslides during the January 2023 storm event exposed and displaced the pipeline. The project is intended to restore the pipeline to current engineering standards, improve long-term reliability, and reduce vulnerability to future slope instability.

The project includes the following components:

- **Installation of a Temporary Bypass Pipeline:** A 450-foot temporary pipeline would be installed above ground, disinfected, and tested to maintain uninterrupted water service during construction.
- **Removal and Replacement of Damaged Pipeline Segments:** Approximately 245 linear feet of pipeline would be removed and replaced in the eastern ravine ("Eastern Pipeline Replacement") and 110 linear feet in the western ravine ("Western Pipeline Replacement"). The Eastern and Western Pipeline Replacement would occur entirely within the existing 20-foot pipeline easement, and would not extend into or use the existing trail located north of the easement.

The new segments would be installed underground and designed to meet modern seismic and geotechnical standards.

- **Installation of Geocells:** Approximately 90' of geocells will be added directly above both Eastern and Western Pipeline segments to protect the ravines from future erosion. These geocells are a plastic product and will be filled with native soil. Vegetation will grow within the cells completely covering them visually. Geocells are only being installed directly within the easement above the proposed pipeline.
- **Installation of Blowoff Piping:** Blowoff piping will be installed at Eastern and Western Pipeline segments. The blowoffs would stick out of the ground by approximately 6" to 12" and would release water in the event the pipeline should need maintenance or replacement in the future.

Site access is challenging due to the remote hillside setting and dense vegetation. As shown on Figure 2 up to three potential routes are under consideration. The eastern access point would be accessible via Cima Del Mundo Road, and the western and southern access points would be accessible through the neighboring property as coordinated with private property owners. All site access routes would need to be cleared for vegetation. The existing path located north of the eastern pipeline easement would be protected, and would neither be used as a work area nor for project site access. The District and its contractor will use one or more site access routes during construction.

Staging areas for equipment, materials, and worker parking would be located at existing clearings near Romero Creek, south of the central ridge, southeast of the site near Cima Del Mundo, and adjacent to the work area as coordinated with private property owners. Construction personnel would likely park at the District office nearby and carpool to the project site.

Construction would include trenching for buried ductile iron pipes (2 to 8.5 feet deep, 3 feet wide), establishing 12 to 15-foot-wide access roads with grading to a depth of 6 to 8 inches, and managing approximately 220 cubic yards of net earthwork onsite, with approximately 10 cubic yards of pipeline spoils potentially exported if needed. Erosion control materials may be used to mitigate future erosion in the pipeline vicinity.

No groundwater is expected to be encountered during construction, due to the project site's location on a hillside. The existing pipeline would be dewatered prior to construction using existing blow-off valves or tapping methods as needed. After installation, the replaced pipeline segments will be disinfected in accordance with applicable standards, and the testing water used for disinfection will also be dechlorinated before being discharged. Chlorinated water drained from the existing and new pipeline will be dechlorinated prior to discharge.

The estimated construction duration is three months, occurring Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 4:30pm. No nighttime construction would be required.

Area of Potential Effects

The APE is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties (Figure 3). Determination of the APE is influenced by the undertaking's setting, the scale and nature of the undertaking, and the different effects that may result from the undertaking (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800.16[d]). The APE encompasses the horizontal and vertical extents in which effects may occur as a result of project implementation.

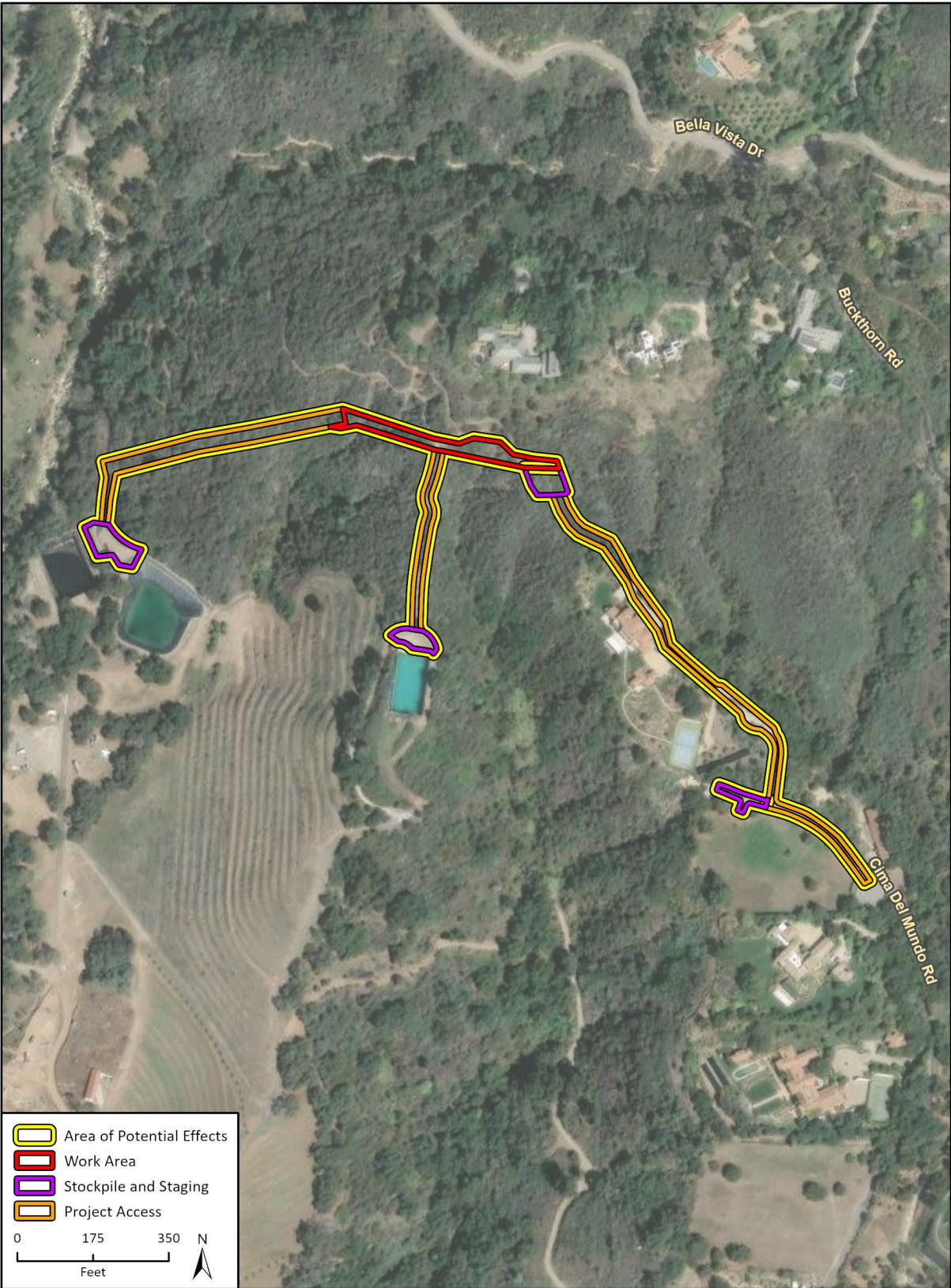
The APE was delineated to encompass all areas that have the potential to be affected by the undertaking, including all areas where ground disturbing activities are proposed, construction

easements, access roads and staging areas, and is limited to the project footprint. Ground disturbing activities associated with the undertaking include the following: grading and widening of existing access roads to a depth ranging from six to eight inches below the ground surface and a width of 12 to 15 feet; replacement of approximately 245 linear feet of pipeline in the Eastern Pipeline Replacement Area; replacement of 110 linear feet of pipeline in the Western Pipeline Replacement Area; removal of 240 linear feet of existing pipeline in the eastern ravine. The undertaking's southwestern and central staging areas, as well as an approximately 100-foot section of the central access road, are located within the historic-aged Rancho San Carlos property. Use of this portion of the Rancho San Carlos property would be temporary and generally consistent with the existing design and function of the trail and staging areas. The undertaking includes the installation of blow off piping in the Eastern Pipeline Replacement area and Western Pipeline Replacement area that would range from 6 to 12 inches above the ground surface, introducing a permanent above-ground feature; however, the blow off piping would not be visible from the ranch. Further, the undertaking would not result in permanent visual, vibrational or atmospheric changes, nor would it alter the overall function or integrity of the larger Rancho San Carlos property. Because the undertaking does not have the potential to result in effects, the larger ranch property was excluded from the APE.

The APE must also be considered as a three-dimensional space and includes any ground disturbance associated with the undertaking. The depth of excavation varies from 6 inches to seven feet within the APE. The below ground vertical APE is assumed to be a maximum depth of 8.5 feet below ground to account for trenching activities.

The temporary bypass pipeline will be installed at the ground surface with a height of one foot above the ground surface. The temporary bypass pipeline will be removed after construction and would not introduce any permanent above-ground elements that would alter the setting of the surrounding area. Blow off piping installed within the Eastern Pipeline Replacement area and Western Pipeline Replacement area will extend approximately 6 to 12 inches above the ground surface. Given the minimal height, limited visibility from surrounding viewpoints and its placement within an actively managed utility corridor, the above-ground feature that would be introduced would not materially impair the visual character or setting of the surrounding area. The existing landscape will be returned to preconstruction conditions following implementation of the project. Therefore, the above-grade APE is limited to 12 inches above the ground surface.

Figure 3 Area of Potential Effects Map



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Fig X APE

7. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The land use setting in the vicinity of the project site is predominantly characterized by rural, low-density residential, and open space uses.

8. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

The District is the lead agency under CEQA with responsibility for approving the project. The proposed project may require the following permits:

- General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with Low Threat to Water Quality (Order 2003-0003-DWQ). This permit is applicable for low-risk dewatering activities such as pipeline dewatering with dechlorinated water. This permit covers discharges to land or percolation facilities that pose minimal threat to water quality.

9. Have California Native American Tribes Traditionally and Culturally Affiliated with the Project Area Requested Consultation Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1?

The District distributed AB 52 consultation notification letters for the proposed project, which included project information, maps, and contact information, to ten Native American contacts via certified mail on January 9, 2026. The Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians requested to consult on the project. No additional requests were received during the consultation period. Consultation activities are described in detail in Section 18, *Tribal Cultural Resources*. Consultation with both tribes was concluded in April 2026.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This project would potentially affect the environmental factors checked below, involving at least one impact that is “Potentially Significant” or “Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

Determination

Based on this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions to the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “less than significant with mitigation incorporated” 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.

Montecito Water District
Bella Vista Highline Water Main Repair Project

- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potential 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

Adam Kanold

Printed Name

5/28/2026

Date

Asst. General Manager/Engineering Manager

Title

Environmental Checklist

1 Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than- Significant Impact	No Impact
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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

Although the Santa Barbara County General Plan does not specifically designate scenic vistas, scenic resources can be described as singular vantage points that offer unobstructed views of valued viewsheds. The County of Santa Barbara General Plan Conservation Element identifies several characteristics that contribute to the scenic setting of Santa Barbara County, including views of rolling hillsides, the Santa Ynez mountain range, and the Pacific Ocean (County of Santa Barbara 2010). Although the project is located in two ravines within the rolling hillsides, public views of the project site are limited by topography, vegetation, and private property. During construction, staging areas for equipment, materials, and worker parking would be located at existing clearings near Romero Creek, south of the central ridge, southeast of the site near Cima Del Mundo, and adjacent to the work area as coordinated with private property owners. In addition, the District regularly stages equipment and vehicles at the District office. However, the presence of construction equipment and materials would be temporary, short-term, and limited to the construction period and would not substantially interrupt long-range views. During operation, the

proposed pipeline would be completely buried and out of sight. Therefore, impacts to scenic vistas would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

The Santa Barbara County General Plan Scenic Highways Element identifies scenic resources along the County's highways as valuable resources intended for preservation (County of Santa Barbara 2009). The nearest officially designated State Scenic Highway to the project site is State Route 154 (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 2018), located approximately 10 miles west of the site. Due to distance and intervening topography, the project site is not visible from State Route 154. The nearest eligible State Scenic Highway is a segment of U.S. Route 101, approximately two miles south of the project site. Neither of these highways provides views of the project site, nor would the project alter the visual character of these corridors. Therefore, the project would not substantially damage scenic resources within a State Scenic Highway, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- 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 a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?*

According to Public Resources Code Section 21071, an "urbanized area" in the unincorporated part of a county is defined as either 1) an area that is completely surrounded by one or more incorporated cities with a combined population of at least 100,000 people (unincorporated areas plus incorporated cities) and the population density of the unincorporated area at least equals the population density of the surrounding city or cities; or 2) an area where the County Board of Supervisors has issued a finding that the general plan, zoning ordinance, and related policies and programs applicable to the unincorporated area are consistent with principles that encourage compact development and submitted this finding to the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation for comment. The project is located on unincorporated land within the community of Montecito and is not completely surrounded by one or more incorporated cities. Therefore, it does not meet the CEQA definition of an "urbanized area" and is thus evaluated as part of a non-urbanized area.

The closest public views to the project site is north of the site along Bella Vista Drive and west of the project site along Romero Canyon Road. In both cases, public views of the project site are obstructed by geographic features, vegetation, and residences. To the extent they would be noticeable, construction activities would be short-term and limited to the construction period. Once construction is complete, these temporary elements would be removed, and the site would return to a condition consistent with the surrounding setting. Additionally, the proposed improvements would occur within private property and would not introduce features that substantially alter the visual character of the surrounding landscape. Therefore, no scenic resources would be affected and impacts related to visual character and public views would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- d. *Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?*

Project construction is expected to last approximately three months, occurring Monday through Friday during working hours from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No nighttime construction would be required. However, construction lighting may be necessary during early-morning construction hours during the winter. Surrounding land uses consist primarily of low-density residential properties in a sparsely populated area, which are generally more sensitive to lighting than commercial uses. However, any lighting associated with construction would be temporary, limited to the construction period, and would follow best management practices (BMPs) to minimize glare and spillover. If construction lighting is required, lighting would be shielded and downcast. Furthermore, the project would not permanently add reflective surfaces, such as windows or car windshields, or lighting to the project site or its surroundings. Therefore, the project would not create a new permanent source of substantial light or glare, and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than- Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)); timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526); or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
a. <i>Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?</i>				
b. <i>Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?</i>				
c. <i>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))?</i>				
d. <i>Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</i>				

- e. *Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

The project site is not zoned or designated for agricultural use (County of Santa Barbara 2025) and is not located on land enrolled in a Williamson Act contract (California Department of Conservation [DOC] 2024). The nearest mapped agricultural resource is Unique Farmland located approximately 800 feet south of the project site (DOC 2020). However, the proposed work would occur within existing utility corridors and disturbed areas associated with the Highline Water Main Pipeline and would not extend into agricultural lands. Therefore, the project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use, nor would it conflict with zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract, and no impact would occur.

The project site is not zoned for forest land or timberland and is not located on or near forest land (County of Santa Barbara 2025). The surrounding land use is characterized by rural residential development and open space with steep topography and vegetative cover, but no designated forest land or timberland resources. The proposed pipeline repair would not involve changes to the existing environment that could result in the loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Vegetation clearing for site access would be minimal and limited to non-forest vegetation within existing disturbed areas. Therefore, the project would not impact forest land or timberland resources, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

3 Air Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than- Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project area is in the South Central Coast Air Basin (Basin) which covers San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD) monitors and regulates the local air quality in Santa Barbara County and administers the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).¹ The analysis presented in this section is based on information found in the SBCAPCD CEQA Handbook: A Guide for the Preparation of Air Quality Sections in Environmental Documents (SBCAPCD Guidelines), updated by the SBCAPCD in October 2025 (SBCAPCD 2025).

Air quality is affected by stationary sources (e.g., industrial uses and oil and gas operations) and mobile sources (e.g., motor vehicles). Air quality at a given location is a function of several factors, including the quantity and type of pollutants emitted locally and regionally, and the dispersion rates of pollutants in the region. Primary factors affecting pollutant dispersion are wind speed and direction, atmospheric stability, temperature, the presence or absence of inversions, and topography. The project site is located in the southwestern portion of the Basin, which has moderate variability in temperatures, tempered by coastal processes. The air quality within the Basin is influenced by a wide range of emission sources, such as dense population centers, heavy vehicular traffic, industry, and weather.

Air Quality Standards and Attainment

The SBCAPCD is required to monitor air pollutant levels to ensure National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are met. If the standards are met, the Basin is classified as being in “attainment.” If the standards are not met, the Basin is classified as being in “nonattainment” and the SBCAPCD is required to develop strategies to meet

¹ The SBCAPCD uses the term clean air plan to describe the strategic plans they are required to prepare. Also called AQMPs, air quality attainment plans, and recently, a rate-of-progress plan, these plans are the foundation for reducing air pollution so that the air in this county meets the state and federal health standards.

the standards. According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Area Designation Maps, the project site is located in a region identified as being in nonattainment (transitional) for the ozone NAAQS and CAAQS and nonattainment for the particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀) CAAQS (CARB 2025). In December 2022, the SBCAPCD adopted the 2022 Santa Barbara County AQMP, which provides a strategy for the attainment of federal ozone standards (SBCAPCD 2022).

San Joaquin Valley Fever (formally known as Coccidioidomycosis, hereafter referred to as Valley Fever) is an infectious disease caused by the fungus *Coccidioides immitis*. Valley Fever is a disease of concern in the Basin. Infection is caused by inhalation of *Coccidioides immitis* airborne spores, formed when dry, dusty soil or dirt is disturbed by natural processes, such as wind or earthquakes, or by human-induced ground-disturbing activities, such as construction, farming, or other activities. In 2024, there were 12,500 cases of Valley Fever reported in California, with 121 of those cases occurring in Santa Barbara County (California Department of Public Health 2025).

Air Emission Thresholds

Construction

The County of Santa Barbara and the SBCAPCD have not adopted thresholds of significance for construction emissions. However, SBCAPCD acknowledges that CEQA Lead Agencies may use 25 tons per year for any criteria pollutant, except carbon monoxide, as a guideline for determining the significance of construction impacts (SBCAPCD 2025).

Operation

The SBCAPCD's Guidelines recommend specific operational air emission thresholds for determining whether a project may have a significant adverse impact on air quality within the Basin.

Operation of the project would not have a significant air quality effect on the environment if:

- Emissions from all project sources (mobile and stationary, excluding Portable Equipment Registration Program [PERP]) are less than the daily trigger for offsets set in the SBCAPCD New Source Review Rule, for any pollutant (currently 55 pounds per day for nitrogen oxides [NO_x] and reactive organic compounds [ROC], and 80 pounds per day for particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers or smaller [PM₁₀]);
- Emissions are less than 25 pounds per day of NO_x or ROC from motor vehicle trips only;
- Emissions will not cause or contribute to a violation of any CAAQS or NAAQS (except ozone);
- Emissions will not exceed the SBCAPCD health risk public notification thresholds adopted by the SBCAPCD Board;
- Emissions will be consistent with the adopted federal and state Air Quality Plans; and
- Carbon monoxide (CO) impacts including existing background levels are less than the California one-hour standard of 20 parts per million (i.e., impacts do not result in a CO "hot spot").

Due to the County's non-attainment status for ozone and the regional nature of the pollutant, if a project's total emissions of the ozone precursors, NO_x or ROC, exceed the long-term threshold, then the project's cumulative impacts would be considered significant. For projects that do not have significant ozone precursor emissions or localized pollutant impacts, emissions have been taken into account in the Air Quality Attainment Plan (AQAP) growth projections and therefore, cumulative impacts may be considered to be insignificant.

The SBCAPCD Guidelines recommend fugitive dust mitigation measures be applied to all dust-generating activities. Such measures include minimizing the project disturbance area, watering the site prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities, covering all truck loads, and limiting on-site vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour or less.

