INITIAL STUDY

FOR THE

FRAZIER PARK PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT

NEW WELL #8 AND PIPELINE

REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Prepared for:

Frazier Park Public Utilities District
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACROYNMS

AAQS	Ambient Air Quality Standards
APE	Area of Potential Effects
ARB	Air Resources Board
ARD	Aquatic Resources Delineation
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
BACT	Best Available Control Technology
BAR	Biological Resources Assessment
BAU	Business As Usual
BMP	Best Management Practice
BPS	Best Performance Standards
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
Cal Fire	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CALGreen	California Green Building Standards Code
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCAP	Climate Change Action Plan
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CH_4	methane
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CNPSEI	California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory
CO_2	carbon dioxide

CWA	Clean Water Act
CY	cubic yards
C&D	construction and demolition
DDW	Division of Drinking Water
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substance Controls
EAPOA	El Adobe Property Owners Association
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FGC	California Fish and Game Code
FHSZ	Fire Hazard Severity Zone
FPPUD	Frazier Park Public Utilities District
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
GCC	global climate change
GHGs	greenhouse gases
GPEIR	General Plan Environmental Impact Report
gpm	gallons per minute
HDR	HDR, Inc.
HFC	hydrofluorocarbons
HSC	Health and Safety Code
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
ITP	Incidental Take Permit
LCI	Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
Leq	Time-averaged sound level
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCL	Maximum Containment Level
MM	mitigation measure
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
$MTCO_2e$	million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
N_2O	nitrous oxide
Pb	lead
PFC	perfluorocarbons
PM	particulate matter
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
PUD	Public Utilities District
R	Refrigerants
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
ROG	reactive organic gases
ROW	right-of-way
SCE	Southern California Edison
SF	square foot
SF_6	sulfur hexafluoride
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin

SJVAPCD	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SSC	species of special concern
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
VdB	velocity in decibels
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
WOTUS	Waters of the United States

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project Title: New Well #8 and Pipeline Replacement Project

2. Lead Agency Name: Frazier Park Public Utilities District
   Address: 4020 Park Drive (PO Box 1525)
   Frazier Park, CA 93225

3. Contact Person: Jonnie Allison, General Manager
   Phone Number: (661) 331-2995
   E-Mail Address: jonniea.fppud@gmail.com

4. Project Location: The Frazier Park Public Utilities District (FPPUD) is located in the southern San Joaquin Valley, just west of Interstate-5 and north of the Los Angeles and Kern Counties' boundary within Kern County. Refer to **Figure 1**. The proposed Project consists of installation of a new well, west of the intersection of Mt. Pinos Way and Frazier Mountain Park Road and immediately south of Frazier Mountain Park Road. Refer to **Figure 2,** which covers both the pipeline and well site locations. This proposed Project also includes replacement of about 18,300 lineal feet of existing potable water distribution lines as shown on **Figures 3 and 4**. The Longitude/Latitude at the center of the District is 118ºN 56'58"/34ºW 49'20".

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: Frazier Park Public Utilities District
   4020 Park Drive (PO Box 1525)
   Frazier Park, CA 93225

6. General Plan Designation: Residential Maximum 10 Units/Net Acre Designation 5.3/2.1 and public rights-of-way

7. Zoning Classification: Limited Agriculture (A-1) and public rights-of-way

8. Project Description:

Introduction

The Frazier Park Public Utilities District (FPPUD or District) is proposing to implement two water infrastructure Projects in the near future for which the District is seeking funding from the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW). The first Project is a new potable water well, proposed District Well #8. The second Project is the replacement of approximately 18,300 feet of District potable water distribution pipelines in three of the District's service areas, Summit Area, Lower Summit Area, and Texas Trail.

Project Description

Well #8 Facilities

The Well #8 facilities will occupy an area of about 1/4 acre located just south of Frazier Mountain Park Road, a little west of this road's intersection with Mt. Pinos Way. The District proposes to clear the whole 11,596 square foot (SF) site. The well drilling rig (Direct Rotary Rig) will be brought

onto the site to drill the well. This will require about two to three weeks (14-21 days). Once Well #8 is completed, the equipment will be brought onsite to complete the well for production. An existing driveway is located on the east side of the site and the District will install a separate 24 foot access driveway with entry gates (vehicle and personnel) to the Well #8 site. A 6 foot high masonry block wall will be installed around the site, with entry gates on the west and east. West of the site an area of about 13,000 sf will be set aside with a temporary construction easement for equipment staging and laydown. Additional facilities to be installed within the boundary of the well site include the following: electrical, well pump and motor, retention basin, well enclosure building, gravel ground cover, well discharge piping, eye wash stand, and other well support equipment.

West of the enclosed well site a new graded and compacted road (25 feet wide) will be installed to connect the well to the water storage tank located at the ell #5 site. Well #5 is located about 630 feet west of proposed Well #8. The existing storage tank and a pump station are located at this site as shown on **Figure 4**. Within the proposed right-of-way (ROW), an 8 inch PVC pipeline will connect the two well sites, and a 25 foot-wide graded/compacted connector road will be installed within a 30 foot easement owned by the District.

Once the above-ground infrastructure is installed, Well #8 can be placed in operation and based on preliminary testing it is forecast to yield about 500 gallons per minute (gpm) of flow.

Replacement Pipelines

The District's potable water distribution system is older, has been deteriorating, and in some areas no longer meets current fire flow requirements. To address these current limitations, the District has embarked on a pipeline replacement program for specific areas within the District's service area. **Figure 5** shows the District's current boundary, which encompasses most of the developed area within Frazier Park. **Figures 3 and 4** show the locations where 8 inch diameter PVC water mains will be installed to replace existing water lines. Most of the 18,300 lineal feet of 8" pipeline (of the District's total of approximately 100,000 lineal feet) within these two areas will be installed within existing road rights-of-way (ROW), with a few alignments located on undisturbed land immediately adjacent to developed areas.

The pipelines will be installed using standard trenching methods. It is estimated that overall an average of 200 lineal feet of pipeline can be installed per day. Average depth of trenches is estimated to be 4' to 6' in depth. Two crews are assumed to be installing the replacement pipe at the same time and installation will occur over a period of 45 to 60 working days. Concurrent with pipeline installation, the District will install the following support equipment as shown in **Appendix 1,** which depicts the plans for the whole of the project: gate valves; fire hydrants; pressure reducing stations; and blow-off assemblies.

Once funding is acquired, the District will issue requests for proposals and award contracts to the winning bidders to install the new District potable water infrastructure summarized above. Copies of the detailed engineering plans can be reviewed on the District's website.

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

The amount of area to be disturbed by the whole Project will be greater than one acre; therefore, the FPPUD will be required to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) for a General Construction permit to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. The

NOI is filed with the State Water Resources Control Board and enforced by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be implemented in conjunction with construction activities.

As noted above, the FPPUD will be required to obtain permits from the following:

a. Well Drilling Permit: County of Kern
b. Drinking Water Permit Amendment: State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water to connect the new, finished wells to the potable water distribution system.
c. Regulatory permits: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

No other agency approvals are known at this time.

10. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?[1]

No consultation is required because no tribe has contacted the FPPUD to request consultation.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

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

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

☐	The proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☒	Although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☐	The proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
☐	The proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
☐	Although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.

Tom Dodson & Associates
Prepared by

07/17/26
Date

Lead Agency (signature)

7/20/26
Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to Projects like the one involved (e.g., the Project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on Project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the Project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a Project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as Project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

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

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the Project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a Project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:

   a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

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

SUBSTANTIATION

Ia. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project consists of installing a new well (and well support facilities as described in the Project description), pipelines and pipeline support equipment, such as water meters and fire hydrants. Short-term construction activities will result in limited above-ground construction activities, but neither these short-term nor long-term changes in the FPPUD Project area will substantially or adversely impact scenic vistas. There are scenic vistas in the Frazier Park community to the south towards the Mt. Pinos and the northern ridge as a backdrop to the developed residential community north of Frazier Park Mountain Road. All of the proposed facilities will be installed at ground level or in worst case one story structures that will become part of the already disturbed foreground views of adjacent suburban development in Frazier Park. The fact that the new facilities are being installed are at ground level, or at worst-case one-story structures, means they cannot substantially interfere with any of scenic vistas. Impacts are less than significant and no mitigation is required; no significant adverse impact is forecast to scenic vistas from implementing the proposed FPPUD Project.

Ib. *Less Than Significant Impact* – There are no scenic highways located within the community of Frazier Park. In its current General Plan, the County of Kern identified three different potential scenic routes, none of which is located in the Frazier Park vicinity. All proposed replacement pipeline facilities will be installed within existing public rights-of-way (ROW) at ground level. The Well #8 site is located within suburban areas or adjacent to such areas. Finally, the new water meters and fire hydrants will be installed at ground level where they cannot alter any scenic resources. None of the Project locations contain any scenic resources that could be adversely impacted by installing these facilities and replacement pipelines in roadways or disturbed alignments, and an open area adjacent to Frazier Park Mountain Road. No mitigation is required, and no potential for significant adverse aesthetic impact is forecast to result from implementing the proposed Project.

Ic. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Although not a highly urbanized area, Frazier Park is more of a suburban area than open space or agricultural land. However, utilizing the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation's (LCI) Site Check,[2] the Project area does not meet any of the definitions for Urban Area defined therein. Thus, the Project area is considered rural. All of the replacement pipelines are

[2] LCI, 2026. Site Check. https://sitecheck.lci.ca.gov/ (Accessed 07/02/26)

located within or adjacent to developed areas and the new well will occur within a highly disturbed area, adjacent to the primary paved road in the community, Frazier Park Mountain Road. Further, as they would be installed belowground, no impacts to public views or interruptions thereof would occur over the long term. As stated under issue "Ia," above, the proposed Project facilities will be installed at ground level or in worst case one story structures that will become part of the already disturbed public vantage points to foreground views of adjacent suburban development in Frazier Park. Thus, the proposed Project is not expected to substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. No mitigation is required, and a less than significant aesthetic impact is forecast to result from implementing the proposed Project.

Id. *Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated* – The implementation of the proposed Project will create new sources of light during the construction and operational phases of the Well #8 Project. Based on a review of an Aerial Photo of the Project site (**Figure 2**), there are light sensitive uses adjacent to most of the infrastructure proposed to be installed as part of the proposed Project. Of particular concern is during well drilling, the well rig typically operates 24-hours per day and safety, security and area lighting is required during drilling. Due to light and glare from these construction light sources, the mitigation in mitigation measure (**MM) AES-1** must be implemented to minimize significant light and glare impacts during well construction. Similar mitigation is not required to support pipeline construction (for example, Fire Hydrants) because these construction activities do not require 24-hour construction activities.