Applicable SBCAPCD Rules and Regulations

To minimize potential impacts from project emissions, the SBCAPCD implements rules and regulations for emissions that may be generated by various uses and activities. The rules and regulations detail pollution-reduction measures that must be implemented during construction and operation of projects. Rules and regulations relevant to the project include the following:

- **Rule 302 (Visible Emissions).** This rule prohibits the discharge of air contaminants from any single emission source for periods totaling more than three minutes in any one hour if the emissions are visibly opaque. This rule is intended to limit visible emissions and associated particulate matter impacts.
- **Rule 303 (Nuisance).** This rule prohibits discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material in violation of Section 41700 of the Health and Safety Code which cause injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety or any such persons or the public or which cause or have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property.
- **Rule 345 (Control of Fugitive Dust from Construction and Demolition Activities).** This rule establishes fugitive dust control requirements for any activity associated with construction or demolition of a structure or structures.
- **Rule 323.1 (Architectural Coatings).** This rule establishes volatile organic content limits for architectural coatings that are manufactured, blended, repackaged, supplied, sold, or offered for sale within the SBCAPCD. Rule 323.1 limits the volatile organic content to 50 grams per liter for flat coatings and 100 grams per liter for nonflat coatings and traffic marking coatings.
- **Rule 329 (Cutback and Emulsified Asphalt Paving Materials).** This rule establishes ROC content limits pertaining to the manufacture, application, and sale of cutback and emulsified asphalt materials for paving, construction, and maintenance of streets, highways, parking lots, and driveways.

Projects are expected to manage fugitive dust emissions such that emissions do not exceed SBCAPCD's visible emissions limit (SBCAPCD Rule 302), create a public nuisance (SBCAPCD Rule 303), and are in compliance with the SBCAPCD's requirements and standards for visible dust (SBCAPCD Rule 345). The SBCAPCD also recommends inclusion of Construction Impact Mitigation: PM₁₀ Mitigation Measures for projects. These measures, listed below, should be required for all projects involving earthmoving activities, regardless of the project size or duration:

- During construction, use water trucks, sprinkler systems, or dust suppressants in all areas of vehicle movement to prevent dust from leaving the site and from exceeding the SBCAPCD's limit of 20% opacity for greater than 3 minutes in any 60-minute period. When using water, this includes wetting down areas as needed but at least once in the late morning and after work is completed for the day. Increased watering frequency should be required when sustained wind speed exceeds 15 mph. Reclaimed water should be used whenever possible. However, reclaimed water should not be used in or around crops for human consumption.

- Onsite vehicle speeds shall be no greater than 15 miles per hour when traveling on unpaved surfaces.
- Install and operate a track-out prevention device where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto paved streets. The track-out prevention device can include any device or combination of devices that are effective at preventing track out of dirt such as gravel pads, pipe-grid track-out control devices, rumble strips, or wheel-washing systems.
- If importation, exportation, and stockpiling of fill material is involved, soil stockpiled for more than one day shall be covered, kept moist, or treated with soil binders to prevent dust generation. Trucks transporting fill material to and from the site shall be tarped from the point of origin.
- Minimize the amount of disturbed area. After clearing, grading, earthmoving, or excavation is completed, treat the disturbed area by watering, OR using roll-compaction, OR revegetating, OR by spreading soil binders until the area is paved or otherwise developed so that dust generation will not occur. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible.
- Schedule clearing, grading, earthmoving, and excavation activities during periods of low wind speed to the extent feasible. During periods of high winds (>25 mph) clearing, grading, earthmoving, and excavation operations shall be minimized to prevent fugitive dust created by onsite operations from becoming a nuisance or hazard.
- The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor and document the dust control program requirements to ensure any fugitive dust emissions do not result in a nuisance and to enhance the implementation of the mitigation measures as necessary to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holiday and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the Air Pollution Control District prior to grading/building permit issuance and/or map clearance.

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

SBCAPCD's Guidelines require projects to be consistent with local and regional air quality plan land use and population forecasts to ensure that project-related land use changes do not interfere with achieving or maintaining State and federal ambient air quality standards. Consistency with the Ozone Plan, otherwise referred to as an AQMP or AQAP, for the projects subject to these guidelines means that direct and indirect emissions associated with the project are accounted for in the Ozone Plan's emissions growth assumptions, that the project is consistent with District rules and regulations, and that the project is consistent with the policies and control measures that are developed and implemented in accordance with the Ozone Plan. All projects involving earthmoving activities must implement standard dust control measures, as provided in Rule 302, 303, and 345 above and outlined in Section 6.1.1 of SBCAPCD's Guidelines, to be consistent with the policies adopted in the AQAP.

The proposed project would not expand water system capacity, nor would it generate new housing, commercial, or industrial land uses (see *Population and Housing* section, below). Additionally, given the relatively small size of project construction activities, it is anticipated that construction workers would come from the regional workforce and would not relocate to Santa Barbara County as a result of the project. In addition, the proposed project would not require additional employees for operation and maintenance activities. As such, it would not contribute directly or indirectly to population growth and would not cause exceedances of the growth forecasts employed in the 2022 Santa Barbara County AQMP. Additionally, earthmoving activities conducted during construction

would implement standard dust control measures, consistent with the policies adopted in the AQAP. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- b. *Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?*

The proposed project would generate short-term emissions associated with project construction. Long-term emissions associated with operation would be negligible because the proposed project includes temporary bypass pipeline and two new segments to replace the existing damaged pipelines; therefore, operation and maintenance activities would be consistent with existing conditions. Construction emissions were modeled using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2022.1.1.0.

Construction

Project construction would generate temporary air pollutant emissions. These impacts are associated with fugitive dust and exhaust emissions from heavy-duty construction vehicles. Table 2 summarizes the maximum daily pollutant emissions for each project component.

Table 2 Construction Emissions (tons/year)

Maximum Daily Emissions	ROC	NO _x	CO	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
2026	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Significance Thresholds	25	25	N/A	25	25	25
Threshold Exceeded?	No	No	N/A	No	No	No

ROC: reactive organic compounds; NO_x: nitrogen oxides; CO: carbon monoxide; PM₁₀: particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; PM_{2.5}: particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter; SO₂: sulfur dioxide

See Appendix A for CalEEMod Detailed Report.

As shown in Table 2, emissions would not exceed the twenty-five tons per year thresholds. Accordingly, this impact would be less than significant and no mitigation would be required.

With respect to fugitive dust emissions, SBCAPCD states significant construction-related air quality impacts could occur if fugitive dust emissions are generated in such quantities as to cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of people or to the public, or which may endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such person or the public. For construction impacts, the SBCAPCD requires minimizing fugitive dust through dust control measures (Rule 302, 303, and 345). Following compliance with these measures, construction emissions would not be generated in such quantities as to cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of people or to the public, or endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such person or the public. Given the temporary nature of construction emissions and incorporation of fugitive dust reduction measures through compliance with existing SBCAPCD regulations measures, impacts related to fugitive dust would be less than significant.

Operation

Operation and maintenance activities would be consistent with existing activities and therefore, would not generate any new, ongoing maintenance trips or activities. Furthermore, the project

would not increase the system capacity. Therefore, emissions associated with long-term project operation and maintenance would remain unchanged from current conditions and would have a less than significant impact on regional air quality.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

SBCAPCD defines sensitive receptors as facilities or land uses which include members of the population particularly sensitive to the effects of air pollutants, such as children, the elderly, and people with illnesses. Examples of sensitive receptors listed in the SBCAPCD Guidelines include schools, hospitals, and daycare centers (SBCAPCD 2025). Potential sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project site include single-family residences within 0.25 mile. There are no schools, senior centers, nursing homes, hospitals, or churches within 0.25 mile of the project site.

Toxic Air Contaminants

As discussed under Items 3(b) and 3(c), project construction would result in temporary emissions of criteria pollutants, including fugitive dust, ROC, and NO_x. Construction is expected to take three months to complete and is linear in nature. As such, emissions from construction activities at a given sensitive receptor would occur for only a limited portion of the overall construction period, as construction activities would progress across the project site. Furthermore, compliance with SBCAPCD regulations (Rule 302, 303, and 345) would minimize emissions of TACs and fugitive dust during construction. Therefore, project construction would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial TAC emissions.

CO Hotspots

Traffic-congested roadways and intersections have the potential to generate elevated localized carbon monoxide (CO) levels (i.e., CO hotspots). In general, CO hotspots occur in areas with poor circulation or areas with heavy traffic. Ambient CO concentrations in Santa Barbara County have historically been low. As a result, the SBCAPCD discontinued ambient CO monitoring at its stations countywide in March and July 2004.

The proposed project would not require regular maintenance trips beyond existing conditions. Construction activities would cause a temporary increase in vehicle traffic. Additionally, due to the relatively low background ambient CO levels in Santa Barbara County, localized CO impacts associated with congested intersections are not expected to exceed the CO health-related air quality standards. Therefore, CO “hotspot” analyses are no longer required. The project would not result in CO hotspots on adjacent roadways.

San Joaquin Valley Fever

The population of Santa Barbara County has been and will continue to be exposed to Valley Fever from agricultural and construction activities occurring throughout the region. The fungal spores responsible for Valley Fever generally grow in virgin, undisturbed soil. Soil at the project site is already disturbed by construction of roadways and existing water infrastructure. Due to the previous amount of disturbance at the project site, disturbance of soil during construction activities is unlikely to pose a substantial risk of infection. Substantial increases in the number of reported cases of Valley Fever tend to occur only after major ground-disturbing events such as the 1994 Northridge earthquake (Center for Disease Control [CDC] 1994). Construction of the proposed

project would not result in a comparable amount of ground disturbance. Therefore, construction of the proposed project would not significantly increase the risk to public health above existing background levels. Because the project area does not pose a substantial risk for Valley Fever, Valley Fever-specific mitigation measures detailed in the SBCAPCD Guidelines would not be required.

Summary

The project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

During construction activities, heavy equipment and vehicles would emit odors associated with vehicle and engine exhaust and during idling. However, these odors would be intermittent and temporary and would cease upon completion, and odors would disperse with distance. Although operations of the updated water conveyance system are located near residences, construction activities at these locations would be similar to other construction activities occurring near residences in the city (such as residential and commercial construction) and would not create other emissions, such as those leading to objectionable odors, affecting a substantial number of people. Overall, project construction would not generate other emissions, such as those leading to odors, affecting a substantial number of people. Construction-related impacts would be less than significant.

The proposed pipelines would be installed belowground and would not create objectionable odors during project operation. Operation of the updated water infrastructure would not include activities with the potential to create objectionable odors. Land uses that typically produce odorous emissions include landfills, rendering plants, chemical plants, agricultural uses, wastewater treatment plants, refineries, fast food restaurants, bakeries, and coffee roasting facilities (CARB 2005; SBCAPCD 2017). The proposed project would not include odor-generating components or land uses. Therefore, project operation would not result in odorous emissions adversely affecting a substantial number of people. No operational impacts would occur.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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4 Biological Resources

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

Biological Resources Assessment

In January 2026, Rincon evaluated biological resources at the project site. The evaluation included a literature review and field reconnaissance survey and documented existing site conditions, such as the potential of special status plant and wildlife species, sensitive plant communities, jurisdictional waters and wetlands, and habitat for nesting birds.

Rincon conducted a field reconnaissance survey on January 9, 2026, encompassing the proposed project footprint (i.e., areas which are expected to be affected by the proposed project including the pipe repair construction footprint, staging areas, and access roads) and a 100-foot survey buffer beyond the limits of the project footprint (study area). Temperatures ranged from 51-54 degrees Fahrenheit with clear skies. There was minimal wind (0-5 mph wind speed).

Queries of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) *Information for Planning and Consultation System* (USFWS 2026a), USFWS Critical Habitat Portal (USFWS 2026b), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) *California Natural Diversity Database* (CNDDB) (CDFW 2026) were conducted within a five-mile radius of the study area. The queries were conducted to obtain comprehensive information regarding state and federally listed species, as well as other special status species, considered to have potential to occur within the study area. In addition, the following resources were reviewed for further information about the study area:

- Aerial photographs of the study area and vicinity
- United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service *Web Soil Survey* (USDA 2026)
- National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS 2026c)

The findings of the assessment are considered in the impact analysis below.

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

The majority of the project area consists of chaparral and coast live oak woodland habitats. There is an ephemeral drainage that runs north to south directly through the middle of the project area where the pipeline will be replaced. Additionally, non-native weeds and grasses have become established in large portions of the previously disturbed areas of the proposed access roads. Areas along the pipeline also have been previously disturbed where vegetation removal activities occur yearly for access by MWD.

Special Status Plants

One special status plant species, Santa Barbara honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var. *subspicata*), was observed during the reconnaissance-level field survey. This species was observed within the disturbance corridor along the easternmost access road. The access road is existing, but will have to be graded and cleared of vegetation to accommodate the transportation of large equipment to the project site (approximately 12-15-foot width is needed). Because the project's impacts would be temporary and localized, removal of a small number of honeysuckle plants would not lead to population-level effects on the species.

No threatened or endangered plant species have potential to occur within the project area, and no designated critical habitat occurs within or adjacent to the sites. Three special status plant species have a moderate potential to occur within the project area, including late-flowered mariposa lily (*Calochortus fimbriatus*), Ojai fritillary (*Fritillaria ojaiensis*), Sonoran maiden fern (*Pelazoneuron puberulum* var. *sonorense*), and Nuttall's scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*). These species have potential to occur within the project area in areas with chamise-black sage scrub and coast live oak woodland habitat.

Five special status plant species have low potential to occur within the project area, including Miles' milk-vetch (*Astragalus didymocarpus* var. *milesianus*), mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*), white-veined monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *hypoleuca*), Hoffmann's bitter gooseberry (*Ribes amarum* var. *hoffmannii*), and black-flowered figwort (*Scrophularia atrata*). Marginally suitable habitat for these species (chamise/black sage scrub) is present within or adjacent to the study area. These species have a low potential to occur and are not expected to be impacted by the project.

The southern ends of the access roads have been previously disturbed and are largely devoid of vegetation except for the establishment of non-native grass and weeds. Chamise-black sage scrub and coast live oak woodland habitat have been established in the northern ends of the access roads. All access roads will be graded and cleared for vegetation. Additionally, construction includes trenching the pipeline which will consist of vegetation removal and excavation within the project site. Impacts to chamise-black sage scrub and coast live oak woodland will occur in areas along the access roads and within the project site. These impacts would be temporary, and natural revegetation is expected after the project is complete.

Due to the limited habitat within the project area and low to moderate potential for locally rare, but not state or federally listed, plant species to occur, the number of individuals directly affected by project construction would be low, if any. Therefore, direct impacts from construction would not result in population-level effects on these species. Indirect impacts to special status plants occurring outside of the project area could occur from dust or run-off material generated during construction but would be minor with the implementation of Mitigation Measures. Impacts to special status plants would be less than significant and would be further reduced through Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, and BIO-5, which would limit encroachment into habitat areas, require topsoil salvage, establish a worker environmental training program for the project, and require the presence of a biological monitor.

Special Status Wildlife

The project area and surrounding vegetation has potential to support special-status wildlife species, although no special status wildlife species were observed during the reconnaissance-level field survey. Six special status wildlife species were determined to have moderate potential to occur within the project site: northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), Cooper's hawk (*Astur cooperii*), Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), coast range newt (*Taricha torosa*), and coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*).

The northern California legless lizard, coast range newt, coast horned lizard, and coast patch-nosed snake have moderate potential to occur within the project site and are associated with shrubby chaparral, coastal scrub, and ornamental vegetation and leaf litter and sandy loose and/or moist soils. Some coast live oak woodland and chamise-black sage scrub habitats may be impacted by the project and are suitable for these species, and individuals may be killed or injured during

excavations or vehicle movements. Even staging and parking, if occurring in areas where leaf litter and loose soils could accommodate these species, could result in injury or mortality due to crushing. These impacts would be potentially significant absent mitigation but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level through Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-4, and BIO-5, which requires a workers environmental awareness program, a preconstruction survey for special status wildlife species, and biological construction monitoring.

Crotch's bumble bee is a candidate for listing under CESA and as such, CESA protections are afforded to this species as if it were listed until a determination is made by the California Fish and Game Commission regarding formal listing. Impacts to bumble bees in the form of destruction of nests or injury or death of individual bees would be considered significant under CEQA. The Crotch's bumble bee is associated with chaparral and coastal scrub environments. Suitable foraging flowering resources, including black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and nesting/overwintering habitat (e.g., rock piles, rodent burrows, loose soil) are present within the project area. Coast live oak woodland and chamise-black sage scrub habitats are suitable for this species, and individuals may be killed or injured during vegetation clearing, excavations, or vehicle movements. These impacts would be potentially significant absent mitigation but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level through Mitigation Measure BIO-6, which requires a pre-construction survey and avoidance of this species.

The Cooper's hawk has potential to occur within the site's oak woodland habitat. This species prefers to nest in large, mature trees. Suitable nesting habitat occurs within mature oaks located within the project area. Because the project is expected to require trimming and/or removal of oak trees, it is possible that Cooper's hawk nests could be destroyed, or that Cooper's hawk eggs or nestlings could be injured or killed during construction. In addition, noise and human presence may cause adult Cooper's hawks to abandon their nests, which can also lead to mortality of eggs and nestlings. These impacts would be potentially significant absent mitigation but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level through Mitigation Measure BIO-7, which requires pre-construction nesting bird surveys and establishment of a protective buffer around any nests encountered.

Two species were determined to have low potential to occur within the project site: San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). Marginally suitable habitat for these species (chaparral habitat and rocky or vegetated drainages with limited or no riparian vegetation) is present within or adjacent to the study area. These species have a low potential to occur as transients within the project area and are not expected to be impacted by the project.

With the implementation of Mitigation Measures identified above, impacts related to candidate, sensitive, or special status species would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Nesting Birds

In addition to special status species, the project site contains habitat capable of supporting nesting birds, including those protected under the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGF) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The adjacent native trees and shrubs along the project footprint provide suitable nesting habitat for avian species. Specifically, the coast live oak trees and chaparral habitat throughout the project site contain suitable habitat for passerine and raptor species, such as Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) and red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). Direct impacts to raptors and other nesting birds may result if construction occurs while they are present within or adjacent to the project footprint, through direct mortality or abandonment of nests. Though impacts to common avian species do not generally rise to the level of significance under CEQA, the

destruction of nests during construction activities would be a violation of the MBTA and CFGC Section 3503 and therefore must be avoided. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-7 would maintain compliance with these federal and state laws.

Mitigation Measures

BIO-1 Worker Environmental Awareness Program

Prior to initiation of all construction activities (including staging and mobilization), all personnel associated with project construction shall attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, conducted by a qualified biologist, to assist workers in recognizing special status biological resources which may occur in the study area. This training will include information about nesting birds and the special status species potentially occurring in the study area.

The specifics of this program shall include identification of special status species and habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of special status resources, and review of the limits of construction and measures required to avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources within the work area. A fact sheet conveying this information shall also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employees, and other personnel involved with construction of the project. All employees shall sign a form provided by the trainer documenting they have attended the WEAP and understand the information presented to them. The crew foreman shall be responsible for ensuring crew members adhere to the guidelines and restrictions designed to avoid impacts to special status species. If new construction personnel are added to the project, the crew foreman shall confirm the new personnel receive the WEAP training before starting work. The subsequent training of personnel can include a video recording of the initial training and/or the use of written materials rather than in-person training by a biologist.

BIO-2 Sensitive Habitat Fencing

Prior to project mobilization, where the project is adjacent to sensitive habitat (i.e., environmentally sensitive habitat [ESH], riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities); temporary construction fencing shall be erected by the contractor at the edge of the temporary construction area to avoid impacts to the habitat throughout the duration of construction. If complete avoidance is not feasible, impacts shall be minimized as described in Mitigation Measure BIO-3.

BIO-3 Minimization of Sensitive Habitat Impacts

If encroachment into sensitive natural communities cannot be avoided, areas of temporary disturbance within these habitats shall be minimized to the extent practicable. Staging and parking areas shall be limited to sites which are unvegetated and/or previously disturbed areas comprising ruderal vegetation or non-native annual grasslands, ornamental landscaping, and paved/graded areas, to the extent practicable. If removal of sensitive vegetation is necessary during excavation and/or grading, the topsoil (top six inches) shall be salvaged and stored in temporary stockpiles and replaced in the same area following completion of excavation/grading activities. If removal of non-native invasive vegetation is necessary during excavation and/or grading, the plant material and topsoil shall be separated and exported off-site to a landfill or similar disposal facility. Temporary stockpiles with invasive species shall be stored away from salvaged sensitive natural communities and separate from sensitive vegetation topsoil. Natural revegetation is expected in cleared areas after the completion of the project. If revegetation of the site is necessary for soil stabilization

and/or fugitive dust control, the revegetation plant palette shall be free of invasive plants listed in the California Invasive Plant Council Inventory.