Once the pipelines and related facilities are installed, they will not require further lighting during future operations. However, at the well location, security and safety lighting will be required to support and protect operations. Thus, the proposed Project will introduce a new source of light into the Project area during operations, but design requirements can limit/restrict the exterior lighting impacts to the Project site. To ensure that light does not result in intrusive lighting that can adversely impact land uses adjacent to the Well #8 site, the Project must comply with the local County lighting requirements that lighting be restricted to the Project site through shielding and directing light downward. To ensure that light or glare, supporting above ground water facilities, does not result in intrusive lighting or glare to existing structures or persons in the Project area, the following mitigation measure will be implemented:

AES-1 Prior to initiating well drilling or approval of the final above ground facilities in close proximity to sensitive light receptors, an analysis of potential exterior lighting to impact the adjacent sensitive light receptors shall be submitted to the FPPUD for review and approval. If potential lighting impacts are identified for adjacent sensitive receptors, the lighting shall be shielded or other design solutions acceptable to the FPPUD shall be implemented to eliminate potential adverse night lighting impacts.

With the implementation of **MM AES-1**, the proposed Project would have a less than significant potential to create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the Project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION

IIa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – All pipelines will be installed in public rights-of-way which are considered to be Urban/Built-Up Land. Well site #8 is designated as Nonagricultural and Natural Vegetation. All of these designations are based on the California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Map Finder map for the Project area, provided as **Figure II-1**. None of these designations is indicative of agricultural land being present within the Project area. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project and conversion of the Project site to support a water supply well, and installation of pipeline within road ROWs will not pose any significant adverse impact to agricultural resources or values. No mitigation is required.

IIb. *No Impact* – Implementation of the proposed Project will not conflict with existing onsite and/or adjacent land uses. Note that the proposed Well #8 site is zoned for agricultural use (limited agriculture [A-1]), which supports the use proposed by this Project. Section 19.14.020(F) of the Kern

County Code of Ordinances lists public utility facilities as permitted uses under this zone. Thereby, the installation of the well within the A-1 zone will not conflict with the zoning provisions found therein, nor with the installation of the remaining facilities as they will be installed within roadways or as appurtenant structures requiring minimal land area for installation. Further, according to the Kern County Williamson Act Parcels and Non-Renewal map, none of the Project sites or alignments are under Williamson Act contract. Please reference the discussion in II(a), above. Based on this information, the proposed Project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract. No adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

IIc. *No Impact* – The Project site is not located within forest land, timberland or timberland zoned for Timberland Production. Therefore, the proposed Project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)). No adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

IId. *No Impact* – The Project site is not located within forest land and has no commercial forest trees on any of the property proposed to support the New Well #8 and Pipeline Replacement Project; therefore, the Project will not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest production use. No adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

IIe. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Please refer to the discussion under issue II(a), above, the conversion of this small area to support water supply production was concluded to constitute a less than significant Project specific and cumulative impact within the surrounding community. Furthermore, there is no forest land in the immediate vicinity of Frazier Park that would be impacted by the implementation of the proposed Project. Therefore, the proposed Project would have a less than significant potential to involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of significant farmland resources, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
III. AIR QUALITY: Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the Project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information utilized in this section was obtained from the technical study "Frazier Park Well Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment" prepared by Urban Crossroads dated June 22, 2026 and provided as **Appendix 3** to this document.

Background

San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) includes San Joaquin County, Stanislaus County, Madera County, Fresno County, Kings County, Tulare County, and a portion of Kern County. The mountains surrounding the SJVAB restrict air movement through and out of the basin, and as a result, impede the dispersion of pollutants from the basin.

Away from the cooling effects of the Pacific Ocean, the climate of Kern County can be characterized as hot in summer and cold in winter, compared with the coastal basins where the climate is moderated by the adjacent ocean. The SVJAB has an "inland Mediterranean" climate averaging over 260 sunny days per year. The valley floor is characterized by hot summers and mild humid winters. Summer high temperatures often exceed 100°F while the average daily low temperature in the winter is 45°F. Temperatures below freezing are rare. Summer winds in the SJVAB usually originate at the north end of the San Joaquin Valley and flow in a south-southeasterly direction while winter winds originate from the south and flow in a north-northwesterly direction. Winds in the winter months tend to be variable and light; often less than 10 mph. Precipitation in the San Joaquin Valley is strongly influenced by the position of the semi-permanent subtropical high-pressure zone located off the Pacific Coast. Most precipitation occurs in the winter months, with some occurring in late summer and fall. Average annual rainfall for the entire San Joaquin Valley is 9.25 inches on the valley floor.

Criteria Pollutants

Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) have established ambient air quality standards for common pollutants. These ambient air quality standards are levels of contaminants representing safe levels that avoid specific adverse health effects associated with each pollutant. The ambient air quality standards cover what are called "criteria" pollutants because the health and other effects of each pollutant are described in criteria documents. The six criteria pollutants are O_3 (precursor emissions include NO_X and reactive organic gases (ROG), CO, particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and lead (Pb). Areas that meet ambient air quality standards are classified as attainment areas, while areas that do not meet these standards are classified as

nonattainment areas. The SJVAB is designated as a nonattainment area for the state O_3, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ standards and is also an unclassified/nonattainment area for the state and federal standards for PM_{10} (federal), CO, NO_2, and SO_2.