BIO-4 Pre-Construction Presence/Absence Survey for Special Status Wildlife Species

Within seven days prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities, a qualified biologist shall be retained to perform a survey for special status wildlife species in natural habitat areas within the project footprint and a 50-foot buffer to determine the presence/absence of these species. The pre-construction survey shall be conducted on foot within the project footprint and 50-foot buffer. Raking shall be conducted in areas of sandy, loose, and moist soils under sparse vegetation/leaf litter to determine the presence/absence of northern California legless lizard. The qualified biologist shall temporarily move any identified special status wildlife species outside of the construction area, and temporary barriers shall be placed around the construction area, as practicable, to prevent ingress. The results of these surveys shall be documented in a technical memorandum.

BIO-5 Biological Construction Monitoring

A qualified biological monitor shall be present during initial ground disturbing activities and vegetation removal to confirm impacts to special status wildlife species are avoided. The monitor shall have the authority to halt construction activities to avoid potential impacts to special status species. The results of biological monitoring shall be documented in daily logs and a technical memorandum at project completion.

BIO-6 Crotch's Bumble Bee Surveys and Avoidance

A formal habitat assessment shall be performed prior to initiating ground disturbing activities to determine if Crotch's bumble bee suitable nesting or foraging habitat is present in the Project area. The assessment will include:

1. Review of occurrence record data
2. Analysis of foraging, nesting, and overwintering resources
3. Documentation of plant species observed (including what is blooming at the time of the survey and percent cover)

The locations of any nesting resources, including rodent burrows, cavities, thatched grasses, brush, rock piles, logs, and manmade structures like dumped furniture, will be mapped during the assessment. Areas adjacent to the Project will also be considered, as accessible, to determine if there is suitable nesting or foraging habitat.

If suitable nesting and foraging resources are detected during the habitat assessment, they will be avoided by a 50-foot buffer, where possible. If avoidance is not possible, a protocol-survey following the CDFW *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act* (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species (CDFW 2023) will be performed to determine if Crotch's bumble bee is present in the Project area. A minimum of three visits will be conducted during the colony active season (April – August) and will be spaced 2-4 weeks apart. If no Crotch's bumble bees are detected on the site, no further mitigation would be required. If Crotch's bumble bees are detected, consultation with CDFW will be initiated to determine the best way to avoid impacts to bumble bees on the site, and to determine whether an ITP is warranted.

BIO-7 Pre-Construction Nesting Bird Surveys

To avoid disturbance of nesting and special status birds, including raptor species, protected by the MBTA and CFGC 3503, activities related to the project including, but not limited to, vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and construction and demolition shall occur outside of the bird breeding season for migratory birds (January 1 through September 1), if practicable.

If construction must begin during the breeding season, then a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted no more than seven days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities. The nesting bird pre-construction survey shall be conducted on foot inside the project footprint, including a 100-foot buffer (300 feet for raptors), and in inaccessible areas (e.g., private lands) from afar using binoculars to the extent practicable. The survey shall be conducted by a biologist familiar with the identification of avian species known to occur in southern California coastal communities. If nests are found, an avoidance buffer (dependent upon the species, the proposed work activity, and existing disturbances associated with land uses outside of the site) shall be determined and demarcated by the biologist with bright orange construction fencing, flagging, construction lathe, or other means to mark the boundary. All construction personnel shall be notified as to the existence of the buffer zone and to avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season. No ground-disturbing activities shall occur inside this buffer until the avian biologist has confirmed breeding/nesting is completed, and the young have fledged the nest. Encroachment into the buffer shall occur only at the discretion of the qualified biologist.

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- 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?*

The project site is located on a southern slope of the Santa Ynez Mountains above Summerland. Native vegetation has become established along the access roads and around the project area. Vegetation around the project site was documented during the reconnaissance-level biological survey.

Vegetation Communities

Two vegetation communities were documented within the Project site during the field survey – coast live oak woodland and chamise/black sage scrub. A brief description of the oak woodland vegetation community, which is considered sensitive by the County, is provided below. The vegetation classification used for this analysis is based on *A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition* (MCV2; Sawyer et al. 2009²).

Coast Live Oak Woodland and Forest (Quercus agrifolia Forest and Woodland Alliance)

Coast live oak woodland and forest (*Quercus agrifolia* Forest and Woodland Alliance) is a warm temperate woodland/forest vegetation community that occurs along canyon bottoms, slopes, and flats. The soils are deep, high in organic matter, and contain sand or loam. Coast live oak is dominant or codominant in the tree canopy where it comprises 50 percent or greater relative cover. Common co-dominants and associates include big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), valley oak

² Sawyer, J.O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J.M. Evens. 2009. *A Manual of California Vegetation*, 2nd edition. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, California.

(*Quercus lobata*), and California bay (*Umbellularia californica*). The tree canopy is open to continuous; the shrub layer is sparse to intermittent; and the herbaceous layer is sparse to continuous. This vegetation community is not considered a CDFW sensitive natural community but is considered sensitive by the County.

This vegetation community comprises a majority of the project area in areas dominated by trees. Coast live oak is the dominant tree species and contains continuous to intermittent canopy cover. The shrub stratum was generally dominated by California sagebrush and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*). The herbaceous understory is sparse except where coast live oak woodland borders chaparral habitat, and where the ephemeral drainage supports a more diverse understory of herbaceous species.

Where sensitive communities occur, the project has been designed to avoid impacts to the extent feasible. Parking and staging will occur mostly within annual grasslands and other previously disturbed areas. Oaks may need to be trimmed or removed to accommodate equipment passage along access routes or to allow staging activities to proceed. Potential impacts to coast live oak woodland would be potentially significant absent mitigation. These impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level through Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-8, which would fence sensitive areas to prevent inadvertent encroachment and ensure that any necessary trimming of oaks is conducted using approved arboricultural practices.

Impacts related to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures

BIO-8 Arborist Study and Tree Protection

Prior to the start of construction, an Arborist Study should be conducted for protected trees with any portion of their dripline within the project area and a 20-foot buffer. Protected trees shall be defined as native trees that are six inches or greater in diameter, as is standard in the county (County of Santa Barbara 2021). The study shall plot the location of protected trees and identify the species. The Arborist Report shall be prepared by a Certified Arborist and include, at minimum, the following:

- An inventory of all protected trees containing a canopy drip line within 20 feet of the project area, as feasible without trespassing on private lands. Inventory data shall record, at minimum: diameter at breast height (DBH), height, canopy spread, and overall health rating
- Description of proposed site development activities including, but not limited to, excavation and grading, any tree trimming for access, and staging/parking within 20 feet of a protected tree canopy dripline.
- Mandatory tree protection recommendations, which shall at a minimum include a site plan depicting the project area, the tree protection zone (TPZ; six feet from the dripline, as is typical in the county [County of Santa Barbara 2021]), and project encroachment boundaries; tree protection fencing, activities prohibited/permitted within the tree protective zone, approved tree trimming practices, and standard measures for protecting trees during construction. The mandatory recommendations shall ensure that any trimming of protected trees is performed in accordance with current arboricultural practices and overseen by a certified arborist.

The Arborist Report shall be submitted to the District for approval prior to the start of any tree-disturbing construction activities.

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- 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?*

No potential wetland areas occur in the project area based on an evaluation of available mapping data, vegetation, and topography.

A jurisdictional ephemeral drainage is located through the middle of the project area, running north to south. This feature flows intermittently, has no defined bed or banks, and is dry for most of the year. Additionally, the feature was dry during the time of the survey, which occurred four days after a rain event that brought over 3 inches of rain to the region. The project area, site access roads, and staging areas would need to be cleared of vegetation prior to use. Additionally, the pipeline will be trenched (three to seven feet deep, 2.5 feet wide) directly through the streambed. Direct impacts from construction could adversely affect water quality (e.g., increased turbidity, addition of pollutants) particularly during storm events. Additionally, indirect impacts from construction materials (e.g., stockpiled materials, construction equipment, and trash) that may be stored onsite could also adversely affect water quality if runoff were to occur during storm events. These impacts would be significant absent mitigation but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level through Mitigation Measures BIO-9 and BIO-10, which would ensure materials are properly stored and stormwater controls are in place to protect water quality. Additionally, necessary permits for the proposed temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters associated with the jurisdictional feature would be obtained prior to initiating impacts. The discharge of fill into the streambed is anticipated to require a Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW pursuant to Section 1600 of the CFGC and coverage under Waste Discharge Requirements from the State Water Resources Control Board.

With the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-9 and BIO-10, impacts to state waters would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures

BIO-9 Construction Material Storage to Prevent Leaks and Spills

Materials and equipment (when not in use) shall be stored on impervious surfaces or plastic ground covers to prevent spills or leakage. Material storage and material/spoils from project activities shall be located and stored 100 feet from waterways. Adequate spill prevention and response equipment shall be maintained on site and readily available to implement to minimize impacts to the aquatic and marine environments. Construction materials and spoils shall be protected from stormwater runoff using temporary perimeter sediment barriers such as berms, silt fences, fiber rolls, covers, sand/gravel bags, and straw bale barriers, as appropriate.

BIO-10 Construction Best Management Practices

To avoid and/or minimize potential direct and indirect impacts to special status species and potentially jurisdictional waters and water quality outside of the project area, the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented:

- g. Prior to project mobilization, all limits of construction work adjacent to potentially jurisdictional waters shall be clearly delineated with orange construction fencing or similar highly visible material and maintained throughout the duration of construction.
- h. All temporary materials related to construction of the project would be removed upon completion of the project. The jurisdictional area would be restored to pre-project conditions with the exception of the bank and channel repair area.
- i. Off-site tracking of loose construction and landscape materials shall be prevented by implementing street sweeping, vacuuming, and rumble plates, as appropriate.
- j. Site washout areas shall be at least 100 feet from a storm drain, open ditch, or surface water and prevent runoff flows from such activities from entering receiving water bodies.
- k. All vehicles and equipment shall be in good working condition and free of leaks. The contractor shall prevent oil, petroleum products, or any other pollutants from contaminating the soil or entering a watercourse (dry or otherwise). When vehicles or equipment are stationary, mats or drip pans shall be placed below vehicles to contain fluid leaks.
- l. Fugitive dust from ground disturbance activities shall be minimized using water trucks and covering of soil stockpiles.
- m. A speed limit of 15 mph for construction vehicles shall be implemented on unpaved non-public roads.
- n. All food related trash shall be disposed of in closed containers and removed from the project site each day during the construction period. Construction personnel shall not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the construction area. At project completion, all project-generated debris, vehicles, building materials, and rubbish shall be removed from the project site.

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- 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?*

The project area is situated in a rural residential area near the interface with adjacent wildlands, and regional wildlife movement is fairly unrestricted in this area. Many of the nearby properties are unfenced, and oak woodland vegetation provides extensive cover for animals conducting localized movements to meet basic life history needs such as feeding, sheltering, and breeding, and are also passable during longer movements such as migration or dispersal. The presence of the drainage channels within and west of the project site increases the suitability for wildlife movement, as these features provide both topographic relief. Roads can also be used as movement routes by certain species. The area is not documented as a wildlife corridor from a regional perspective and is not located within an Essential Connectivity Area as mapped in the *California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project: A Strategy for Conserving a Connected California* (CDFW 2010).

Construction activities would be limited to the two ravines above 2500 East Valley Road, where landslides exposed and displaced the pipeline. Project activities include installation of a temporary bypass pipeline, replacement of the damaged pipeline segments, and optional removal of the existing pipeline. During construction, it is possible wildlife may avoid the project area due to added noise and human presence. In these instances, the animals would be expected to easily find alternate travel routes due to the open and permeable nature of the area (i.e., access to resources would not be cut off by the project). The project would not result in any substantial permanent changes to the project area, and long-term suitability for wildlife movement is expected to be the

same as the current condition. As such, the project's effects on wildlife movement would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

The project is located outside the coastal zone in the Montecito Community Plan (MCP) area. The MCP Policy BIO-M-1.17 states oak trees shall be protected to the maximum extent feasible (County of Santa Barbara 1995). The MCP Policies BIO-M-1.15 and BIO-M-1.16 state native specimen trees (mature trees that are healthy and structurally sound and have grown into the natural stature particular to the species) regardless of size, shall be protected from damage or removal by development to the maximum extent feasible.

The project may have to trip or remove native specimen trees or coast live oak trees along the access routes to the project site. Additionally, excavation and grading has the potential to impact the roots and canopy of native trees. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-8 would reduce impacts to native trees to a less-than significant level by requiring an arborist study prior to the start of construction and by requiring that any tree trimming or removal be performed using current arboriculture practices and overseen by an arborist.

MCP Policy BIO-M-1.19 protects oak woodlands as habitat rather than as individual trees. The project may encroach into woodland habitats during construction through vegetation removal within the project area. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-8 would reduce impacts to woodlands to a less-than-significant level by minimizing the destruction of trees during construction.

MCP-mapped riparian ESH is present within the project area at the southern end of the middle proposed access road (County of Santa Barbara 2025). No construction will occur within the riparian ESH; however, vegetation clearing may be needed along the sides of the access road. Per the MCP Policies BIO-M-1.2 and BIO-M-1.8, riparian ESH shall be protected and a minimum buffer strip for development near streams and creeks in rural areas shall be 50 feet in urban areas and 100 feet in rural areas. The buffers may be adjusted upward or downward on a case-by-case basis but shall not preclude reasonable development of a parcel. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-3, BIO-7, and BIO-8 would reduce indirect impacts to ESH to a less than significant level.

Impacts related to local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

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

The project does not occur within the coverage area of any Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan, and would not cause any impact related to inconsistencies with such a plan. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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5 Cultural Resources

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

CEQA requires a lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on historical resources (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21084.1). A historical resource is (1) a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR); (2) a resource included in a local register of historical resources; and/or (3) any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5[a][1-3]). Historical resources may include eligible built environment resources and archaeological resources from any time period.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)(3), a resource is considered historically significant if it:

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

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(c) provides further guidance on the consideration of archaeological resources. If an archaeological resource does not qualify as a historical resource, it may meet the definition of a "unique archaeological resource" as identified in PRC Section 21083.2. If it can be demonstrated that a project would cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. To the extent that resources cannot be left undisturbed, mitigation measures are required (PRC Section 21083.2[a-b]).

PRC Section 21083.2(g) defines a unique archaeological resource as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it:

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

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 also provides guidance for addressing the potential presence of human remains, including those discovered during implementation of a project.

The impact analysis included herein is organized based on the cultural resources thresholds included in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G: Environmental Checklist Form. Threshold A broadly refers to historical resources. To more clearly differentiate between archaeological and built environment resources, analysis under Threshold A is limited to built environment resources. Archaeological resources, including those that may be considered historical resources pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 and those that may be considered unique archaeological resources pursuant to PRC Section 21083.2, are considered under Threshold B.

Methodology and Results of Cultural Resources Assessment

Rincon prepared a Cultural Resources Assessment to evaluate potential project impacts to historical and archaeological resources (Pfeiffer et al. 2026). The analysis consisted of a California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) (formerly the Central Coast Information Center) of the project site as well as a 0.5-mile radius surrounding it, a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search conducted by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), historical topographic map and aerial imagery review, geoarchaeological review, and a pedestrian field survey. The following information and analysis is based on the Cultural Resources Assessment.

Pending the results of the records search for the current project, Rincon utilized record search results (records search #24-077) conducted in 2024 for the District's Highline Project that includes the extent of the current project (Rincon Consultants, Inc. 2024). On January 9, 2026, Rincon conducted a pedestrian survey of the project site the pedestrian field survey was conducted using transect intervals spaced approximately 15 meters apart. Exposed ground surfaces were examined for artifacts (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stone milling tools), ecofacts (marine shell and bone), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, and historic debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). Ground disturbances such as burrows were also visually inspected. No cultural resources were identified as a result of the field survey.

The CHRIS records search was performed to identify previously conducted cultural resources studies, as well as previously recorded cultural resources within the project site and a 0.5-mile radius surrounding it. The SSJVIC is the official state repository for cultural resources records and reports for Santa Barbara County. Rincon also reviewed the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Historical Landmarks list, California Points of Historical Interests list, Archaeological Determination of Eligibility list, the Built Environment Resources Directory, the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks list, and the Santa Barbara County Places of Historic Merit list. On February 23, 2026, Rincon received the CHRIS records search results from the SSJVIC. The SSJVIC records search identified four previously recorded cultural resources within 0.5-mile of the project site. None of the resources are located within or adjacent to the project site. The closest previously recorded resource (P-42-001581/CA-SBA-1581) is located

approximately 0.12 mile to the southwest and consists of a precontact low-density shell and lithic scatter.

On December 4, 2025, Rincon contacted the NAHC to request a search of the SLF, as well as an AB 52 contact list of Native Americans culturally affiliated with the project area. On December 10, 2025, the NAHC responded to Rincon's SLF request, stating the results of the SLF search were positive. A positive SLF search indicates that Sacred Lands were identified within one to three miles of the project site.

Rincon's review of historical topographic maps and aerial imagery indicate the project's proposed access roads were observed in their current alignment as trails leading to open air water reservoirs as early as 1928. Further, approximately 100 feet of the project's central access road, as well as the central and southwestern staging areas are located within the historic-aged Rancho San Carlos property.

The geoarchaeological review completed for the current investigation indicate geologic units (Tsp and Qoa) mapped within the project site were deposited during the Oligocene (approximately 33.9 million years ago to 23 million years ago) and the Pleistocene (approximately 126,000 to 11,700 years ago). Both of these geologic units largely predate human occupation of the region. Further, the project site does not contain buried A-horizons, which are generally indicative of natural burial and preservation of archaeological deposits.

a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?

According to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5, a historical resource includes those listed in or determined eligible for listing in the CRHR or a local register of historical resources or any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant.

The records search and pedestrian field survey did not identify any built environment resources within the project site. Rincon's background research and aerial imagery review indicate the project's proposed access roads were observed in their current alignment as trails leading to open air water reservoirs as early as 1928. Further, approximately 100 feet of the project's central access road, as well as the central and southwestern staging areas are located within the historic-aged Rancho San Carlos property. Although the project's proposed access roads and Rancho San Carlos both meet the 45-year age threshold which generally triggers the need for historical resources evaluation per the California Office of Historic Preservation, the project would not impact either regardless of their potential historical resource eligibility. Use of this portion of the Rancho San Carlos property would be temporary and generally consistent with the existing design and function of the existing trail and staging areas. The project would not introduce any permanent above-ground elements or features and the proposed activities would not be visible from the ranch. Further, the property would not result in permanent visual, vibrational or atmospheric changes, nor would it alter the overall function or integrity of the larger Rancho San Carlos property. Because the project does not have the potential to result in impacts, the property was not recorded or evaluated. Improvements to the project's proposed access roads would involve minor physical modifications to the existing trails via grading activities (approximately 6 to 8 inches below the ground surface) to accommodate construction access; however, the background research and pedestrian field survey cannot confirm the date of initial construction, original function or any clear associations with the project site or surrounding area. While the trails lead to open air reservoirs to the south, they also connect to a series of trails to the north. Many recreational hiking trails are also

observed in the surrounding area. The trails lack integrity and clear historical context, and their function within the project site is unclear. As such, the trails were not formally recorded or evaluated.

The project would not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of any known or potential historical resource pursuant to §15064.5. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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

The CHRIS records search, background research and pedestrian field survey did not identify any archaeological resources within the project site. The Eastern Pipeline Replacement area, Western Pipeline Replacement area, and removal of existing pipeline within the eastern ravine have been previously disturbed by erosional processes, as well as the installation and maintenance of the existing Highline Water Main Pipeline. Further, due to recent storm events the existing pipelines within the Eastern Pipeline Replacement area and Western Pipeline Replacement area and shallow and almost entirely exposed. Ground disturbance associated with the widening of the project's proposed access roads would be limited to approximately six to eight inches below the existing ground surface. Although this type of activity constitutes a minimal level of disturbance, grading activities would extend beyond the footprint of the existing trails and into undisturbed native soils that have the potential to contain archaeological resources. However, steep hillsides like ones observed within the project site (greater than 45 degrees) are typically unsuitable landforms for Native American habitation. Cultural materials, if any once existed, have likely been displaced by modern disturbances, natural depositional processes and erosion from past and recent storm events within the project site.

Given the absence of previously recorded archaeological resources within or near the project site, lack of buried A-horizon topsoil, geologic units that predate human occupation, negative field survey, existing level of disturbance from the installation and maintenance of the existing Highline Water Main Pipeline, and ongoing erosional processes, the potential to encounter intact subsurface archaeological deposits within the project site is low. However, there is always a possibility that ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed project could result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource. Impacts would be potentially significant and Mitigation Measure CR-1 is required to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

CR-1 Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources

In the event that archaeological resources are unexpectedly encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work within 50 feet of the find shall halt and a qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983) shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the resource. If the resource is determined by the qualified archaeologist to be prehistoric, then a Native American representative shall also be contacted to participate in the evaluation of the resource. If the qualified archaeologist and/or Native American representative determines it to be appropriate, archaeological testing for CRHR eligibility shall be completed. If the resource proves to be eligible for the CRHR and significant impacts to the resource cannot be avoided via project redesign, a qualified archaeologist shall prepare a data recovery plan tailored to the physical nature and characteristics of the resource, per the requirements of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C). The data recovery plan shall identify data recovery excavation methods, measurable objectives, and

data thresholds to reduce any significant impacts to cultural resources related to the resource. Pursuant to the data recovery plan, the qualified archaeologist and Native American representative, as appropriate, shall recover and document the scientifically consequential information that justifies the resource's significance. The District shall review and approve the treatment plan and archaeological testing as appropriate, and the resulting documentation shall be submitted to the regional repository of the California Historical Resources Information System, per CCR Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C).

Significance After Mitigation

Mitigation Measure CR-1 outlines the appropriate protocol for treatment of archaeological resources in the event of a find during project construction. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1 would reduce potential impacts to archeological resources to a less-than-significant level.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

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

No human remains are known to be present within the project site; however, the discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbing activities, which would be required for the proposed project. In addition to being potential archaeological resources, human burials have specific provisions for treatment in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097. Additionally, California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5, 7051, and 7054 contain specific provisions for the protection of human burial remains. Existing regulations address the illegality of interfering with human burial remains and protects them from disturbance, vandalism, or destruction. PRC Section 5097.98 also addresses the disposition of Native American burials, protects such remains and establishes the Native American Heritage Commission as the entity to resolve any related disputes.

If human remains are found, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states no further disturbance shall occur until the County coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of being granted access to the site and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials. Due to required compliance with PRC Section 5097.98 and California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, impacts to human remains would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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6 Energy

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in a 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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

Construction

Energy use during project construction would be primarily in the form of fuel consumption to operate heavy equipment, light-duty vehicles, and machinery. Temporary grid power may also be provided to construction trailers or electric construction equipment. Energy use during construction would be temporary in nature. Heavy-duty equipment used would be typical of similar-sized construction projects in the region. Furthermore, heavy-duty off-road construction equipment is regulated under the USEPA Nonroad Compression-Ignition (Diesel) Engine Standards (Tier 1–4), which require the use of progressively cleaner and more efficient engine technologies. Although these regulations do not establish a construction-equipment-specific fuel-efficiency standard, compliance with Tier 4–certified engines results in improved fuel efficiency and reduced unnecessary fuel consumption (USEPA 2025). These practices would result in efficient use of energy necessary to perform construction of the project. In the interest of cost-efficiency, construction contractor(s) also would not utilize fuel in a wasteful or unnecessary manner. Therefore, construction would not involve the inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary use of energy. No construction impact would occur.

Operation

The project would not be used to increase the retail water supply or serve additional customers. Operational trips associated with maintenance of the infrastructure would be the same as under existing conditions. Because the project involves a pipeline replacement, operation of the new pipeline would be the same as current baseline conditions. As such, project operation would not result in a potential impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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

Senate Bill 100 mandates 100 percent clean electricity for California by 2045. Because the proposed project would be powered by the existing electricity grid, the project would eventually be powered by renewable energy mandated by Senate Bill 100 and would not conflict with this statewide plan. The County of Santa Barbara 2030 Climate Action Plan does not contain any regulations, goals, or policies which would apply to the project. Thus, the project would not conflict with or obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy. Therefore, no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

7 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than- Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
1. 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
2. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
4. Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐

- a.1. 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?*
- a.2. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?*

Pursuant to state law, the California Geological Survey (CGS) has designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones for the Carpinteria Quadrangle in which the project site is located. No portion of the project site is located in an Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone. The nearest Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone to the project site is the Red Mountain Fault Zone, approximately 9.3 miles southeast of the project site (CGS 2026). In addition, the Arroyo Parida section of the Mission Ridge Fault Zone, a late Quaternary fault zone not considered to be Alquist-Priolo active is located approximately 0.82 miles south of the project site (United States Geological Survey 2026).

Although the project site is located in a seismically active area, the proposed project would not expose people or habitable structures to seismically induced risk. The proposed project involves water infrastructure improvements; it does not involve construction of or modification to any habitable structures. While the project may be subject to strong ground shaking in the event of an earthquake, it would not be subject to unusual levels of ground shaking as compared to the rest of the region. Furthermore, the project would restore the existing pipeline to current engineering standards and reduce vulnerability to seismic events, as it would underground the existing exposed pipeline, thereby making the current infrastructure more resilient to seismic activity. The engineering design of the proposed water infrastructure improvements would consider the seismic environment and would comply with applicable seismic design standards. In the event an earthquake compromised any project component during operation, the Montecito Water District would temporarily cease operations and conduct emergency repairs as soon as possible. Therefore, while the project site is located within a seismically active area, the project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death, involving rupture of a known earthquake fault or seismic ground shaking. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- a.3. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*

Liquefaction occurs when strong, cyclic motions during an earthquake cause water-saturated soils to lose their cohesion and take on a liquid state. Liquefied soils are unstable and can subject overlying structures to substantial damage. In the event of a major earthquake, seismically induced liquefaction would be expected throughout the community of Montecito and Santa Barbara County (County of Santa Barbara 2023).

The project site is not within a liquefaction hazard zone as identified by CGS mapping. The nearest liquefaction zone as identified by CGS is located approximately 7.99 miles southeast from the project site, at Rincon Point (CGS 2026). However, the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan indicates that the community of Montecito is at moderate risk of experiencing liquefaction-related hazards (County of Santa Barbara 2023). The proposed project would restore the existing infrastructure, which is currently susceptible to seismic-related ground failure and associated hazards, to current engineering standards and reduce vulnerability to seismic-

related ground failure. The project would improve the resiliency of this infrastructure by repairing and undergrounding the existing pipeline, thereby improving the resiliency of Montecito Water District's infrastructure. In the event seismically induced liquefaction compromises the proposed water infrastructure during operation, the District would temporarily cease operations and conduct emergency repairs as soon as possible. The project involves repairs to water infrastructure and would not involve placement of habitable structures within a liquefaction-prone area, thereby minimizing the potential to result in loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure due to liquefaction. As a result, the proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.4. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?

In general, a landslide event may be triggered by removing material down-slope of potentially unstable materials; placing fill or heavy structures upslope of potentially unstable materials; or applying substantial amounts of water to the surface or subsurface to the point where it decreases the strength of potentially unstable geologic areas. The project site is not located within a landslide hazard zone as identified by CGS mapping. The nearest landslide zone as identified by CGS is located approximately 8.76 miles southeast of the project site along U.S. 101, south of Rincon Point (CGS 2026). However, as described in Section 1.6, *Description of Project*, the project site is in two ravines of the Montecito foothills, where landslides displaced the existing pipeline in January 2023.

The proposed project is intended to restore the existing pipeline to current engineering standards and reduce vulnerability to future slope instability, as the existing pipeline is currently susceptible to further landslide-related risks. The proposed project would improve the resiliency of the existing infrastructure by undergrounding the pipeline to repair damages from the 2023 landslides and would not include habitable structures or expose people to loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Although the project site is located in hillside areas, the proposed project would not disturb or burden potentially unstable geologic areas. As discussed under Items 7(a.1) and 7(a.2), all project activities would be constructed in compliance with applicable standards for seismic integrity and safety, which includes the potential for landslides. The proposed project would not have the potential to cause substantial adverse effects involving landslides. Impacts involving landslides would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Soil erosion or the loss of topsoil may occur when soils are disturbed but not secured or restored, to the point where wind or rain events may mobilize disturbed soils, resulting in their transport off the project site. Construction activities involving soil disturbance, such as excavation, stockpiling, and grading could result in increased erosion and sediment transport by stormwater to surface waters.

The proposed project would minimize soil erosion via implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), in accordance with the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit). Compliance with the Construction General Permit requires the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to reduce erosion and topsoil loss from stormwater runoff. The SWPPP would include additional erosion control BMPs, such as covering of stockpiles, use of desilting basins, limitations

on work during high-wind events, and post-construction revegetation and drainage requirements. With adherence to the permit requirements, the project would not result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil, and impacts would be less than significant.

NO IMPACT

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

Unstable soils are those soils which are physically unsuitable to support buildings, roads, utilities, or other development-related improvements, or which have the potential for slope failure, erosion, or subsidence. As discussed under Items 7(a.3) and 7(a.4), the proposed project would not exacerbate soil instability in areas of the project site at risk of liquefaction, lateral spreading or landslide. The project site is not located in an area subject to subsidence (County of Santa Barbara 2023).

Expansive soils are those soils which can undergo substantial changes in volume (i.e., shrink-or-swell potential), due to variations in moisture content. Expansive soils have been documented throughout Santa Barbara County, including the community of Montecito (County of Santa Barbara 2023), and may be present in localized areas of the project site.

As described in Section 1.6 Description of Project,, during the pipeline repair process, the contractor would install replacement ductile iron pipe in two short segments and restore the trench using engineered bedding and compacted native or imported backfill as specified, implementing erosion control measures as needed. All work would occur within areas already disturbed by previous infrastructure installation and maintenance activities. The project consists solely of replacing damaged segments of an existing water transmission and does not involve the construction or installation of new facilities, with the exception of the temporary aboveground pipeline to maintain water service throughout construction. As discussed previously, although the project site is located in a seismically active area, the project is not anticipated to adversely affect soil stability or increase the potential for local or regional landslides, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. The project would not include habitable structures and would therefore not create substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property beyond existing conditions.

The project would not compromise soil stability and there would be no impact involving unstable or expansive soils.

NO IMPACT

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

The proposed project would not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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

Paleontological resources, or fossils, are the evidence of once-living organisms preserved in the rock record. They include both the fossilized remains of ancient plants and animals and the traces thereof (e.g., trackways, imprints, burrows, etc.). Paleontological resources are not found in “soil” but are contained within the geologic deposits or bedrock that underlies the soil layer. Typically, fossils are greater than 10,000 years old (i.e., Pleistocene or older) and are typically preserved in sedimentary rocks. Although rare, fossils can also be preserved in volcanic rocks and low-grade metamorphic rocks under certain conditions (Society of Vertebrate Paleontology [SVP] 2025). Fossils occur in a non-continuous and often unpredictable distribution within some sedimentary units, and the potential for fossils to occur within sedimentary units depends on several factors. It is possible to evaluate the potential for geologic units to contain scientifically important paleontological resources, and therefore evaluate the potential for impacts to those resources and provide mitigation for paleontological resources if they are discovered during construction of a development project.

Rincon evaluated the paleontological sensitivity of the geologic units that underlie the project site to assess the project’s potential for significant impacts to scientifically important paleontological resources. The analysis was based on the results of a paleontological locality search and a review of existing information in the scientific literature regarding known fossils within geologic units mapped at the project site. In the absence of other sensitivity criteria required by certain federal, state, or local regulatory agencies, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology’s Fossil Prediction Map System (FPMS) is used to assign paleontological sensitivity to geologic units (SVP 2025). FPMS assignments are based on rock units within which vertebrate or significant invertebrate fossils have been determined by previous studies to be present or likely to be present. Fossil occurrences are correlated with the geologic units that contain them, so the history of a geologic unit in producing fossils can be used to predict its potential for producing fossils in the future. The FPMS is a 5-tier scale ranging from FPMS 1 (Very Low Potential) to FPMS 5 (Very High Potential) geologic units along with other rankings for geologic units with unknown potential or areas covered by water or ice. Following the literature review, a paleontological sensitivity classification was assigned to each geologic unit mapped within the project site. This criterion is based on rock units within which vertebrate or significant invertebrate fossils have been determined by previous studies to be present or likely to be present. The potential for impacts to significant paleontological resources is based on the potential for ground disturbance to directly impact paleontologically sensitive geologic units.

Rincon requested a records search from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (SBMNH). This locality search recovered no known fossil localities within the project site (SBMNH 2026). However, the SBMNH does contain six paleontological localities from Pleistocene-aged alluvial sediments within 10 miles of the project site, which produced mastodon (*Mammut*), birds, invertebrates, and plants. SBMNH contains one paleontological locality from the Sespe Formation approximately 18.5 miles from the project site, which produced a brontothere mammal fossil.

The project site is situated in the Transverse Ranges geomorphic province, one of the eleven geomorphic provinces in California (California Geological Survey 2002). The Transverse Ranges extend approximately 275 miles west-east from Point Arguello in Santa Barbara County, east to the San Bernardino Mountains, and south to the Anacapa-Santa Monica-Hollywood-Raymond-Cucamonga fault zone (Yerkes and Campbell 2005). The Transverse Ranges are composed of Proterozoic to Mesozoic intrusive crystalline igneous and metamorphic rocks overlain by Cenozoic

marine and terrestrial sedimentary deposits and volcanic rock (Norris and Webb 1976). Locally, the project site is located in the southern foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains.

The project is located in the *Carpinteria, California* United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle(s). The geology of the region surrounding the project site was mapped by Minor et al. (2009) who identified two geologic units, Quaternary intermediate alluvium and Sespe Formation, underlying the project site (Figure 4).

Quaternary intermediate alluvium underlies a small portion of the access area from Romero Creek (Figure 4). This geologic unit consists of weakly consolidated silt, sand, and gravel that are late Pleistocene in age (Minor et al. 2009). Pleistocene-aged alluvial sediments are known to produce significant paleontological resources in Santa Barbara County, including mastodon (*Mammut*), mammoth (*Mammuthus*), ground sloth (*Paramylodon*), horse (*Equus*), birds, and invertebrates (Jefferson 2010; Paleobiology Database 2026; SBMNH 2026; University of California Museum of Paleontology [UCMP] 2026). Given the fossil-producing history of similar sediments in the region, Quaternary intermediate alluvium is assigned FPMS 4 (High) paleontological sensitivity.

The Sespe Formation underlies the majority of the project site (Figure 4). In particular, Minor et al. (2009) referred to this portion of the Sespe Formation as the middle conglomerate and sandstone unit, which consists of maroon, tan, or greenish-gray mudstone, sandstone, and conglomerate and is Oligocene in age. The Sespe Formation has produced many significant paleontological localities in Santa Barbara County and elsewhere in southern California, producing rhinoceros, camel, dog, oreodont, rodent, primate, and reptile fossils (Paleobiology Database 2026; SBMNH 2026; UCMP 2026). Given the fossil-producing history of this geologic unit, Sespe Formation is assigned FPMS 4 (High) paleontological sensitivity.

Ground-disturbing activities within previously undisturbed sediments with FPMS 4 (High) paleontological sensitivity could result in significant impacts to paleontological resources. Impacts would be significant if construction activities result in the destruction, damage, or loss of scientifically important paleontological resources and associated stratigraphic and paleontological data. The project will require trenching for the two replacement pipeline segments, which will require approximately 220 cubic yards of excavation. Therefore, the project is anticipated to impact previously undisturbed sediments with FPMS 4 (High) paleontological sensitivity and may have significant impacts on paleontological resources. These impacts would be made less than significant with mitigation.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 would reduce potential impacts to paleontological resources to less than significant level and would effectively mitigate the project's impacts to these resources through the recovery, identification, and curation of previously unrecovered fossils.

GEO-1 Paleontological Sensitivity Training and Unanticipated Fossil Discovery

Paleontological Worker Environmental Awareness Program. Prior to the start of construction, a Paleontological Principal Investigator, as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP), or their designee shall prepare and conduct a paleontological Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training for construction personnel regarding the appearance of fossils and the procedures for notifying paleontological staff should fossils be discovered by construction personnel. The WEAP shall discuss the potential to discover paleontological resources in the project site, legal obligations to protect paleontological resources, examples of paleontological resources that may be found in the project site, procedures in case a paleontological resource is discovered, and contact information for the Paleontological Principal Investigator.

Unanticipated Discovery of Paleontological Resources. The District shall include a standard inadvertent discovery clause in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. If a potential fossil is discovered during project construction, construction activity within 50 feet of the find shall cease until the discovery is examined by a Paleontological Principal Investigator. If the find is determined to be significant, the Paleontological Principal Investigator shall direct all mitigation efforts related to paleontological resources consistent with the SVP standards, which may include, but are not limited to: paleontological monitoring; fossil salvage, preparation, and curation; and reporting to summarize the paleontological mitigation efforts.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Figure 4 Geologic Map and Paleontological Sensitivity of Project Site



Imagery provided by Esri and its licensors © 2026. Map created by Rincon Consultants, Inc. 2026.
Geologic data provided by Minor et al. 2009—Santa Barbara Coast.

23-14562 CR
CR Fig X Geologic Map and Paleontological Sensitivity of Project Area

8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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

- a. *Would the project generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*
- b. *Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

Climate change is the observed increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans along with other substantial changes in climate (such as wind patterns, precipitation, and storms) over an extended period. Climate change is the result of numerous, cumulative sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions contributing to the warming of Earth's surface. GHG emissions occur both naturally and as a result of human activities, such as fossil fuel burning, decomposition of landfill wastes, raising livestock, deforestation, and some agricultural practices. GHGs produced by human activities include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

To date, Santa Barbara County has not adopted GHG thresholds of significance. In the absence of any adopted numeric threshold, the significance of the proposed project's GHG emissions is evaluated consistent with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.4(b) by considering whether the proposed project complies with applicable plans, policies, regulations, and requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions. Therefore, the significance of the proposed project's potential impacts regarding GHG emissions and climate change is evaluated based on consistency with plans and policies adopted for the purposes of reducing GHG emissions and mitigating the effects of climate change. GHG emissions from the construction of the proposed project are provided for informational purposes. The applicable adopted regulatory plan to reduce GHG emissions is the Montecito Water District's 2025 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). In addition, CARB's 2022 Scoping Plan contains guidance on GHG-reduction; however, this guidance is related to transportation electrification, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction, and building decarbonization for operational residential and mixed-use projects and therefore is not applicable to the proposed project (CARB 2022). Accordingly, the proposed project's potential to conflict with a GHG reduction plan is based solely on its potential to conflict with the Montecito Water District's 2025 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

GHG emissions associated with project construction were estimated using CalEEMod, as described in Item 3(b) in Section 3, *Air Quality*. As described therein, emissions associated with long-term project operation and maintenance would remain unchanged from existing conditions. Therefore, the proposed project's operational emissions are not quantified and are rather discussed qualitatively. Construction emissions were amortized over the proposed project's estimated 30-year lifetime because construction emissions are confined to a relatively short period of time in relation to the overall life of the proposed project. Table 3 shows the proposed project's estimated construction emissions amortized over a 30-year project lifetime.

Table 3 Estimated Construction GHG Emissions

Project Component	Project Emissions (metric tons CO ₂ e)
2026	53
Total	53
Total Amortized over 30 Years	1.8 per year
CO ₂ e = carbon dioxide equivalent	
Carbon dioxide equivalent is a metric used to compare the emissions of various greenhouse gases based on their global warming potential relative to carbon dioxide.	
See Appendix A for CalEEMod worksheets.	

As shown in Table 3, construction would generate a total of approximately 53 metric tons, or 1.8 metric tons per year of CO₂ equivalent amortized over a 30-year period. GHG emissions from construction would be short-term in nature, lasting only for the duration of the construction period of three months, and would not represent a long-term source of GHG emissions. Operational GHG emissions would remain the same as existing conditions.