Air Quality Standards

Currently, the National ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) and California ambient air quality standards (CAAQS) are exceeded in most parts of the SJVAB. In response, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) has adopted a series of Air Quality Management Plans (AQMP) to meet the state and federal ambient air quality standards. AQMPs are updated regularly in order to more effectively reduce emissions, accommodate growth, and to minimize any negative fiscal impacts of air pollution control on the economy.

Table III-1
AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

Pollutant	Average Time	California Standards [1]		National Standards [2]		
		Concentration [3]	Method [4]	Primary [3,5]	Secondary [3,6]	Method [7]
Ozone (O3)[8]	1 Hour	0.09 ppm (180 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Photometry	–	Same as Primary Standard	Ultraviolet Photometry
	8 Hour	0.070 ppm (137 µg/m^3)		0.070 ppm (137 µg/m^3)		
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM10)[9]	24 Hour	50 µg/m^3	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	150 µg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 µg/m^3		–		
Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)[9]	24 Hour	–	–	35 µg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 µg/m^3	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	9.0 µg/m^3	15.0 µg/m^3	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 Hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m^3)	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)	35 ppm (40 mg/m^3)	–	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)
	8 Hour	9 ppm (10 mg/m^3)		9 ppm (10 mg/m^3)	–	
	8 Hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm (7 mg/m^3)		–	–	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)[10]	1 Hour	0.18 ppm (339 µg/m^3)	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence	100 ppb (188 µg/m^3)	–	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.030 ppm (57 µg/m^3)		53 ppb (100 µg/m^3)	Same as Primary Standard	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)[11]	1 Hour	0.25 ppm (655 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence	75 ppb (196 µg/m^3)	–	Ultraviolet Fluorescence; Spectrophotometry (Paraosaniline Method)
	3 Hour	–		–	0.5 ppm (1300 µg/m^3)	
	24 Hour	0.04 ppm (105 µg/m^3)		0.14 ppm (for certain areas)[11]	–	
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	–		0.030 ppm (for certain areas)[11]	–	
Lead 8[12,13]	30-Day Average	1.5 µg/m^3	Atomic Absorption	–	–	–
	Calendar Quarter	–		1.5 µg/m^3 (for certain areas)[12]	Same as Primary Standard	High Volume Sampler and Atomic Absorption
	Rolling 3-Month Avg	–		0.15 µg/m^3		
Visibility Reducing Particles[14]	8 Hour	See footnote 14	Beta Attenuation and Transmittance through Filter Tape	**No Federal**		

Pollutant	Average Time	California Standards [1]		National Standards [2]		
		Concentration [3]	Method [4]	Primary [3,5]	Secondary [3,6]	Method [7]
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 µg/m^3	Ion Chromatography	**Standards**		
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence			
Vinyl Chloride[12]	24 Hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m^3)	Gas Chromatography			

1. California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (except 8-hour Lake Tahoe), sulfur dioxide (1 and 24 hour), nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5, and visibility reducing particles), are values that are not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. California ambient air quality standards are listed in the Table of Standards in Section 70200 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.

2. National standards (other than ozone, particulate matter, and those based on annual arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the fourth highest 8-hour concentration measured at each site in a year, averaged over three years, is equal to or less than the standard. For PM10, the 24 hour standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with a 24-hour average concentration above 150 µg/m^3 is equal to or less than one. For PM2.5, the 24 hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over three years, are equal to or less than the standard. Contact the U.S. EPA for further clarification and current national policies.

3. Concentration expressed first in units in which it was promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based upon a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr. Most measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr; ppm in this table refers to ppm by volume, or micromoles of pollutant per mole of gas.

4. Any equivalent measurement method which can be shown to the satisfaction of the ARB to give equivalent results at or near the level of the air quality standard may be used.

5. National Primary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health.

6. National Secondary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant.

7. Reference method as described by the U.S. EPA. An "equivalent method" of measurement may be used but must have a "consistent relationship to the reference method" and must be approved by the U.S. EPA.

8. On October 1, 2015, the national 8-hour ozone primary and secondary standards were lowered from 0.075 to 0.070 ppm.

9. On December 14, 2012, the national annual PM2.5 primary standard was lowered from 15 µg/m^3 to 12.0 µg/m^3. The existing national 24-hour PM2.5 standards (primary and secondary) were retained at 35 µg/m^3, as was the annual secondary standard of 15 µg/m^3. The existing 24-hour PM10 standards (primary and secondary) of 150 µg/m^3 also were retained. The form of the annual primary and secondary standards is the annual mean, averaged over 3 years.

10. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 98th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 100 ppb. Note that the national 1-hour standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the national 1-hour standard to the California standards the units can be converted from ppb to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 100 ppb is identical to 0.100 ppm.

11. On June 2, 2010, a new 1-hour SO_2 standard was established and the existing 24-hour and annual primary standards were revoked. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 75 ppb. The 1971 SO_2 national standards (24-hour and annual) remain in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2010 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1971 standards, the 1971 standards remain in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2010 standards are approved.

    Note that the 1-hour national standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the 1-hour national standard to the California standard the units can be converted to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 75 ppb is identical to 0.075 ppm.

12. The ARB has identified lead and vinyl chloride as 'toxic air contaminants' with no threshold level of exposure for adverse health effects determined. These actions allow for the implementation of control measures at levels below the ambient concentrations specified for these pollutants.