The Montecito Water District's 2025 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) identifies a goal of promoting water efficiency, resiliency, and conservation for the purposes of GHG emissions reduction. The proposed project is intended to restore the existing water pipeline to current engineering standards, improving long-term reliability, and reducing vulnerability to future slope instability. The work would occur in two ravines above 2500 East Valley Road, where landslides during the January 2023 storm event exposed and displaced the pipeline. Accordingly, the proposed project would be consistent with the County of Santa Barbara's CAAP goals for resiliency. Therefore, the proposed project's impact related to conflicts with an applicable GHG reduction plan would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than- Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material 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 in an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☒	☐	☐

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

Construction of the proposed project would temporarily increase the transport and use of hazardous materials at the project site through the operation of vehicles and equipment, consistent with other construction projects in the region. Such substances include diesel fuel, oil, solvents, and other similar materials brought onto the construction site for use and storage during the construction period. These materials would be contained within vessels specifically engineered for safe storage and would not be transported, stored, or used in quantities which would pose a significant hazard to the public or construction workers. Furthermore, project construction would require the excavation and transport of paving materials and soils which could possibly be contaminated by vehicle-related pollution (e.g., oil, gasoline, diesel, and other automotive chemicals). All such paving and soils removed during construction would be transported and disposed of in accordance with applicable codes and regulations to minimize potential hazards to construction workers and the surrounding community.

Operation of the proposed project would involve the maintenance of water infrastructure and would not require the use, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

The use, transport, and storage of hazardous materials during construction of the proposed project (e.g., diesel fuel, oil, solvents, and other similar materials) could introduce the potential for an accidental spill or release to occur. The presence of hazardous materials during project construction activities could result in an accidental upset or release of hazardous materials if they are not properly stored and secured. However, use would be temporary, and hazardous materials would be used, managed, and stored securely in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Additionally, the proposed project would adhere to BMPs required by the SWPPP, which include hazardous material management measures such as spill prevention and response procedures and methods for secure storage, for example, proper labeling, ensuring containers are sealed when not in use, and separating incompatible chemicals. Required adherence to the SWPPP would involve implementing such practices which would reduce the likelihood of upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment during construction. Therefore, construction impacts would be less than significant.

As discussed under Item 9(a), operation and maintenance of the project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, potential impacts are limited to the construction period.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- c. *Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?*

The nearest school to the project site is the Pacifica Graduate Institute, Ladera Campus, located approximately 0.52 mile southeast of the eastern repair site and approximately 0.55 mile southeast of the western repair site. Therefore, the proposed project would not handle hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- d. *Would the project be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material 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?*

Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to develop an updated Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List, also known as the Cortese List. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for a portion of the information contained in the Cortese List; other state and local government agencies are also required to provide additional hazardous material release information for the Cortese List. The analysis for this section included a review of the following resources on January 9, 2026, to provide hazardous material release information:

- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker database (SWRCB 2026)
- DTSC EnviroStor database (DTSC 2026)

Based upon review of these databases, there are no hazardous materials sites mapped at, adjacent to, or within 1,000 feet of the project site. Therefore, the project would not be located on a site included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- e. *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?*

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public or private airport (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments 2023). The nearest airport is the Santa Barbara Airport, approximately 14.3 miles southwest of the western repair site. As a result, the proposed project would have no impact related to safety hazards for people residing or working in the project area due to proximity to an airport.

NO IMPACT

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

As described in Section 3, *Description of Project*, the project site would be accessed during construction via Cima Del Mundo Road and private access routes with staging on private clearings. No lane closures on public evacuation corridors would be required, and emergency access would be maintained throughout construction. Construction traffic would be temporary and limited to the duration of the construction schedule (approximately three months). Furthermore, the project site

is located in a remote area with no major egress routes nearby. Project operation and maintenance would not impede or interfere with emergency plans. There would be no impact related to emergency response plans and emergency evacuation plans during project construction.

NO IMPACT

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

As discussed in detail in Section 20, *Wildfire*, the project site is located in a State Responsibility Area and a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2026). Project construction would involve the use of heavy equipment and machinery at the project site, including within or adjacent to areas designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. In addition, the project site is located in an area with combustible vegetation and hills, which could exacerbate the spread of fire. However, the project would comply with regulations related to fire hazards and wildfire safety, including mandatory use of spark arrestors (PRC Section 4442), maintenance of fire suppression equipment during the highest fire danger period (PRC Section 4428), and adherence to standards for conducting construction activities on days when a burning permit is required (PRC Sections 4427 and 4431).

Nevertheless, because construction would occur within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and near combustible vegetation, construction activities would have the potential to result in wildland fires, and impacts would be potentially significant. Implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 would be required to reduce construction impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Following the completion of project construction, operational activities would be similar to existing conditions. Project operational activities would be associated with the ongoing maintenance of water supply infrastructure, and would not include additional operational or maintenance activities beyond existing conditions which could pose a substantial risk of wildfire ignition. No operational impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures

HAZ-1 Fire Hazards Measures

During project construction, staging areas and other areas designated for construction shall be cleared of dried vegetation and other materials that could ignite. Construction equipment with spark arrestors shall be maintained in good working order. In addition, construction crews shall have a spotter during electrical installation activities who shall stop work should accidental sparks or other fire-inducing hazards occur. The spotter and construction crews shall take immediate action to remediate the hazard to safe conditions. Electrical work shall continue when approval by a site manager is granted that the hazard has been remediated. Other construction equipment, including those with hot vehicle catalytic converters, shall be kept in good working order and used only within cleared construction areas. During project construction, contractors shall require vehicles and crews to have access to functional fire extinguishers.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

10 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than- Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
(i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
(ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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

Construction activities associated with the project, including excavation and grading, would result in soil disturbance and the potential for stormwater runoff to transport sediment or pollutants to nearby receiving waters. The nearest receiving water body is Romero Creek, which flows north to south, approximately 670 feet west of the western pipeline replacement and 150 feet west of the western staging area and access path.

Because the total disturbance area would exceed one acre, the project would be subject to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with Low Threat to Water Quality (Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ). This permit is applicable for low-risk dewatering activities such as pipeline dewatering with dechlorinated water, and it covers discharges to land or percolation facilities that pose minimal threat to water quality. With implementation of this measure, construction-related impacts to water quality would be less than significant.

Following construction, the project site would be restored to pre-project conditions. Project operations would be limited to periodic inspections and maintenance, with no operational discharges anticipated. Vehicle-related pollutants generated during infrequent project site visits would be minimal and managed through existing stormwater infrastructure. Therefore, operational impacts to water quality would also be less than significant.

The project would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, nor would it substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. Accordingly, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

In September 2014, the California Legislature enacted comprehensive legislation aimed at strengthening local control and management of groundwater basins throughout the state. Known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the legislation provides a framework for sustainable management of groundwater supplies by local authorities, with a limited role for State intervention when necessary to protect the resource. The project site is located nearest to the Montecito Groundwater Basin, which is designated as a “medium” priority basin and is managed by the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Santa Barbara County Water Agency 2020).

The project would involve the installation of a temporary bypass pipeline, the removal of the existing water pipeline and the installation of a replacement pipeline for the purpose of distributing potable water. The proposed project would not introduce a demand for groundwater supplies. If groundwater dewatering is required during construction based on site conditions, the project would adhere to applicable rules and regulations related to discharge. The volume of dewatered groundwater expected to be encountered during construction would be minimal and not sufficient to impede sustainable groundwater management. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- c.(i) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?*
- c.(ii) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?*
- c.(iii) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?*
- c.(iv) *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would impede or redirect flood flows?*

The proposed project would not alter the course of a stream or river and would not introduce substantial new impervious surfaces resulting in substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding on or off the site. Construction of the new pipelines would not increase impervious surfaces because the pipelines would be installed underground. After construction, the drainage pattern at the project site would be similar to pre-construction conditions. In addition, as discussed for Item 10(a), the project would not result in water quality degradation as the project would not introduce a permanent source of polluted runoff. The proposed project would not exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems and would not provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

Furthermore, the project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or surrounding area in a manner that would impede or redirect flood flows. The pipelines would be installed underground and would not introduce new above-ground structures that could obstruct or divert surface water. Because the project does not involve channel modifications, stream diversions, or significant grading that would change topography, the existing drainage patterns would remain essentially unchanged. Post-construction conditions would be similar to pre-construction conditions, and no impediments to flood flows are anticipated. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

The project site is located in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood zone X, which indicates an area with minimal flood hazards (FEMA 2012). It is not located within a tsunami inundation zone (DOC 2026), and the nearest large surface water body, Gibraltar Reservoir, is approximately 5.5 miles northwest of the site. The project site is not within a seiche inundation zone, given the distance of the project site to Gibraltar Reservoir and intervening topography.

An extreme flood event could inundate the project site. In January 2023, a flooding event uncovered and displaced portions of the existing pipeline. While inundation from extreme flood events is

possible, the proposed project is small in scale and limited to replacing damaged sections and reburying the pipeline. These improvements would restore structural integrity and containment, thereby reducing the potential for release of pollutants in future flood conditions. Therefore, impacts related to the risk of pollutant release due to project inundation would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

The project site is located within the jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and is subject to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan identifies beneficial uses for surface and groundwater resources in the region and establishes water quality objectives and implementation programs to protect those uses (Central Coast RWQCB 2024).

Construction activities would be subject to the requirements of the NPDES Construction General Waste Discharge Permit (Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ). Compliance with this permit requires BMPs to carry out low-risk dewatering activities such as pipeline dewatering with dechlorinated water. Implementation of these BMPs would ensure that the project does not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the Basin Plan.

The project site is nearest to the Montecito Groundwater Basin, which is designated as a medium-priority basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Santa Barbara County Water Agency 2020). Because the project does not involve groundwater extraction or activities that would alter groundwater recharge or quality, it would not interfere with the sustainable management objectives for this basin.

Accordingly, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or a sustainable groundwater management plan. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

11 Land Use and Planning

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

a. Would the project physically divide an established community?

The proposed project involves repairs to two damaged segments of the existing Highline Water Main Pipeline within the foothills of Montecito. Work would occur entirely within existing utility corridors and disturbed areas associated with the pipeline. The project would not introduce new linear infrastructure, barriers, or other features that could physically divide an established community. The surrounding land use consists of rural residential and open space, and the project would not alter access or connectivity between these areas. The project would not physically divide an established community, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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

Per California Government Code Section 53091, local building and zoning ordinances do not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, storage, or transmission of water by a local agency. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The following information is provided for informational purposes.

The project site includes parcels with Santa Barbara County General Plan land use designations of Mountainous Area (MA-40) and Semi-Rural Residential (SRR-0.2 and SRR-0.1) and corresponding zoning designations of Resource Management (RMZ-40) and One-Family Residential (5-E-1 and 10-E-1), as shown in Table 1. Both the MA and SRR General Plan designations allow for the continuation, maintenance, and operation of public utility facilities, including water infrastructure, as compatible uses.

Under the Montecito Land Use and Development Code, the Resource Management zone (RMZ-40) is intended to limit development due to environmental constraints and to encourage preservation of these areas for low-intensity uses. The One-Family Residential zones (5-E-1 and 10-E-1) are intended to maintain residential neighborhood character (County of Santa Barbara 2025). Neither

Bella Vista Highline Water Main Repair Project

the RMZ-40 nor the E-1 zones prohibit the operation, maintenance, repair, or replacement of existing public water facilities, and these activities are recognized as compatible with both the zoning and General Plan land use designations.

No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

12 Mineral Resources

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

- 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?*
- 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?*

The California Geological Survey is responsible for classifying land into Mineral Resource Zones under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act based on the known or inferred mineral resource potential of that land. The project site is not near any known mineral resource zones or areas of regional or statewide significance (DOC 2011). The project does not involve extraction of mineral resources or activities that would interfere with mineral resource availability. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or a locally important mineral resource recovery site. No impact related to mineral resources would occur.

NO IMPACT

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13 Noise

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

Overview of Noise and Vibration

Noise

Sound is a vibratory disturbance created by a moving or vibrating source, which is capable of being detected by the hearing organs. Noise is defined as sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or undesired and may therefore be classified as a more specific group of sounds. The effects of noise on people can include general annoyance, interference with speech communication, sleep disturbance, and, in the extreme, hearing impairment (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 2013).

Noise levels are commonly measured in decibels (dB) using the A-weighted sound pressure level (dBA). The A-weighting scale is an adjustment to the actual sound pressure levels so that they are consistent with the human hearing response, which is most sensitive to frequencies around 4,000 Hertz and less sensitive to frequencies around and below 100 Hertz. Decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale that quantifies sound intensity in a manner similar to the Richter scale used to measure earthquake magnitudes. A doubling of the energy of a noise source, such as doubling of traffic volume, would increase the noise level by 3 dB; dividing the energy in half would result in a 3 dB decrease (Caltrans 2013).

Human perception of noise has no simple correlation with sound energy. The perception of sound is not linear in terms of dBA or in terms of sound energy. Two sources do not “sound twice as loud” as one source. It is widely accepted that the average healthy ear can barely perceive changes of 3 dBA, increase or decrease (i.e., twice the sound energy); that a change of 5 dBA is readily perceptible (eight times the sound energy); and that an increase (or decrease) of 10 dBA sounds twice (half) as loud (10.5 times the sound energy) (Caltrans 2013).

Sound changes in both level and frequency spectrum as it travels from the source to the receptor. The most obvious change is the decrease in level as the distance from the source increases. The manner by which noise reduces with distance depends on factors such as the type of sources (e.g., point or line, the path the sound will travel, site conditions, and obstructions). Noise levels from a point source typically attenuate, or drop off, at a rate of 6 dBA per doubling of distance (e.g., construction, industrial machinery, ventilation units). Noise from a line source (e.g., roadway, pipeline, railroad) typically attenuates at about 3 dBA per doubling of distance (Caltrans 2013). The propagation of noise is also affected by the intervening ground, known as ground absorption. A hard site, such as a parking lot or smooth body of water, receives no additional ground attenuation and the changes in noise levels with distance (drop-off rate) result simply from the geometric spreading of the source. An additional ground attenuation value of 1.5 dBA per doubling of distance applies to a soft site (e.g., soft dirt, grass, or scattered bushes and trees) (Caltrans 2013). Noise levels may also be reduced by intervening structures; the amount of attenuation provided by this “shielding” depends on the size of the object and the frequencies of the noise levels. Natural terrain features such as hills and dense woods, and man-made features such as buildings and walls, can significantly alter noise levels. Generally, any large structure blocking the line of sight will provide at least a 5-dBA reduction in source noise levels at the receptor (Federal Highway Administration [FHWA] 2011). Structures can substantially reduce exposure to noise as well. The FHWA’s guidelines indicate that modern building construction generally provides an exterior-to-interior noise level reduction of 35 dBA for masonry buildings with closed windows.

The impact of noise is not a function of loudness alone. The time of day when noise occurs and the duration of the noise are also important factors of project noise impact. Most noise that lasts for more than a few seconds is variable in its intensity. Consequently, a variety of noise descriptors have been developed. L_{eq} is one of the most frequently-used noise metrics; it considers both duration and sound power level. The L_{eq} is defined as the single steady-state A-weighted sound level equal to the average sound energy over a time period. When no time period is specified, a 1-hour period is assumed. The L_{max} is the highest noise level within the sampling period, and the L_{min} is the lowest noise level within the measuring period. Normal conversational levels are in the 60 to 65-dBA L_{eq} range; ambient noise levels greater than 65 dBA L_{eq} can interrupt conversations (Federal Transit Administration [FTA] 2018).

Noise that occurs at night tends to be more disturbing than that occurring during the day. Community noise is usually measured using Day-Night Average Level (DNL), which is the 24-hour average noise level with a +10 dBA penalty for noise occurring during nighttime hours (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.); it is also measured using Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL), which is the 24-hour average noise level with a +5 dBA penalty for noise occurring from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and a +10 dBA penalty for noise occurring from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. (Caltrans 2013).

Vibration

Groundborne vibration of concern in environmental analysis consists of the oscillatory waves that move from a source through the ground to adjacent buildings or structures, and vibration energy may propagate through the buildings or structures. Vibration may be felt, may manifest as an audible low-frequency rumbling noise (referred to as groundborne noise), and may cause windows, items on shelves, and pictures on walls to rattle. Although groundborne vibration is sometimes noticeable in outdoor environments, it is almost never annoying to people who are outdoors. The primary concern from vibration is that it can be intrusive and annoying to building occupants at vibration-sensitive land uses and may cause structural damage. Typically, ground-borne vibration generated by manmade activities attenuates rapidly as distance from the source of the vibration increases. Vibration amplitudes are usually expressed in peak particle velocity (PPV) or root mean squared (RMS) vibration velocity. The PPV and RMS velocity are normally described in inches per second (in/sec). PPV is defined as the maximum instantaneous positive or negative peak of a vibration signal. PPV is often used as it corresponds to the stresses that are experienced by buildings (Caltrans 2020). High levels of groundborne vibration may cause damage to nearby buildings or structures; at lower levels, groundborne vibration may cause minor cosmetic (i.e., non-structural damage) such as cracks. These vibration levels are nearly exclusively associated with high-impact activities such as blasting, pile-driving, vibratory compaction, demolition, drilling, or excavation.

Sensitive Receptors

Noise exposure goals for various types of land uses reflect the varying noise sensitivities associated with those uses. The Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Noise Element considers noise-sensitive land uses to include residential uses (including single- and multi-family housing, mobile home parks, and dormitories), transient lodging (including hotels and motels), hospitals, nursing homes, convalescent hospitals, other long-term medical care facilities), public or private educational facilities, libraries, churches, and places of public assembly (County of Santa Barbara 2009). The nearest noise-sensitive receptors to the northern project boundary of the project site consist of adjacent residences that are located off Bella Vista Drive. The nearest noise-sensitive receptors to the southern project boundary of the project site is an adjacent residence located off Cima del Mundo Road.

Vibration-sensitive receptors are similar to noise-sensitive receptors and include residences and institutional uses, such as schools, churches, and hospitals. However, vibration-sensitive receptors also include buildings where vibrations may interfere with vibration-sensitive equipment, which can be affected by levels that may be well below those associated with human annoyance. The closest vibration-sensitive receptors are the same as the closest noise-sensitive receptors described above.

Regulatory Setting

California Government Code

California Government Code Section 53091 exempts the location and construction of facilities for the production, generation, storage, treatment, or transmission of water from compliance with local zoning and building ordinances but not from codified stand-alone noise ordinances. The District will determine if the noise standards contained in the Santa Barbara County Code are located outside the zoning and building ordinances and would be exempt from compliance.

County of Santa Barbara General Plan and County Code

There are no quantified limits or specific hours for construction activity in the County of Santa Barbara. No other noise-related policies from the County of Santa Barbara General Plan or noise standards from the Santa Barbara County Code are specifically applicable to the proposed project.

FTA Transit and Noise Vibration Impact Assessment Manual

The FTA provides reasonable criteria for assessing construction noise impacts based on the potential for adverse community reaction in its *Transit and Noise Vibration Impact Assessment Manual* (FTA 2018). For residential uses, the daytime noise threshold is 80 dBA for an 8-hour period.

Significance Thresholds

Construction Noise

As stated above, the FTA provides reasonable criteria for assessing construction noise impacts based on the potential for adverse community (FTA 2018). For residential uses, the daytime noise threshold is 80 dBA for an 8-hour period.

Vibration

Vibration limits used in this analysis to determine a potential impact to local land uses from construction activities, such as vibratory compaction or excavation, are based on information contained in the *FTA Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual* (FTA 2018). Groundborne vibration levels that could induce potential architectural damage to buildings are identified in Table 4. Based on FTA recommendations, limiting vibration levels to below 0.2 in/sec PPV at non-engineered timber and masonry buildings (which would apply to the nearby buildings) would prevent architectural damage.

Table 4 Groundborne Vibration Architectural Damage Criteria

Building Category	PPV (in/sec)
I. Reinforced concrete, steel, or timber (no plaster)	0.5
II. Engineered concrete and masonry (no plaster)	0.3
III. Nonengineered timber and masonry buildings	0.2
IV. Buildings extremely susceptible to vibration damage	0.12
PPV = peak particle velocity; in/sec = inches per second	
Source: FTA 2018	

- 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?*

Construction Equipment

Construction noise was estimated using the FHWA Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM). RCNM predicts construction noise levels for a variety of construction operations based on empirical data and the application of acoustical propagation formulas. Using RCNM, construction noise levels were estimated at noise-sensitive receptors near the project site. RCNM provides reference noise

levels for standard construction equipment, with an attenuation rate of 6 dBA per doubling of distance for stationary equipment.

Variation in power imposes additional complexity in characterizing the noise source level from construction equipment. Power variation is accounted for by describing the noise at a reference distance from the equipment operating at full power and adjusting it based on the duty cycle of the activity to determine the L_{eq} of the operation (FHWA 2006). Each phase of construction has a specific equipment mix, depending on the work to be accomplished during that phase. Each phase also has its own noise characteristics; some will have higher continuous noise levels than others, and some have high-impact noise levels.

Construction activity would result in temporary noise in the project site vicinity, exposing nearby receptors to increased noise levels. Construction noise would typically be higher during the more intensive phases of construction (i.e., pipeline installation) and would be lower during the less intensive construction phases (i.e., site preparation, grading, and ground restoration). Typical heavy construction equipment during pipeline installation could include a concrete saw, excavator and front end loader. It is assumed diesel engines would power all construction equipment. Construction equipment would not all operate at the same time or location. In addition, construction equipment would not be in constant use during the 8-hour operating day.

Project construction would occur for approximately three months. The nearest sensitive receptors to construction on the pipeline would be single-family residences along Bella Vista Drive, adjacent to the northern project boundary and the single-family residence on Cima Del Mundo Road, adjacent to the southern project boundary. As shown in Table 5, over the course of a typical construction day, construction equipment would be located as close as 120 feet to the project boundary of the nearest residences, but would typically be located at an average distance farther away for the remainder of the construction period due to the nature of construction and the size of the project site. Site access routes for the project would be on existing routes and would require the clearing of vegetation with less noise intensive equipment; therefore, this analysis conservatively focuses on the location of the pipeline repairs to the nearest project boundary near sensitive receptors.

Table 5 Estimated Noise Levels by Construction Phase at Sensitive Receptors

Construction Activity Phase	dBA L_{eq} (8-hour)			
	RCNM Reference Noise Level (50 feet)	Single-Family Residence to the North at 2645 Bella Vista Drive (120 feet) ¹	Single-Family Residence to the North at 2665 Bella Vista Drive (210 feet) ¹	Single-Family Residence to the South at 915 Cima del Mundo Rd (420 feet) ¹
Site Preparation	81	73	69	63
Grading	81	73	69	63
Pipeline Installation	84	76	72	66
Ground Restoration	81	73	69	66

L_{eq} = average noise level equivalent; dBA = A-weighted decibel

Notes: Calculations performed with the FHWA's RCNM software are included in Appendix B.

Noise levels rounded to the nearest whole number.

¹ Distance from the nearest repair location to nearest residential project boundary.

Source of construction equipment reference noise levels: FTA 2018

Construction would occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. All equipment was assumed to operate along the center of the project site to account for the average location of equipment for the pipeline and access road work area. As shown in Table 5, at a distance of 120 feet to the nearest sensitive residential receptor, pipeline installation would generate a noise level of 76 dBA L_{eq} for an 8-hour period. All other construction phases along the project alignment would be located further away from sensitive receptors with less noise intensive equipment, and noise levels would be lower. Therefore, construction noise levels would not exceed the FTA's residential construction noise threshold of 80 dBA L_{eq} (8 hour) and construction noise impacts would be less than significant.

Operation

As detailed under *Project Description*, the project would not result in changes to existing operation and maintenance activities conducted by the District. As such, no new operational noise levels would be generated by the project, and no impact would occur.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- b. *Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

Construction

Construction activities include equipment that has the greatest potential to generate ground-borne vibration affecting nearby receptors during the project, especially during the site preparation phase of the project site. The greatest vibratory source during construction in the project vicinity would be a large bulldozer, which may be used as close as 45 feet to the nearest off-site structure during the vegetation clearing of the access roads. Other construction phases near the pipeline would be located further away and vibration levels would be lower. Table 6 shows typical vibration levels for various pieces of construction equipment used in the assessment of construction vibration.

Table 6 Construction Vibration Levels

Equipment	PPV (in/sec)		
	Reference Level (25 Feet)	Nearest Residential Building on Cima del Mundo Road (15 Feet)	Nearest Residential Building on Bella Vista Drive (75 Feet)
Large Bulldozer	0.089	0.191	0.017
Loaded Trucks	0.076	0.164	0.015
Concrete/Industrial Saw	0.035	0.075	0.007
Small Bulldozer	0.003	0.006	0.001
FTA Threshold for Building Damage	—	0.2	0.2
Threshold Exceeded?	—	No	No

Source of construction equipment reference vibration levels and thresholds for building damage: FTA 2018

PPV = peak particle velocity; in/sec = inches per second

Note: Vibration analysis worksheets are included in Appendix B.

As shown in Table 6, a large bulldozer would create a vibration level of approximately 0.089 in/sec PPV at a distance of 25 feet (FTA 2018), which would result in a vibration level of 0.037 in/sec PPV at a distance of 45 feet to the nearest residential building. This level of vibration would not exceed the significance threshold of 0.2 in/sec PPV for nonengineered timber and masonry buildings (residential building). Therefore, project construction would not generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels, and impacts would be less than significant.

Operation

The project does not include any substantial vibration sources associated with operation. Therefore, project operation would not generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels, and no impact would occur.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

The Santa Barbara Airport is located 14 miles to the west of the project site. According to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the airport, the project is not located within the airport's noise contours (Santa Barbara Airport Land Use Commission 2023). Because the project site is not in a 65 CNEL or higher noise contour of any nearby airport, the project would not expose people residing or working in the vicinity to excessive noise levels, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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14 Population and Housing

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

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

The proposed project would remove and replace damaged segments of the existing Highline Water Main Pipeline and install a temporary bypass to maintain water service during construction. Because the project is limited to restoring existing infrastructure and does not expand water service capacity or provide new connections, it would not induce substantial unplanned population growth, either directly or indirectly. Construction activities are small in scale and would likely draw workers from the existing regional labor pool, so the project would not indirectly result in relocation of people to the area or result in new housing demand. In addition, no new District employees would be required to operate or maintain the pipeline once construction is complete. The work would occur within two ravines in the foothills of Montecito and would not require acquisition or removal of housing or displace residents. Therefore, the project would neither contribute to population growth nor displace people or housing, and there would be no impact related to these issues.

NO IMPACT

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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, or the 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:				
1 Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
2 Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
3 Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
4 Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
5 Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

- a.1. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, or the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?*
- a.2. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police protection facilities, or the need for new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?*
- a.3. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered schools, or the need for new or physically altered schools, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives?*
- a.4. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered parks, or the need for new or physically altered parks, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives?*

- a.5. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of other new or physically altered public facilities, or the need for other new or physically altered public facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?*

As described in Environmental Checklist Section 14, *Population and Housing*, the project does not include development of structures or infrastructure that would directly or indirectly increase the population of Montecito. In addition, as an underground pipeline restoration project, it does not include components that would place additional demands on fire or police protection services. Construction activities are small in scale and would likely draw workers from the existing regional labor pool, and no new District employees would be required for operation or maintenance. As such, the proposed project would not increase demand for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities. Therefore, the project would not require new or modified governmental facilities to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public services. No impacts related to public services would occur.

NO IMPACT

16 Recreation

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

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?*

As described in Environmental Checklist Section 14, *Population and Housing*, the proposed project does not include changes to water supply capacity or other utility capabilities that would enable or induce new development, and thus would not directly or indirectly increase the population of Montecito beyond what is anticipated in local planning documents. Therefore, the project would not increase the population served by local parks and recreational facilities or otherwise result in increased demand for or degradation of those facilities. In addition, the project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impact related to recreation would occur.

NO IMPACT

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17 Transportation

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

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

Regional plans and policies addressing the circulation system include the Santa Barbara County General Plan Circulation Element; the Southern California Association of Governments 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy; and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments Congestion Management Program (County of Santa Barbara 2014; Southern California Association of Governments 2024; Santa Barbara County Association of Governments 2025).

Access to the project site during construction would be provided by up to three potential routes via Cima Del Mundo Road and the neighboring private property as permitted by private property owners. No transit stops are located along the segment of Cima Del Mundo Road adjacent to the project site. Construction traffic would be temporary and limited to the duration of the construction schedule (approximately three months). After construction is complete, no changes to existing transportation patterns would occur because the pipeline would be located underground and no new operation and maintenance activities would be required for the project. The project would generate a minimal level of traffic during project construction. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact involving conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b) identifies criteria for evaluating transportation impacts. Specifically, the guidelines state vehicle miles traveled (VMT) exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact. According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b)(3), a lead agency may include a qualitative analysis of operational and construction traffic if existing models or methods are not available to estimate the VMT for the particular project being considered. Such a qualitative analysis would evaluate factors such as the availability of transit, proximity to other destinations, etc.

A VMT calculation is typically conducted on a daily or annual basis, for long-range planning purposes. As discussed under threshold 17(a), traffic on local roadways would temporarily increase during project construction due to worker trips and the necessary transport of construction vehicles, equipment, and soil material to and from the project site. Increases in VMT from construction would be short-term, minimal, and temporary. In addition, the project would require minimal new operations and maintenance activities (i.e., one to two maintenance trips per year) by Montecito Water District staff upon completion of construction activities. Therefore, the project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b) and the impacts related to VMT would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- c. Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?*

The project would not involve the construction of new roads or reconfiguration of roadways, driveways, or intersections that could result in a substantial increase in roadway hazards. During project construction, construction staging and worker parking would be located at existing clearings near Romero Creek, south of the central ridge, southeast of the site near Cima Del Mundo, and adjacent to the work area on private properties in the project site vicinity. Upon the completion of construction, the pipeline would be located underground and thus would not substantially increase roadway hazards. Therefore, the project would not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible use, and the project would have no impact.

NO IMPACT

- d. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?*

Site access is challenging due to the remote hillside setting and dense vegetation. All site access routes would need to be cleared for vegetation prior to construction, but once cleared, emergency access to the project site would be maintained throughout construction. No temporary lane closures would be necessary due to its remote location and ample staging areas.

Project operation and maintenance would not introduce new activities or traffic with the potential to result in inadequate emergency access, and the proposed project would not increase demand for emergency services along the project alignment. The proposed project would have a less than significant impact regarding inadequate emergency access.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than- Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in a Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, or cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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.	☐	☒	☐	☐

Tribal Cultural Resources Background

On July 1, 2015, California Assembly Bill 52 of 2014 (AB 52) was enacted, expanding CEQA by defining a new resource category, “tribal cultural resources.” AB 52 states: “A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment” (PRC Section 21084.2). It further states the lead agency shall establish measures to avoid impacts altering the significant characteristics of a tribal cultural resource, when feasible (PRC Section 21084.3).

PRC Section 21074 (a)(1)(A) and (B) defines tribal cultural resources as “sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe” and is:

1. Listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k), or

2. 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 PRC Section 5024.1. In applying these criteria, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

AB 52 also establishes a formal consultation process for California tribes regarding those resources. The consultation process must be completed before a CEQA document can be certified or adopted. Under AB 52, lead agencies are required to “begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project.” Native American tribes to be included in the process are those having requested notice of projects proposed in the jurisdiction of the lead agency.

The District distributed AB 52 consultation notification letters for the proposed project, which included project information, maps, and contact information, to 10 Native American contacts via certified mail on January 9, 2026. Contacts of the following Native American tribes were provided with an AB 52 consultation letter:

- Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians (two contacts)
- Barbareño /Ventureño Band of Mission Indians
- Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation (three contacts)
- Northern Chumash Tribal Council
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (three contacts)

Under AB 52, Native American tribes have 30 days from receipt of the letter to respond and request further project information and formal consultation.

Summary of AB 52 Consultation

On January 23, 2026, Cultural Resources Archaeologist Amanda Dobrov with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians responded via email and stated that the Tribe would like to consult on the project and requested a copy of the Cultural Resources Assessment once it has been completed. The Tribe would like to review the report prior to scheduling a consultation meeting, as that will likely inform what mitigation measures the Tribe will be considering. Ms. Dobrov inquired when the report is expected to be completed. On January 26, 2026, Assistant General Manager Adam Kanold with the District responded via email to Ms. Dobrov and acknowledged the Tribe’s request to consult. Mr. Kanold stated that construction is currently planned for this summer and Rincon Consultants can provide a timeline for the completion of the Cultural Resources Assessment. On January 26, 2026, Supervising Environmental Planner Amanda Antonelli with Rincon Consultants responded via email and stated that the Central Coast Information Center (CCIC) is currently transitioning host facilities. As a result, all records searches for Santa Barbara County were delayed with an anticipated completion in late February. On January 27, 2026, Ms. Dobrov responded via email and thanked Ms. Antonelli for the update and the Tribe would wait to hear when the report was completed. On January 27, 2026, Ms. Dobrov emailed Mr. Kanold and thanked him for putting her in touch with Ms. Antonelli. Ms. Dobrov inquired if the District would like to have a preliminary consultation meeting prior to Rincon finalizing the report to discuss the project. Ms. Dobrov stated that she could let the District know the areas of concern for the Tribe and discuss some potential mitigation measures since the closure of the CCIC will delay the report. On March 30, 2026, the District contacted Ms. Dobrov to schedule a preliminary consultation meeting for the project. On April 7, 2026, Mr. Kanold followed up with Ms. Dobrov via email to schedule an AB 52 consultation meeting and provided a

list of days and times that the District is available to meet. On April 7, 2026, Ms. Dobrov responded via email and requested a copy of the Cultural Resources Assessment. On April 7, 2026, Mr. Kanold responded to Ms. Dobrov and provided a copy of the draft Cultural Resources Assessment. On April 8, 2026, Ms. Dobrov responded via email and thanked Mr. Kanold for sending the assessment for the Tribe's review. Ms. Dobrov confirmed that the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians was available for an AB 52 consultation meeting on April 13, 2026. On April 13, 2026, an AB 52 consultation meeting was held between the District, Ms. Dobrov and Cultural Resources Manager Edgar Alvarez with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. The Tribe recommended full time Native American monitoring by a member of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians during project-related ground disturbing activities. The Tribe stated it is especially important to have a tribal monitor present during the deepening of the trench for the pipeline replacement, as the trenching will likely encroach on native soil, as well as previously unmonitored disturbed soil. The Tribe further requested to have a monitor present during the grubbing and light grading activities within the staging areas. Lastly, the Tribe requested a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training be conducted at the start of the project and defers the WEAP training to the Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians. On April 13, 2026, Mr. Kanold responded via email and stated the District will incorporate the Tribe's recommendations into the project's mitigation and thanked them for their time. On April 13, 2026, AB 52 consultation between the District and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians was concluded.

On February 2, 2026, Chairperson Eleanor Fishburn of the Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians responded via email and recommended a Native American monitor to provide a WEAP training, as well as possible spot check monitoring. On February 3, 2026, Mr. Kanold responded via email and stated that the District would be in touch soon for further discussion on the project. On April 1, 2026, Mr. Kanold emailed Chairperson Fishburn and stated that the District agrees to include the Tribe's request for a WEAP training by a Native American representative and the presence of a Native American monitor during project-related ground disturbing activities. Mr. Kanold sent Chairperson Fishburn the draft Cultural Resources Assessment and inquired if she would like to schedule a meeting to go over the findings. On April 3, 2026, Chairperson Fishburn responded and stated that she does not need to review the Cultural Resources Assessment at this time. On April 6, 2026, Mr. Kanold responded via email and thanked Chairperson Fishburn for her time and inquired if she would like to participate in an AB 52 consultation call prior to the finalization of the Cultural Resources Assessment, or if her concerns had been addressed. On April 8, 2026, Mr. Kanold emailed Chairperson Fishburn to confirm the mitigation measures proposed by the Tribe were aligned with her expectations and Native American monitoring would be limited to spot checking. On April 8, 2026, Chairperson Fishburn responded via email and stated that she agrees with the project mitigation. On April 8, 2026, AB 52 consultation between the District and the Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians was concluded.

No additional requests were received during the consultation period.

- a. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 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)?*
- b. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074 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?*

Based on the positive results of the SLF and AB 52 consultation with Native American tribes affiliated with the project area, the project area may be sensitive for tribal cultural resources. Therefore, ground disturbing activities associated with the project could cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, if any are identified during project construction, and impacts would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures TCR-1, TCR-2 and TCR-3 detailed below were developed in consultation with the project's consulting tribes and would avoid and minimize potential impacts to tribal cultural resources to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

TCR-1 Workers Environmental Awareness Program Training

A qualified archaeologist, defined as an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983), and Native American representative from the Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians shall be retained by the District to conduct a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training on archaeological and tribal cultural resource sensitivity. The WEAP training shall be given to all construction personnel prior to the commencement of any ground-disturbing activities. Additional personnel who subsequently become involved in the project will also receive the training prior to their involvement in ground disturbing activities. This can be accomplished through the distribution of hardcopy training materials prepared by the qualified archaeologist. Archaeological and tribal cultural resource sensitivity training shall include a description of the types of cultural material that may be encountered, cultural sensitivity issues, the regulatory environment, and the proper protocol for treatment of the materials in the event of a find. The WEAP training shall emphasize the requirement for confidentiality and culturally appropriate treatment of any discovery of significance to consulting tribes and will discuss appropriate behaviors and responsive actions, consistent with tribal values.

TCR-2 Native American Monitoring

The District shall retain a Native American representative from the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians to monitor all project-related ground-disturbing activities. In addition, a Native American representative from the Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians shall be retained by the District to conduct spot check monitoring as determined necessary by the Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians. Ground disturbing activities include, but are not limited to, clearing/grubbing, excavation, grading and trenching. If archaeological or tribal cultural resources are encountered, the monitor(s) shall have the authority to halt and redirect work within a 50-foot radius of the find. If archaeological or tribal cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area shall halt and Mitigation Measures CR-1 and TCR-3, as appropriate, shall be

implemented. Native American monitoring may be reduced or eliminated at the discretion of the monitor(s), in consultation with the District and the qualified archaeologist, as necessary. Conditions for reduction or elimination include encountering bedrock, excavations within disturbed or non-native soils, or negative findings during the first 50 percent of ground disturbance. If Native American monitoring by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians is reduced to spot-checking, spot-checking shall occur when ground disturbance moves to a new location within the project site or when ground disturbance will extend to depths not previously reached (unless those depths are within bedrock). The monitor(s) shall prepare daily monitoring logs for the project to document the results of the monitoring effort. The monitor from the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians shall prepare a brief monitoring report, with the daily monitoring logs attached as an appendix, to document compliance. The brief monitoring report shall be submitted by Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians to the District and the appropriate California Historical Resource Information Center within 30 days of completion of all ground-disturbing activities.

TCR-3 Unanticipated Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resources

In the event cultural resources of Native American origin are identified during construction, all ground disturbing activities within a 50-foot radius of the find shall be halted and redirected until a qualified archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. The District shall consult with the qualified archaeologist and initiate Native American consultation procedures with the project's consulting tribes. If the District, in consultation with the project's consulting tribes, determines that the resource is a tribal cultural resource and thus significant under CEQA, a mitigation plan shall be prepared and implemented in accordance with state guidelines and in consultation with the project's consulting tribes. The mitigation plan may include avoidance of the resource, if avoidance of the resource is infeasible, the plan would outline the appropriate treatment of the resource in coordination with the archaeologist, if applicable, and Native American consulting tribes. The mitigation plan shall be reviewed and approved by the District within 30 days of discovery of the find(s). Work at the discovery location shall not resume until all necessary investigation and evaluation of the discovery under the requirements of CEQA have been satisfied.

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measures TCR-1, TCR-2 and TCR-3 would avoid and minimize potential impacts to tribal cultural resources to the extent feasible. Mitigation Measure TCR-1 would require construction personnel to identify archaeological and tribal cultural resources and implement the appropriate protocol for treatment of any resources. Mitigation Measures TCR-2 would require Native American monitoring and associated compliance reporting and Mitigation Measure TCR-3 outlines the appropriate protocol for treatment of resources in the event that tribal cultural resources are encountered. Implementation of Mitigation Measure TCR-1, TCR-2 and TCR-3 would reduce the potential impact to tribal cultural resources to a less than significant level.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

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19 Utilities and Service Systems

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

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

Water

The project restores existing water infrastructure without expanding service capacity, the environmental effects of which are analyzed in this IS-MND. The project would not increase the District's capacity to serve additional customers. As concluded by this IS-MND, the water facilities included in the proposed project would not cause unmitigable significant environmental effects. Consequently, no additional impact related to water facilities would occur.

Wastewater

The project would not require permanent on-site personnel and does not include the installation of restroom facilities. Therefore, no wastewater would be generated, and the project would not result in the construction or relocation of additional new or expanded wastewater facilities. Thus, no impact related to wastewater treatment would occur.