13. The national standard for lead was revised on October 15, 2008 to a rolling 3-month average. The 1978 lead standard (1.5 µg/m^3 as a quarterly average) remains in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2008 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1978 standard, the 1978 standard remains in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2008 standard are approved.

14. In 1989, the ARB converted both the general statewide 10-mile visibility standard and the Lake Tahoe 30-mile visibility standard to instrumental equivalents, which are "extinction of 0.23 per kilometer" and "extinction of 0.07 per kilometer" for the statewide and Lake Tahoe Air Basin standards, respectively.

For more information please call ARB-PIO at (916) 322-2990 **California Air Resources Board (5/4/16)**

Applicable Regulatory Requirements
SJVAPCD Rules that are currently applicable during construction activity for this Project include but are not limited to Rule 8021 (Fugitive Dust).

SJVAPCD Rule 8021
The purpose of this rule is to limit fugitive dust emissions from construction, demolition, excavation, extraction, and other earthmoving activities. This rule applies to any construction, demolition, excavation, extraction, and other earthmoving activities, including, but not limited to, land clearing, grubbing, scraping, travel on site, and travel on access roads to and from the site.

Air Quality Regional Emissions Thresholds

The SJVAPCD has developed regional significance thresholds for regulated pollutants, shown below in Table III-1. The SJVAPCD's CEQA Air Quality Significance Thresholds indicate that any Projects in the SJVAB with daily regional emissions that exceed any of the indicated thresholds should be considered as having an individually and cumulatively significant air quality impact.

Table III-2
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR BASIN ATTAINMENT STATUS

Pollutant	Construction	Operations
NOX	10 tons/year	10 tons/year
VOC	10 tons/year	10 tons/year
PM10	15 tons/year	15 tons/year
PM2.5	15 tons/year	15 tons/year
SOX	27 tons/year	27 tons/year
CO	100 tons/year	100 tons/year

Impact Analysis:

IIIa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – An air quality plan describes air pollution control strategies to be implemented by a city, county, or region classified as a non-attainment area. The main purpose of the air quality plan is to bring the area into compliance with the requirements of the federal and State air quality standards. To bring the San Joaquin Valley into attainment, the SJVAPCD has developed the 2013 Plan for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard, adopted on September 19, 2013. The SJVAPCD also adopted the 2016 Plan for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard in June 2016 to satisfy Clean Air Act requirements and ensure attainment of the 75 parts per billion (ppb) 8-hour ozone standard. To assure the SJVAB's continued attainment of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) PM_{10} standard, the SJVAPCD adopted the 2007 PM_{10} Maintenance Plan in September 2007. SJVAPCD Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM_{10} Prohibitions) is designed to reduce PM_{10} emissions generated by human activity. The SJVAPCD adopted the 2018 Plan for the 1997, 2006, and 2012 $PM_{2.5}$ Standards in November 2018 to address the USEPA 1997 annual PM2.5 standard of 15 $\mu g/m^3$ and 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard of 65 $\mu g/m^3$, the 2006 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard of 35 $\mu g/m^3$, and the 2012 annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard of 12 $\mu g/m^3$.

CEQA requires that certain Projects be analyzed for consistency with the applicable air quality plan. For a Project to be consistent with SJVAPCD air quality plans, the pollutants emitted from a Project should not exceed the SJVAPCD emission thresholds or cause a significant impact on air quality. In addition, emission reductions achieved through implementation of offset requirements are a major component of the SJVAPCD air quality plans. As discussed, construction of the Project would not result in the generation of criteria air pollutants that would exceed SJVAPCD thresholds of significance. As previously stated, for ongoing operations, the implementation of this Project will not necessitate the addition of any new operators. Consequently, there will be no increase in operational emissions associated with the Project. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct

implementation of SJVAPCD air quality plans, and therefore would result in a less than significant impact under this issue.

IIIb. *Less Than Significant Impact –*

Construction Emissions

Construction activities associated with the Project would result in emissions of VOCs, NO_X, SO_X, CO, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. Construction related emissions are expected from the following construction activities:

Vertical Construction
- Site Preparation
- Grading
- Building Construction

Linear Construction
- Linear, Grading & Excavation
- Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade

Grading Activities
Dust is typically a major concern during grading activities. Because such emissions are not amenable to collection and discharge through a controlled source, they are called "fugitive emissions." Fugitive dust emissions rates vary as a function of many parameters (soil silt, soil moisture, wind speed, area disturbed, number of vehicles, depth of disturbance or excavation, etc.). CalEEMod was utilized to calculate fugitive dust emissions resulting from this phase of activity. Based on information provided by the Project applicant, the Project would require 252 cubic yards (CY) of soil import for earthwork activities. Additionally, for purposes of analysis and as a conservative measure, it is anticipated that the 32,533 cubic yards of export would occur during the pipeline installations. The cubic yards of export will be analyzed using the Project Team provided hauling trip length of 20 miles.

Off-Site Utility and Infrastructure Improvements
To support the Project development, off-site improvements will consist of construction of a 24-foot-wide access driveway with entry gates to the District Well No. 8 site, installation of a 6-foot-high block wall surrounding the well site with entry gates on the west and east sides, construction of an approximately 25-foot-wide graded and compacted access road, and associated right-of-way improvements necessary to support access and utility connections. These improvements are anticipated to provide site access, security, and operational connectivity to existing District infrastructure.

Construction emissions from this off-site work would, therefore, be relatively short term, not concentrated in one area. The physical constraints would limit the amount of construction equipment that could be used, and any off-site and utility infrastructure construction would not use equipment totals that would exceed the equipment totals on Table 3. As such, no impacts beyond what has already been identified in this report are expected to occur.

On-Road Trips
Construction generates on-road vehicle emissions from vehicle usage for workers, vendors, and haul trucks commuting to and from the site. The number of worker, vendor, and hauling trips per phase is presented below in Table III-3 and are based on information provided by the client and CalEEMod defaults.

Table III-3
CONSTRUCTION TRIP ASSUMPTIONS

Construction Activity	Worker Trips Per Day	Vendor Trips Per Day	Hauling Trips Per Day
Vertical Construction			
Site Preparation	18	0	0
Grading	20	0	3
Building Construction	4	0	0
Linear Construction			
Linear, Grading & Excavation	20	0	0
Linear, Drainage, Utilities & Sub-Grade	23	0	170

Construction Duration
For purposes of analysis, construction of the Project is expected to commence in November 2026 and would last through April 2027. The construction schedule utilized in the analysis represents a "worst-case" analysis scenario should construction occur any time after the respective dates since emission factors for construction decrease as time passes and the analysis year increases due to emission regulations becoming more stringent[3]. The duration of construction activity and associated equipment represents a reasonable approximation of the expected construction fleet as required per *CEQA Guidelines*.

Table III-4
CONSTRUCTION DURATION

Construction Activity	Start Date	End Date	Days
Vertical Construction			
Site Preparation	11/02/2026	11/13/2026	10
Grading	11/16/2026	11/30/2026	11
Building Construction	12/01/2026	04/19/2027	100
Linear Construction			
Linear, Grading & Excavation	11/02/2026	12/21/2026	36
Linear, Drainage, Utilities & Sub-Grade	12/22/2026	01/22/2027	24

Construction Equipment
Equipment used for construction of both phases of the Project is shown in Table III-5, respectively. Consistent with industry standards and typical construction practices, each piece of equipment will operate up to a total of eight (8) hours per day, or more than two-thirds of the period during which construction activities are allowed pursuant to the code.

[3] As shown in the CalEEMod User's Guide Version 2022, Appendix G "Table G-11. Statewide Average Annual Offroad Equipment Emission Factors" as the analysis year increases, emission factors for the same equipment pieces decrease due to the natural turnover of older equipment being replaced by newer less polluting equipment and new regulatory requirements.

Table III-5
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

Construction Activity	Equipment	Quantity	Hours
Site Preparation	Rubber Tired Dozers	3	8
	Crawler Tractors	4	8
Grading	Excavators	1	8
	Graders	1	8
	Rubber Tired Dozers	3	8
	Crawler Tractors	3	8
Building Construction	Bore/Drill Rigs	1	8
	Plate Compactors	1	8
	Rubber Tired Dozers	1	8
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	1	8
	Scrapers	2	8
Linear, Grading & Excavation	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	1	8
	Crawler Tractors	1	8
	Excavators	1	8
	Plate Compactors	1	8
	Pavers	1	8
	Rollers	1	8
	Off-Highway Trucks	1	8
	Signal Boards	1	8
Linear, Drainage, Utilities & Sub-Grade	Trenchers	1	8
	Cranes	1	8
	Forklifts	1	8
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	1	8
	Plate Compactors	1	8
	Rollers	1	8
	Excavators	1	8
	Off-Highway Trucks	1	8
	Pavers	3	8

Regional Construction Emissions

The estimated maximum annual construction emissions without mitigation are summarized in Table 5. Under the assumed scenarios, emissions resulting from the Project construction would not exceed thresholds established by the SJVAPCD for emissions of any criteria pollutant. Project construction-source emissions impacts would therefore be les than significant.

Table III-6
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY EMISSIONS, MAXIMUM ANNUAL EMISSIONS (tons/year)

Maximal Construction Emissions	ROG	NOx	CO	SO_2	PM-10	PM-2.5
2026	0.10	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.12	0.07
2027	0.11	1.06	1.02	0.00	0.07	0.04
Maximum Annual Emissions	0.11	1.06	1.02	0.00	0.12	0.07
SJVAPCD Regional Emissions Threshold	10	10	100	27	15	15
Threshold Exceeded?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

Source: CalEEMod output in **Appendix 3**

Operational Emissions

The proposed Project primarily involves construction activities associated with improvements to existing potable water infrastructure, including installation of a new water well and replacement of existing distribution pipelines across three service areas. The proposed water well would provide an estimated average production capacity of approximately 500 gallons per minute (gpm), contributing to regional potable water system operations and supporting long-term system reliability within the District's service area.

Long-term air quality impacts would occur from mobile-source emissions associated with Project-related operational traffic and from emissions associated with energy usage. For ongoing operations, the Project is not anticipated to require additional operational staff, and existing District personnel would be trained to the required level of certification. As such, operational activities would be limited to routine maintenance and monitoring, and operational emissions are anticipated to be less than significant.

IIIc. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The potential impact of Project-generated air pollutant emissions at sensitive receptors has also been considered. Sensitive receptors can include uses such as long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, and retirement homes. Residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, and athletic facilities can also be considered sensitive receptors.

The Project consists of two components: (1) construction of a new potable water production well (District Well No. 8) on a 0.27-acre site, and (2) replacement of approximately 18,300 linear feet of existing 8-inch potable water distribution pipeline within the Summit Area, Lower Summit Area, and Texas Trail service areas of the District. Because the Replacement Pipeline Improvements would occur within existing public rights-of-way of established residential neighborhoods, residential uses are located near portions of the linear construction alignment.