Stormwater Drainage

As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 10, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the proposed improvements would not increase the rate or amount of surface runoff so as to exceed the capacity of existing or planned drainage systems or provide additional sources of polluted runoff. The proposed project would not result in substantial new impervious surfaces. Therefore, no impact related to stormwater drainage would occur.

Electric Power

As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 6, *Energy*, the proposed project would not increase energy demands associated with the existing water infrastructure as the improvements would not involve an expansion of design capacity. Therefore, no new or relocated energy facilities would be required as a result of the proposed project. No impact related to electric power would occur.

Natural Gas

The project would not involve any components requiring natural gas service and is not anticipated to involve the relocation of existing natural gas facilities. Therefore, no impact related to natural gas facilities would occur.

Telecommunications

The project would not involve any components requiring telecommunications infrastructure and is not anticipated to involve the relocation of existing telecommunications facilities. Therefore, no impact related to telecommunications facilities would occur.

NO IMPACT

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

The proposed project consists of the construction and operation of potable water facilities. Project construction water requirements would be met via the District's existing supplies and facilities. The project would not increase overall water supply availability or result in increased water consumption. Therefore, no impact related to sufficiency of water supplies would occur.

NO IMPACT

- c. *Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

As discussed under Item 19(a), the project would not generate sanitary wastewater or otherwise contribute to an increase in wastewater treatment requirements. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- d. *Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?*
- e. *Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

Marborg Industries provides waste and recycling services in the city of Santa Barbara and the surrounding unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County, including Montecito. Solid waste is directed by Marborg to the Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill and Resource Recovery Center, a publicly-operated landfill and recycling station run by the county of Santa Barbara. The Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill and Resource Recovery Center is located west of Goleta along U.S. Route 101, approximately 30 miles west of the project site. Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill and Resource Recovery Center accepts a variety of materials, including construction and demolition materials, agricultural waste, industrial waste, sludge (biosolids), and mixed municipal waste. According to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill and Resource Recovery Center has a permitted capacity of 29.4 million cubic yards and a maximum disposal capacity of 9,000 tons per week. As of July 2023, the remaining capacity at the landfill was approximately 7.35 million cubic yards. The landfill solid waste permit lists an estimated closure date of 2038 (CalRecycle 2025).

Construction activities may temporarily generate solid waste, such as from demolition of the existing pipeline, which would be disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal, State, and local statutes and regulations. Local solid waste infrastructure has the capacity to accept solid waste generated by project construction activities. Once constructed, project operation would not generate solid waste. Therefore, the project would comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. The project would not impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. Potential impacts would therefore be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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20 Wildfire

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

- a. *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

The project site is located in a State Responsibility Area and a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2025). Regional plans addressing the emergency response and evacuations include the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Circulation Element, the Santa Barbara County Seismic Safety and Safety Element, and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (County of Santa Barbara 2014 and 2023, County of Santa Barbara Association of Governments 2021).

The project site is accessed via Bella Vista Drive, Romero Canyon Road, and a private driveway. Both Bella Vista Drive and Romero Canyon Road are identified as evacuation routes (Conservation Biology Institute 2021). Although these roadways serve an evacuation function, the proposed construction activities would be temporary, limited in scope, and would not require full roadway closures. Traffic control measures (e.g., flaggers, signage) would be implemented as needed to maintain emergency

access at all times. Construction access and staging would occur within or adjacent to the project footprint and would not alter roadway geometry or reduce evacuation capacity. During operation, the project would not introduce new structures or uses which could interfere with emergency response or evacuation.

As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, and Environmental Checklist Section 17, *Transportation*, the proposed project would not impair or conflict with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan, nor would it permanently result in inadequate access for emergency vehicles during operation. While construction activities would involve lane closures that could temporarily impede emergency response or evacuation, these effects would be short-term and managed through standard traffic control measures. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- b. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, 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?*

As discussed under Item 20(a), portions of the project site are located within a State Responsibility Area and a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2025).

The proposed project would consist of water infrastructure improvements located in the foothills of Montecito, where a storm in January 2023 exposed and displaced the existing pipeline along a portion of 2500 East Valley Road. The project area consists of steep topography and vegetative cover and is adjacent to several single-family residences and unpaved roads. Construction of the proposed project would include the use of heavy-duty equipment. In accordance with PRC Section 4442, equipment including earth-moving and portable construction equipment with internal combustion engines would be equipped with spark arrestors to prevent the emission of flammable debris from exhaust, when operating on any forest-covered, brush-covered, or grass-covered land. In addition, PRC Sections 4427 and 4431 specify standards for conducting construction activities on days when a burning permit is required, and PRC Section 4428 requires construction contractors to maintain fire suppression equipment during the highest fire danger period (April 1 to December 1) when operating on or near any forest-covered, brush-covered, or grass-covered land. Additionally, implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, *Fire Hazard Measures*, which includes clearing vegetation in construction areas, maintaining equipment in good working order, providing spotters during electrical work, and ensuring access to fire suppression equipment, would further reduce the potential for construction-related fire hazards.

The project would not introduce habitable structures, permanent ignition sources, or land use changes which could increase long-term wildfire risk. Operation and maintenance activities would be infrequent and similar to existing conditions. Additionally, the project would not expose workers or the public to elevated pollutant concentrations from wildfire smoke, as no sensitive receptors would be located on site.

Therefore, with adherence to applicable fire safety regulations, the project would not exacerbate wildfire risk due to slope, wind, or fuel conditions. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

- c. *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*

The project is located within a State Responsibility Area and a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2025). The project would not require the construction of new roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities which could exacerbate fire risk. Upon completion of construction, the ground surface would generally be restored to pre-project conditions. Routine operation and maintenance activities would be limited in scope and would not introduce new ignition sources or exacerbate fire risk. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- d. *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?*

The project is located within a State Responsibility Area and a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2025). The project site is located in an area historically susceptible to flooding and landslides, as evidenced by damage to the existing pipeline during the January 2023 storm event. The project is specifically designed to address these vulnerabilities by replacing and reburying the pipeline. This design will reduce potential hazards associated with surface runoff, post-fire slope instability, and altered drainage patterns. By improving infrastructure resilience and minimizing future exposure to hydrologic risks, the project would not create or exacerbate hazards. Therefore, there would be no impact.

NO IMPACT

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21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than- Significant Impact	No Impact
Does the project:				
a. 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. 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. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

- 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?*

As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 4, *Biological Resources*, the project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment or result in the loss, reduction, or restriction of special-status plant or wildlife species. While the project has the potential to affect special-status plants, wildlife, nesting birds, sensitive natural communities, jurisdictional waters, and native trees, implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-10 would reduce all biological impacts to less-than-significant levels.

As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 5, *Cultural Resources*, and Section 18, *Tribal Cultural Resources*, the project has the potential to affect archaeological resources and tribal cultural resources. While no cultural or tribal cultural resources were identified within the project site during records searches or field surveys, the Sacred Lands File search was positive, and AB 52 consultation indicates that the project area may be sensitive for tribal cultural resources. Accordingly, ground-disturbing activities associated with project construction could result in unanticipated discoveries. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-1 and TCR-1 would ensure that any inadvertent discovery of archaeological or tribal cultural resources is appropriately evaluated, protected, and treated in consultation with a qualified archaeologist and the consulting tribes. With implementation of these measures, all impacts to cultural and tribal cultural resources would be reduced to less than significant levels.

Therefore, the project would not substantially degrade the environment, threaten biological communities, or eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

- 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)?*

Cumulative impacts consider whether individually minor effects from multiple projects combine to create significant impacts within a given geographic area. The Bella Vista Highline project is limited to short-term construction activities within two ravines in Montecito and would not introduce new long-term operational impacts. As discussed throughout this IS-MND, the project would have no impact or a less-than-significant impact for the majority of environmental resource areas. The project would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to agriculture and forestry resources, energy, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, utilities and service systems, or tribal cultural resources.

The potential for cumulative impacts is limited to a small set of resource topics where the project has temporary, localized construction impacts, as described below:

Aesthetics

The project would occur in steep, privately owned ravines with limited public visibility. Construction equipment and materials would be temporary and removed after construction. No other cumulative projects are occurring in the vicinity. Therefore, the project would not meaningfully contribute to cumulative aesthetic impacts.

Air Quality

Santa Barbara County is in nonattainment for ozone and PM₁₀. However, as shown in Section 3, the project’s construction emissions would not exceed SBCAPCD significance thresholds, and fugitive dust would be controlled through required BMPs. Because thresholds are designed to evaluate a project’s contribution to cumulative conditions, the project’s emissions would not be cumulatively considerable.

Biological Resources

Regional development has the potential to affect biological resources; however, cumulative projects are subject to CEQA review and resource-specific mitigation. While cumulative biological impacts in the region may be significant, the proposed project would implement Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-10, which would avoid or minimize impacts to special-status species, nesting birds, sensitive natural communities, riparian areas, and native trees. With these measures, the project's contribution would not be cumulatively considerable.

Cultural Resources

Cumulative development in the region may affect cultural resources; however, no cultural resources are anticipated at the project site. Because the project includes compliance with unanticipated discovery requirements under state law and mitigation measure CR-1, and because impacts to cultural resources were found to be less than significant, the project would not contribute to cumulative cultural resource impacts.

Geology and Soils

Geologic hazards are typically site-specific. The project would repair and underground a previously exposed pipeline, improving infrastructure resilience and reducing long-term susceptibility to landslides and seismic hazards. The project does not involve ground disturbance that would contribute to regional geologic instability or cumulative paleontological impacts. Therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

GHG emissions and climate change are inherently cumulative. As shown in Section 8, project construction would generate approximately 53 metric tons of CO₂e, amortized to 1.8 MT per year, and operational emissions would be unchanged from existing conditions. The project is consistent with the Montecito Water District's 2025 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. Therefore, the project's contribution to cumulative GHG emissions would not be cumulatively considerable.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Construction-related hazardous materials use would follow standard regulations and BMPs, and accidental release risks would be site-specific and temporary. Cumulative hazardous materials impacts would not occur.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Although regional waterbodies experience existing cumulative water quality impairment, the project would comply with the General Waste Discharge Requirements for low-risk dewatering and BMPs under the Construction General Permit. Mitigation Measures BIO-9 and BIO-10 further reduce potential impacts. Therefore, the project would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to cumulative hydrologic or water quality impacts.

Overall, the project's contribution to cumulative impacts would not be cumulatively considerable, and impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

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

As discussed throughout this IS-MND, the project would not result in substantial adverse effects on human beings. Construction impacts including temporary noise, fugitive dust, traffic, and hazards would be minimized through standard BMPs and applicable regulations. The project would improve safety and reliability of existing water infrastructure that was damaged during the January 2023 landslides. No new long-term operational impacts or public safety risks would occur.

Therefore, the project would not result in substantial direct or indirect adverse effects on human beings. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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Appendix A

CalEEMod Detailed Report

Bella Vista Highline Detailed Report

Table of Contents

- 1. Basic Project Information
 - 1.1. Basic Project Information
 - 1.2. Land Use Types
 - 1.3. User-Selected Emission Reduction Measures by Emissions Sector
- 2. Emissions Summary
 - 2.1. Construction Emissions Compared Against Thresholds
 - 2.2. Construction Emissions by Year, Unmitigated
- 3. Construction Emissions Details
 - 3.1. Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing (2026) - Unmitigated
 - 3.3. Linear, Grading & Excavation (2026) - Unmitigated
 - 3.5. Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade (2026) - Unmitigated
 - 3.7. Linear, Paving (2026) - Unmitigated
- 4. Operations Emissions Details
 - 4.10. Soil Carbon Accumulation By Vegetation Type
 - 4.10.1. Soil Carbon Accumulation By Vegetation Type - Unmitigated

4.10.2. Above and Belowground Carbon Accumulation by Land Use Type - Unmitigated

4.10.3. Avoided and Sequestered Emissions by Species - Unmitigated

5. Activity Data

5.1. Construction Schedule

5.2. Off-Road Equipment

5.2.1. Unmitigated

5.3. Construction Vehicles

5.3.1. Unmitigated

5.4. Vehicles

5.4.1. Construction Vehicle Control Strategies

5.5. Architectural Coatings

5.6. Dust Mitigation

5.6.1. Construction Earthmoving Activities

5.6.2. Construction Earthmoving Control Strategies

5.7. Construction Paving

5.8. Construction Electricity Consumption and Emissions Factors

5.18. Vegetation

5.18.1. Land Use Change

5.18.1.1. Unmitigated

5.18.1. Biomass Cover Type

5.18.1.1. Unmitigated

5.18.2. Sequestration

5.18.2.1. Unmitigated

6. Climate Risk Detailed Report

6.1. Climate Risk Summary

6.2. Initial Climate Risk Scores

6.3. Adjusted Climate Risk Scores

6.4. Climate Risk Reduction Measures

7. Health and Equity Details

7.1. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Scores

7.2. Healthy Places Index Scores

7.3. Overall Health & Equity Scores

7.4. Health & Equity Measures

7.5. Evaluation Scorecard

7.6. Health & Equity Custom Measures

8. User Changes to Default Data

8.1. Justifications

8.4. Construction

8.4.1. Construction Phases

8.4.6. Trips and VMT

1. Basic Project Information

1.1. Basic Project Information

Data Field	Value
Project Name	Bella Vista Highline
Construction Start Date	10/1/2026
Lead Agency	—
Land Use Scale	Project/site
Analysis Level for Defaults	County
Windspeed (m/s)	2.40000
Precipitation (days)	22.8000
Location	Montecito, CA, USA
County	Santa Barbara
City	Unincorporated
Air District	Santa Barbara County APCD
Air Basin	South Central Coast
TAZ	3344
EDFZ	8
Electric Utility	Southern California Edison
Gas Utility	Southern California Gas
App Version	2022.1.1.37

1.2. Land Use Types

Land Use Subtype	Size	Unit	Lot Acreage	Building Area (sq ft)	Landscape Area (sq ft)	Special Landscape Area (sq ft)	Population	Description
User Defined Linear	0.16288	Mile	1.000000	0.00000	—	—	—	—

1.3. User-Selected Emission Reduction Measures by Emissions Sector

No measures selected

2. Emissions Summary

2.1. Construction Emissions Compared Against Thresholds

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Un/Mit.	TOG	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	BCO2	NBCO2	CO2T	CH4	N2O	R	CO2e
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	1.45637	1.22515	11.3037	11.8756	0.01951	0.46001	2.58650	3.04651	0.42321	1.32060	1.74382	—	2,120.41	2,120.41	0.08600	0.01837	0.00334	2,128.04
Average Daily (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	0.23541	0.19706	1.70960	1.94594	0.00320	0.06381	0.16579	0.22960	0.05870	0.08387	0.14258	—	317.000	317.000	0.01299	0.00275	0.00866	318.154
Annual (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	0.04296	0.03596	0.31200	0.35513	0.00058	0.01164	0.03026	0.04190	0.01071	0.01531	0.02602	—	52.4829	52.4829	0.00215	0.00046	0.00143	52.6740

2.2. Construction Emissions by Year, Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Year	TOG	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	BCO2	NBCO2	CO2T	CH4	N2O	R	CO2e
Daily - Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily - Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2026	1.45637	1.22515	11.3037	11.8756	0.01951	0.46001	2.58650	3.04651	0.42321	1.32060	1.74382	—	2,120.41	2,120.41	0.08600	0.01837	0.00334	2,128.04
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

2026	0.23541	0.19706	1.70960	1.94594	0.00320	0.06381	0.16579	0.22960	0.05870	0.08387	0.14258	—	317.000	317.000	0.01299	0.00275	0.00866	318.154
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2026	0.04296	0.03596	0.31200	0.35513	0.00058	0.01164	0.03026	0.04190	0.01071	0.01531	0.02602	—	52.4829	52.4829	0.00215	0.00046	0.00143	52.6740

3. Construction Emissions Details

3.1. Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing (2026) - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Location	TOG	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	BCO2	NBCO2	CO2T	CH4	N2O	R	CO2e
Onsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	1.43395	1.20436	11.2875	11.6989	0.01951	0.46001	—	0.46001	0.42321	—	0.42321	—	2,090.23	2,090.23	0.08479	0.01696	—	2,097.40
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.55541	2.55541	—	1.31332	1.31332	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.03143	0.02640	0.24740	0.25641	0.00043	0.01008	—	0.01008	0.00928	—	0.00928	—	45.8133	45.8133	0.00186	0.00037	—	45.9705

Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.05601	0.05601	—	0.02879	0.02879	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.00574	0.00482	0.04515	0.04680	0.00008	0.00184	—	0.00184	0.00169	—	0.00169	—	7.58491	7.58491	0.00031	0.00006	—	7.61094
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01022	0.01022	—	0.00525	0.00525	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Offsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.02242	0.02079	0.01616	0.17677	0.00000	0.00000	0.03109	0.03109	0.00000	0.00729	0.00729	—	30.1786	30.1786	0.00121	0.00141	0.00334	30.6327
Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00049	0.00045	0.00035	0.00375	0.00000	0.00000	0.00067	0.00067	0.00000	0.00016	0.00016	—	0.66205	0.66205	0.00005	0.00003	0.00122	0.67362
Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00009	0.00008	0.00006	0.00068	0.00000	0.00000	0.00012	0.00012	0.00000	0.00003	0.00003	—	0.10961	0.10961	0.00001	0.00001	0.00020	0.11153

Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

3.3. Linear, Grading & Excavation (2026) - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Location	TOG	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	BCO2	NBCO2	CO2T	CH4	N2O	R	CO2e
Onsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	1.43395	1.20436	11.2875	11.6989	0.01951	0.46001	—	0.46001	0.42321	—	0.42321	—	2,090.23	2,090.23	0.08479	0.01696	—	2,097.40
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.55541	2.55541	—	1.31332	1.31332	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.05893	0.04949	0.46387	0.48077	0.00080	0.01890	—	0.01890	0.01739	—	0.01739	—	85.8999	85.8999	0.00348	0.00070	—	86.1947
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.10502	0.10502	—	0.05397	0.05397	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.01075	0.00903	0.08466	0.08774	0.00015	0.00345	—	0.00345	0.00317	—	0.00317	—	14.2217	14.2217	0.00058	0.00012	—	14.2705
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01917	0.01917	—	0.00985	0.00985	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Offsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.02242	0.02079	0.01616	0.17677	0.00000	0.00000	0.03109	0.03109	0.00000	0.00729	0.00729	—	30.1786	30.1786	0.00121	0.00141	0.00334	30.6327
Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00091	0.00085	0.00066	0.00703	0.00000	0.00000	0.00126	0.00126	0.00000	0.00029	0.00029	—	1.24135	1.24135	0.00009	0.00006	0.00229	1.26304
Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00017	0.00016	0.00012	0.00128	0.00000	0.00000	0.00023	0.00023	0.00000	0.00005	0.00005	—	0.20552	0.20552	0.00001	0.00001	0.00038	0.20911
Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

3.5. Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade (2026) - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Location	TOG	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	BCO2	NBCO2	CO2T	CH4	N2O	R	CO2e
Onsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	1.23646	1.02860	8.52913	10.3606	0.01723	0.28915	—	0.28915	0.26602	—	0.26602	—	1,540.63	1,540.63	0.06249	0.01250	—	1,545.92
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.12195	0.10145	0.84123	1.02186	0.00170	0.02852	—	0.02852	0.02624	—	0.02624	—	151.953	151.953	0.00616	0.00123	—	152.474
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.02226	0.01851	0.15352	0.18649	0.00031	0.00520	—	0.00520	0.00479	—	0.00479	—	25.1575	25.1575	0.00102	0.00020	—	25.2438

Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Offsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.01794	0.01663	0.01293	0.14141	0.00000	0.00000	0.02487	0.02487	0.00000	0.00583	0.00583	—	24.1429	24.1429	0.00097	0.00113	0.00267	24.5062
Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00175	0.00163	0.00126	0.01350	0.00000	0.00000	0.00242	0.00242	0.00000	0.00057	0.00057	—	2.38339	2.38339	0.00016	0.00011	0.00439	2.42504
Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00032	0.00030	0.00023	0.00246	0.00000	0.00000	0.00044	0.00044	0.00000	0.00010	0.00010	—	0.39460	0.39460	0.00003	0.00002	0.00073	0.40149
Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