Based on thresholds established in SJVAPCD's *Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts*, Project-related impacts on air quality may be significant when on-site emissions from construction or operational activities exceed the screening threshold of 100 pounds per day. Should Project on-site construction or operational emissions exceed this threshold, it is recommended that an ambient air quality analysis be performed. As shown in Table III-6, maximum Project construction emissions of NO_X, the pollutant of greatest relative magnitude, would total 1.06 tons per year, approximately 11 percent of the SJVAPCD's 10 tons/year regional significance threshold for that pollutant. Given the limited scale of on-site disturbance associated with the well site and pipeline trench alignment, and the absence of any new long-term stationary or mobile source of emissions associated with Project operation, on-site construction and operational emissions generated by the Project would not exceed this screening threshold. Because on-site emissions generated as a result of construction or operation of the proposed Project would not exceed this screening threshold, the proposed Project would not cause or contribute to a violation of the AAQS, and preparation of an ambient air quality analysis is not required. Therefore, impacts related to the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations would be less than significant.

IIId. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Substantial odor-generating sources include land uses such as agricultural activities, feedlots, wastewater treatment facilities, landfills or various heavy industrial uses. The Project does not contain land uses typically associated with emitting objectionable odors. Potential odor sources associated with the proposed Project may result from construction equipment exhaust and the application of asphalt and architectural coatings during construction activities and the temporary storage of typical solid waste (refuse) associated with the proposed Project's (long-term operational) uses. Standard construction requirements would minimize odor impacts from construction. The construction odor emissions would be temporary, short-term, and intermittent in nature and would cease upon completion of the respective phase of construction and is thus considered less than significant. It is expected that any Project-generated refuse would be stored in covered containers and removed at regular intervals in compliance with the solid waste regulations. Therefore, odors associated with the proposed Project construction and operations would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and 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, 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION: The information provided in this section of the Initial Study is abstracted from the following technical study: "Biological Resources Assessment & Aquatic Resources Delineation Technical Report Well #8 and Potable Water Distribution Pipeline Project," Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., June 27, 2026. This study is provided as **Appendix 4** of this Initial Study.

Background

The Frazier Park Public Utilities District (FPPUD or District) is proposing to implement a water infrastructure Project with two components for which the District is seeking funding from the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW). The first Project component is a new potable water well, proposed District Well #8. The second Project component is the replacement of approximately 18,300 feet of District potable water distribution pipelines in three of the District's service areas, Summit Area, Lower Summit Area, and Texas Trail.

On behalf of Tom Dodson & Associates, HDR, Inc. (HDR) prepared this Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) and Aquatic Resources Delineation (ARD) technical report for the District's proposed Well #8 and Potable Water Distribution Pipeline Project (Project). The proposed Project would update and improve critical water storage and distribution infrastructure for the community of Frazier Park, located in unincorporated Kern County, California. Since the proposed Project would involve state (and possibly federal) grant funds, this BRA-ARD technical report was prepared in accordance with the standards

required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review processes.

The BRA fieldwork was conducted by HDR biologist Daniel Smith in June of 2026. The purpose of the biological resources field surveys was to address potential effects of the Project on designated Critical Habitats and/or any species currently listed or formally proposed for listing as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and/or the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), as well as any species otherwise designated as sensitive by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW [formerly California Department of Fish and Game]) and/or the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). The Project area was assessed for sensitive species known to occur locally.

In addition to the biological resources field survey, the Project site was assessed for the presence of state and/or federal jurisdictional aquatic resources potentially subject to regulation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under Section 401 of the CWA and the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne), and the CDFW under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code (FGC), respectively.

A BRA and floristic botanical field survey that provided 100 percent visual coverage of the entire ground surface of the Project site (where feasible and appropriate) was conducted by HDR biologist Daniel Smith on June 3, 2026, to identify special status plant species and potential habitat for special status wildlife species within the Project area. The Project site included the proposed footprints for the District's proposed new Well #8 facilities and replacement pipeline alignments. The result of the field survey was that no special status plant species were observed in the Project area, and the Project site does not support suitable habitat for any of the federally listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered species, or state fully protected species identified in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), or California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI) database searches conducted for the Project. Furthermore, the Project will have no effect on any special status habitats, including any USFWS designated Critical Habitat for any federally listed species.

Most of the Project site is completely disturbed and no longer supports any native habitat (Appendix B: Site Photos in **Appendix 4**). The proposed Well #8 site consists mostly of bare ground, with some sparse, ruderal, nonnative vegetation. There are several large oak trees in the vicinity of the Well #8 site; however, the Project will avoid all existing trees, and no trees will be removed, disturbed, or harmed by construction activities. Most of the proposed replacement pipeline alignments are within existing roads surrounded by residential development. However, the proposed replacement pipeline within the Elm Tank to McGhee Tank alignment is located partially within a previously graded District ROW and partially within undisturbed habitat immediately adjacent residential development. There is potentially suitable upland scrub habitat within and adjacent the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment for the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) candidate for listing as endangered Crotch's bumble bee and the coast horned lizard, which is a CDFW species of special concern (SSC). No other special status species are expected to occur within the Project site.