3.7. Linear, Paving (2026) - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Location	TOG	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	BCO2	NBCO2	CO2T	CH4	N2O	R	CO2e
Onsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	1.43395	1.20436	11.2875	11.6989	0.01951	0.46001	—	0.46001	0.42321	—	0.42321	—	2,090.23	2,090.23	0.08479	0.01696	—	2,097.40
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.01964	0.01650	0.15462	0.16026	0.00027	0.00630	—	0.00630	0.00580	—	0.00580	—	28.6333	28.6333	0.00116	0.00023	—	28.7316
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.00358	0.00301	0.02822	0.02925	0.00005	0.00115	—	0.00115	0.00106	—	0.00106	—	4.74057	4.74057	0.00019	0.00004	—	4.75684
Onsite truck	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Offsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.02242	0.02079	0.01616	0.17677	0.00000	0.00000	0.03109	0.03109	0.00000	0.00729	0.00729	—	30.1786	30.1786	0.00121	0.00141	0.00334	30.6327
Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00030	0.00028	0.00022	0.00234	0.00000	0.00000	0.00042	0.00042	0.00000	0.00010	0.00010	—	0.41378	0.41378	0.00003	0.00002	0.00076	0.42101
Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00006	0.00005	0.00004	0.00043	0.00000	0.00000	0.00008	0.00008	0.00000	0.00002	0.00002	—	0.06851	0.06851	< 0.000005	< 0.000005	0.00013	0.06970
Vendor	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Hauling	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	—	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

4. Operations Emissions Details

4.10. Soil Carbon Accumulation By Vegetation Type

4.10.1. Soil Carbon Accumulation By Vegetation Type - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Vegetation	TOG	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	BCO2	NBCO2	CO2T	CH4	N2O	R	CO2e
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4.10.2. Above and Belowground Carbon Accumulation by Land Use Type - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Land Use	TOG	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	BCO2	NBCO2	CO2T	CH4	N2O	R	CO2e
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4.10.3. Avoided and Sequestered Emissions by Species - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Species	TOG	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	BCO2	NBCO2	CO2T	CH4	N2O	R	CO2e
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Avoided	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sequestered	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Removed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Avoided	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sequestered	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Removed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Avoided	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sequestered	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Removed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

5. Activity Data

5.1. Construction Schedule

Phase Name	Phase Type	Start Date	End Date	Days Per Week	Work Days per Phase	Phase Description
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	10/1/2026	10/12/2026	5.00000	8.00000	—
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Linear, Grading & Excavation	10/13/2026	11/2/2026	5.00000	15.0000	—

Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	11/3/2026	12/22/2026	5.00000	36.0000	—
Linear, Paving	Linear, Paving	12/23/2026	12/29/2026	5.00000	5.00000	—

5.2. Off-Road Equipment

5.2.1. Unmitigated

Phase Name	Equipment Type	Fuel Type	Engine Tier	Number per Day	Hours Per Day	Horsepower	Load Factor
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Plate Compactors	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	8.00000	0.43000
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Rubber Tired Dozers	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	367.000	0.40000
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Excavators	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	36.0000	0.38000
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Tractors/Loaders/Back hoes	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	84.0000	0.37000
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Skid Steer Loaders	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	71.0000	0.37000
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Plate Compactors	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	8.00000	0.43000
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Rubber Tired Dozers	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	367.000	0.40000
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Excavators	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	36.0000	0.38000
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Tractors/Loaders/Back hoes	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	84.0000	0.37000
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Skid Steer Loaders	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	71.0000	0.37000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Plate Compactors	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	8.00000	0.43000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Concrete/Industrial Saws	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	33.0000	0.73000

Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Dumpers/Tenders	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	16.0000	0.38000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Excavators	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	36.0000	0.38000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Generator Sets	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	14.0000	0.74000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Tractors/Loaders/Back hoes	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	84.0000	0.37000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Pumps	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	11.0000	0.74000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Skid Steer Loaders	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	71.0000	0.37000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Welders	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	46.0000	0.45000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Other Construction Equipment	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	30.0000	0.42000
Linear, Paving	Plate Compactors	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	8.00000	0.43000
Linear, Paving	Rubber Tired Dozers	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	367.000	0.40000
Linear, Paving	Excavators	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	36.0000	0.38000
Linear, Paving	Tractors/Loaders/Back hoes	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	84.0000	0.37000
Linear, Paving	Skid Steer Loaders	Diesel	Average	1.000000	8.00000	71.0000	0.37000

5.3. Construction Vehicles

5.3.1. Unmitigated

Phase Name	Trip Type	One-Way Trips per Day	Miles per Trip	Vehicle Mix
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Worker	5.00000	8.80000	LDA,LDT1,LDT2
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Vendor	0.00000	5.30000	HHDT,MHDT
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Hauling	0.00000	20.0000	HHDT
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Onsite truck	—	—	HHDT
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Worker	5.00000	8.80000	LDA,LDT1,LDT2

Linear, Grading & Excavation	Vendor	0.00000	5.30000	HHDT,MHDT
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Hauling	0.00000	20.0000	HHDT
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Onsite truck	—	—	HHDT
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Worker	4.00000	8.80000	LDA,LDT1,LDT2
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Vendor	0.00000	5.30000	HHDT,MHDT
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Hauling	0.00000	20.0000	HHDT
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Onsite truck	—	—	HHDT
Linear, Paving	Worker	5.00000	8.80000	LDA,LDT1,LDT2
Linear, Paving	Vendor	0.00000	5.30000	HHDT,MHDT
Linear, Paving	Hauling	0.00000	20.0000	HHDT
Linear, Paving	Onsite truck	—	—	HHDT

5.4. Vehicles

5.4.1. Construction Vehicle Control Strategies

Control Strategies Applied	PM10 Reduction	PM2.5 Reduction
Water unpaved roads twice daily	55%	55%
Limit vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 25 mph	44%	44%

5.5. Architectural Coatings

5.6. Dust Mitigation

5.6.1. Construction Earthmoving Activities

Phase Name	Material Imported (Ton of Debris)	Material Exported (Ton of Debris)	Acres Graded (acres)	Material Demolished (sq. ft.)	Acres Paved (acres)
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Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	0.00000	0.00000	1.000000	0.00000	0.00000
Linear, Grading & Excavation	0.00000	0.00000	1.000000	0.00000	0.00000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	0.00000	0.00000	1.000000	0.00000	0.00000

5.6.2. Construction Earthmoving Control Strategies

Control Strategies Applied	Frequency (per day)	PM10 Reduction	PM2.5 Reduction
Water Exposed Area	2	61%	61%
Water Demolished Area	2	36%	36%

5.7. Construction Paving

5.8. Construction Electricity Consumption and Emissions Factors

kWh per Year and Emission Factor (lb/MWh)

Year	kWh per Year	CO2	CH4	N2O
2026	0.00000	531.983	0.03300	0.00400

5.18. Vegetation

5.18.1. Land Use Change

5.18.1.1. Unmitigated

Vegetation Land Use Type	Vegetation Soil Type	Initial Acres	Final Acres
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5.18.1. Biomass Cover Type

5.18.1.1. Unmitigated

Biomass Cover Type	Initial Acres	Final Acres
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5.18.2. Sequestration

5.18.2.1. Unmitigated

Tree Type	Number	Electricity Saved (kWh/year)	Natural Gas Saved (btu/year)
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6. Climate Risk Detailed Report

6.1. Climate Risk Summary

Cal-Adapt midcentury 2040–2059 average projections for four hazards are reported below for your project location. These are under Representation Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 which assumes GHG emissions will continue to rise strongly through 2050 and then plateau around 2100.

Climate Hazard	Result for Project Location	Unit
Temperature and Extreme Heat	6.51000	annual days of extreme heat
Extreme Precipitation	7.10000	annual days with precipitation above 20 mm
Sea Level Rise	—	meters of inundation depth
Wildfire	21.0800	annual hectares burned

Temperature and Extreme Heat data are for grid cell in which your project are located. The projection is based on the 98th historical percentile of daily maximum/minimum temperatures from observed historical data (32 climate model ensemble from Cal-Adapt, 2040–2059 average under RCP 8.5). Each grid cell is 6 kilometers (km) by 6 km, or 3.7 miles (mi) by 3.7 mi.

Extreme Precipitation data are for the grid cell in which your project are located. The threshold of 20 mm is equivalent to about $\frac{3}{4}$ an inch of rain, which would be light to moderate rainfall if received over a full day or heavy rain if received over a period of 2 to 4 hours. Each grid cell is 6 kilometers (km) by 6 km, or 3.7 miles (mi) by 3.7 mi.

Sea Level Rise data are for the grid cell in which your project are located. The projections are from Radke et al. (2017), as reported in Cal-Adapt (Radke et al., 2017, CEC-500-2017-008), and consider inundation location and depth for the San Francisco Bay, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and California coast resulting different increments of sea level rise coupled with extreme storm events. Users may select from four scenarios to view the range in potential inundation depth for the grid cell. The four scenarios are: No rise, 0.5 meter, 1.0 meter, 1.41 meters

Wildfire data are for the grid cell in which your project are located. The projections are from UC Davis, as reported in Cal-Adapt (2040–2059 average under RCP 8.5), and consider historical data of climate, vegetation, population density, and large (> 400 ha) fire history. Users may select from four model simulations to view the range in potential wildfire probabilities for the grid cell. The four simulations make different assumptions about expected rainfall and temperature are: Warmer/drier (HadGEM2-ES), Cooler/wetter (CNRM-CM5), Average conditions (CanESM2), Range of different rainfall and temperature possibilities (MIROC5). Each grid cell is 6 kilometers (km) by 6 km, or 3.7 miles (mi) by 3.7 mi.

6.2. Initial Climate Risk Scores

Climate Hazard	Exposure Score	Sensitivity Score	Adaptive Capacity Score	Vulnerability Score
Temperature and Extreme Heat	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Extreme Precipitation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sea Level Rise	1	0	0	N/A

Wildfire	1	0	0	N/A
Flooding	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drought	0	0	0	N/A
Snowpack Reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air Quality Degradation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The sensitivity score reflects the extent to which a project would be adversely affected by exposure to a climate hazard. Exposure is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest exposure.

The adaptive capacity of a project refers to its ability to manage and reduce vulnerabilities from projected climate hazards. Adaptive capacity is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest ability to adapt.

The overall vulnerability scores are calculated based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity assessments for each hazard. Scores do not include implementation of climate risk reduction measures.

6.3. Adjusted Climate Risk Scores

Climate Hazard	Exposure Score	Sensitivity Score	Adaptive Capacity Score	Vulnerability Score
Temperature and Extreme Heat	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Extreme Precipitation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sea Level Rise	1	1	1	2
Wildfire	1	1	1	2
Flooding	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drought	1	1	1	2
Snowpack Reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air Quality Degradation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The sensitivity score reflects the extent to which a project would be adversely affected by exposure to a climate hazard. Exposure is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest exposure.

The adaptive capacity of a project refers to its ability to manage and reduce vulnerabilities from projected climate hazards. Adaptive capacity is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest ability to adapt.

The overall vulnerability scores are calculated based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity assessments for each hazard. Scores include implementation of climate risk reduction measures.

6.4. Climate Risk Reduction Measures

7. Health and Equity Details

7.1. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Scores

The maximum CalEnviroScreen score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects a higher pollution burden compared to other census tracts in the state.

Indicator	Result for Project Census Tract
Exposure Indicators	—
AQ-Ozone	26.6957
AQ-PM	8.20162
AQ-DPM	7.16864
Drinking Water	18.3464
Lead Risk Housing	37.1141
Pesticides	55.2759
Toxic Releases	8.65216
Traffic	3.07500
Effect Indicators	—
CleanUp Sites	0.00000
Groundwater	0.00000
Haz Waste Facilities/Generators	21.9590
Impaired Water Bodies	23.8765
Solid Waste	52.8981
Sensitive Population	—
Asthma	1.48305
Cardio-vascular	2.61715
Low Birth Weights	0.00000
Socioeconomic Factor Indicators	—
Education	8.98507
Housing	45.0317
Linguistic	0.00000
Poverty	17.1859
Unemployment	—

7.2. Healthy Places Index Scores

The maximum Health Places Index score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects healthier community conditions compared to other census tracts in the state.

Indicator	Result for Project Census Tract
Economic	—
Above Poverty	88.92595919
Employed	29.83446683
Median HI	98.72962915
Education	—
Bachelor's or higher	95.41896574
High school enrollment	100
Preschool enrollment	95.7141024
Transportation	—
Auto Access	94.58488387
Active commuting	72.83459515
Social	—
2-parent households	37.73899654
Voting	97.65173874
Neighborhood	—
Alcohol availability	87.30912357
Park access	17.36173489
Retail density	16.14269216
Supermarket access	27.73001412
Tree canopy	93.51982548
Housing	—
Homeownership	87.19363531
Housing habitability	95.23931734
Low-inc homeowner severe housing cost burden	59.39946105
Low-inc renter severe housing cost burden	98.06236366

Uncrowded housing	96.93314513
Health Outcomes	—
Insured adults	95.29064545
Arthritis	0.0
Asthma ER Admissions	94.0
High Blood Pressure	0.0
Cancer (excluding skin)	0.0
Asthma	0.0
Coronary Heart Disease	0.0
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	0.0
Diagnosed Diabetes	0.0
Life Expectancy at Birth	87.7
Cognitively Disabled	78.9
Physically Disabled	93.4
Heart Attack ER Admissions	98.2
Mental Health Not Good	0.0
Chronic Kidney Disease	0.0
Obesity	0.0
Pedestrian Injuries	19.6
Physical Health Not Good	0.0
Stroke	0.0
Health Risk Behaviors	—
Binge Drinking	0.0
Current Smoker	0.0
No Leisure Time for Physical Activity	0.0
Climate Change Exposures	—
Wildfire Risk	49.5
SLR Inundation Area	0.0

Children	90.9
Elderly	2.5
English Speaking	98.1
Foreign-born	17.9
Outdoor Workers	74.3
Climate Change Adaptive Capacity	—
Impervious Surface Cover	97.2
Traffic Density	5.2
Traffic Access	0.0
Other Indices	—
Hardship	0.4
Other Decision Support	—
2016 Voting	98.8

7.3. Overall Health & Equity Scores

Metric	Result for Project Census Tract
CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Score for Project Location (a)	0.00000
Healthy Places Index Score for Project Location (b)	97.0000
Project Located in a Designated Disadvantaged Community (Senate Bill 535)	No
Project Located in a Low-Income Community (Assembly Bill 1550)	No
Project Located in a Community Air Protection Program Community (Assembly Bill 617)	No

a: The maximum CalEnviroScreen score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects a higher pollution burden compared to other census tracts in the state.

b: The maximum Health Places Index score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects healthier community conditions compared to other census tracts in the state.

7.4. Health & Equity Measures

No Health & Equity Measures selected.

7.5. Evaluation Scorecard

Health & Equity Evaluation Scorecard not completed.

7.6. Health & Equity Custom Measures

No Health & Equity Custom Measures created.

8. User Changes to Default Data

8.1. Justifications

Screen	Justification
Construction: Construction Phases	Information provided to Rincon.
Construction: Off-Road Equipment	Information provided to Rincon.
Construction: Trips and VMT	Information provided to Rincon.

8.4. Construction

8.4.1. Construction Phases

Phase Type	Phase Name	Model Parameter	Default Value	New Value
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	End Date	10/9/2026	10/12/2026
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Work Days per Phase	6.00000	8.00000
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Linear, Grading & Excavation	Start Date	10/10/2026	10/13/2026
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Linear, Grading & Excavation	End Date	11/19/2026	11/2/2026
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Linear, Grading & Excavation	Work Days per Phase	29.0000	15.0000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Start Date	11/20/2026	11/3/2026
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	End Date	12/16/2026	12/22/2026
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Work Days per Phase	19.0000	36.0000
Linear, Paving	Linear, Paving	Start Date	12/17/2026	12/23/2026
Linear, Paving	Linear, Paving	End Date	12/31/2026	12/29/2026
Linear, Paving	Linear, Paving	Work Days per Phase	10.00000	5.00000

8.4.6. Trips and VMT

Phase Name	Trip Type	Model Parameter	Default Value	New Value
Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	Worker	One-Way Trips per Day	0.00000	5.00000
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Worker	One-Way Trips per Day	0.00000	5.00000
Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	Worker	One-Way Trips per Day	0.00000	4.00000
Linear, Paving	Worker	One-Way Trips per Day	0.00000	5.00000

Appendix B

RCNM Results

Construction Noise

	Noise Level @ 50 ft	Res at 2665 Bella Vista	Res at 2645 Bella Vista	Res on Cima del Mundo
Distance		120	210	420
Site Preparation	81	73.396	68.535	62.514
Grading and Excavation	81	73.396	68.535	62.514
Pipeline Installation	84	76.396	71.535	65.514
Ground Restoration	81	73.396	68.535	62.514

Construction Vibration

	Vibration @ 25 ft	Res at 2665 Bella Vista	Res at 2645 Bella Vista	Res on Cima del Mundo
Distance		75	140	15
Concrete Saw	0.035	0.007	0.003	0.075
Large Bulldozer	0.089	0.017	0.007	0.191
Loaded Trucks	0.076	0.015	0.006	0.164
Small Bulldozer	0.003	0.001	0.000	0.006

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 01/09/2026
Case Description: Site Preparation

**** Receptor #1 ****

Description	Land Use	Baselines (dBA)		
		Daytime	Evening	Night
Site Preparation	Residential	65.0	55.0	50.0

Description	Impact Device	Usage (%)	Equipment		Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
			Spec	Actual		
			Lmax (dBA)	Lmax (dBA)		
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Dozer	No	40		81.7	50.0	0.0
Excavator	No	40		80.7	50.0	0.0
Front End Loader	No	40		79.1	50.0	0.0

Results

Noise Limits (dBA)

Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)

			Calculated (dBA)		Day		Evening		
Night		Day	Evening		Night				
			Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax
Equipment	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq
Dozer	N/A	N/A	81.7	77.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator	N/A	N/A	80.7	76.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Front End Loader	N/A	N/A	79.1	75.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	N/A	N/A	81.7	81.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), Version 1.1

Report date: 01/09/2026
Case Description: Grading

**** Receptor #1 ****

Description	Land Use	Daytime	Baselines (dBA)	
			Evening	Night
Grading	Residential	65.0	55.0	50.0

Description	Impact Device	Usage (%)	Equipment		Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
			Spec	Actual		
			Lmax (dBA)	Lmax (dBA)		
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Dozer	No	40		81.7	50.0	0.0
Excavator	No	40		80.7	50.0	0.0
Front End Loader	No	40		79.1	50.0	0.0

Results

Noise Limits (dBA)

Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)

[illegible]

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM),Version 1.1

Report date: 01/09/2026
Case Description: Pipeline Installation

**** Receptor #1 ****

Description	Land Use	Baselines (dBA)		
		Daytime	Evening	Night
Pipeline Installation	Residential	65.0	55.0	50.0

Description	Impact Device	Usage (%)	Equipment			
			Spec Lmax (dBA)	Actual Lmax (dBA)	Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
Concrete Saw	No	20		89.6	50.0	0.0
Excavator	No	40		80.7	50.0	0.0
Front End Loader	No	40		79.1	50.0	0.0

Results

Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)

Noise Limits (dBA)

Night	Day	Calculated (dBA)		Day Night	Evening		Lmax
		Lmax	Leq		Lmax	Leq	
Equipment	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax
Concrete Saw	N/A	N/A	89.6	82.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator	N/A	N/A	80.7	76.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Front End Loader	N/A	N/A	79.1	75.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	N/A	N/A	89.6	84.2	N/A	N/A	N/A

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM),Version 1.1

Report date: 01/09/2026
Case Description: Ground Restoration

**** Receptor #1 ****

Description	Land Use	Baselines (dBA)		
		Daytime	Evening	Night
Ground Restoration	Residential	65.0	55.0	50.0

Description	Impact Device	Usage (%)	Equipment			
			Spec Lmax (dBA)	Actual Lmax (dBA)	Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
Dozer	No	40		81.7	50.0	0.0
Excavator	No	40		80.7	50.0	0.0
Front End Loader	No	40		79.1	50.0	0.0

Results

Noise Limit Exceedance (dBA)

Noise Limits (dBA)

Night	Day	Calculated (dBA)		Day Night	Evening		Lmax
		Lmax	Leq		Lmax	Leq	
Equipment	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax	Leq	Lmax
Dozer	N/A	N/A	81.7	77.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator	N/A	N/A	80.7	76.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Front End Loader	N/A	N/A	79.1	75.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	N/A	N/A	81.7	81.4	N/A	N/A	N/A