In addition to the BRA field surveys, HDR also assessed the Project area for the presence of any state and/or federally jurisdictional aquatic resources. There are no wetland or non-wetland Waters of the United States (WOTUS) present within the Project site. Therefore, no CWA Sections 404/401 permitting through the USACE or RWQCB would be required. Furthermore, there are no aquatic resources or habitats subject to regulation by the CDFW under Section 1602 of the California FGC or the RWQCB under Porter-Cologne, respectively.

Potential Impacts

IVa. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Implementation of the Project does not have a potential for a significant adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on most species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. The proposed Project does contain habitat

suitable for sensitive species within the Project sites. Most of the Project site is completely disturbed and no longer supports any native habitat (Appendix B: Site Photos). The proposed Well #8 site consists mostly of bare ground, with some sparse, ruderal, nonnative vegetation. There are several large oak trees in the vicinity of the Well #8 site; however, the Project will avoid all existing trees, and no trees will be removed, disturbed, or harmed by construction activities. Most of the proposed replacement pipeline alignments are within existing roads surrounded by residential development. However, the proposed replacement pipeline within the Elm Tank to McGhee Tank alignment is located partially within a previously graded District ROW and partially within undisturbed habitat immediately adjacent residential development. There is potentially suitable upland scrub habitat within and adjacent the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment for the CESA candidate for listing as endangered Crotch's bumble bee and the coast horned lizard, which is a CDFW SSC. No other special status species are expected to occur within the Project site.

Crotch's Bumble Bee

To avoid any potential Project related impacts to Crotch's bumble bee, it is recommended that a focused Crotch's bumble bee survey be conducted along the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment during the colony active period (i.e., April-August).

BIO-1 The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist and shall consist of at least three (3) site visits spaced 2-4 weeks apart during the colony active period. If protocol presence/absence surveys determine that Crotch's bumble bee is absent from the site, no further action would be required.

BIO-2 If Crotch's bumble bee is found within the Project site during protocol surveys and Project impacts to this species cannot be avoided, an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the CDFW would be required prior to initiation of any Project activities that could impact this species.

Alternatively, all initial Project related ground disturbing activities (i.e., clearing/grubbing) that occur within the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment may be conducted under the direct supervision of a qualified biologist during the colony active period (i.e., April-August), when the probability of Crotch's bumble bee detection is highest.

BIO-3 The Project Proponent shall prepare and implement a Crotch's Bumble Bee Avoidance and Monitoring Plan that would be submitted to CDFW for review and approval prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities within the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment. The Monitoring Plan should include details on avoidance and monitoring actions, such as but not limited to:

- ***monitoring and surveying of potential nesting sites prior to ground disturbing activities;***
- ***monitoring of vegetation removal in areas of suitable habitat;***
- ***implementation of a Crotch's bumble bee education program from the qualified biologist with physical training materials (e.g., pamphlet or brochure);***
- ***avoidance buffers around suspected nesting sites determined by the biologist;***
- ***measures to be taken if Crotch's bumble bee is observed foraging; and***
- ***procedures for herbicide and pesticide application.***

BIO-4 A qualified biologist meeting the surveyor qualifications described in the 2023 "Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species" shall be present on site during all initial Project related ground disturbing activities within the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment to ensure that any potential impacts to Crotch's bumble bee are avoided.

BIO-4 The biologist shall conduct at least 3 pre-construction surveys within the section of the Project site with suitable habitat that is scheduled for ground disturbing activities. Pre-construction surveys shall encompass all areas of potential suitable habitat on the Project site including rodent burrows, floral resources, sloping areas or areas under trees with leaf litter, and a buffer around the Project site as determined by the biologist. If a nest is suspected but not confirmed, the biologist shall flag the potential nest for avoidance and monitor the nest for activity according to the Crotch's Bumble Bee Avoidance and Monitoring Plan.

BIO-5 If Crotch's bumble bee is found within the Project site during pre-construction surveys or construction monitoring and Project impacts to this species cannot be avoided, all activities likely to impact the species must cease immediately and an ITP from the CDFW would be required prior to resuming any Project activities that could impact this species.

Coast Horned Lizard
To avoid any potential Project related impacts to coast horned lizard, the following avoidance measures are recommended:

BIO-6 For any Project activity that involves construction or ground-disturbing activities within the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment, all construction workers should be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training should inform Project personnel on: (1) special status species that may occur in the work area and (2) procedures to follow in the event a special status species is encountered within the Project area during construction.

BIO-7 A qualified biologist should be present during construction or ground-disturbing activities within the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment to capture, temporarily possess, and relocate wildlife to avoid harm or mortality in connection with Project construction activities. Any coast horned lizards encountered on site prior to or during construction activities shall be captured by hand and relocated to adjacent appropriate habitat, at least 200 feet from the Project disturbance limits. The relocation site should be well-shaded, with a mix of dense brush and adjacent exposed bare ground, preferably with harvester ants (Pogonomyrmex spp.) present nearby. The biologist shall release the lizard as soon as possible, where they can take immediate refuge in dense brush.

The habitat conditions within and adjacent to the Project area are not suitable to support for any other sensitive habitat and/or any species listed or proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or CESA, or species designated as sensitive by the CDFW, or CNPS. Based on these findings, including the implementation the proposed Project will not cause a significant adverse impact under this issue through the implementation of mitigation identified above.

IVb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Implementation of the proposed Project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. The Project site consists of several highly disturbed locations. Thus, most of the sites are disturbed and no longer support any native habitat. The Project site is primarily dominated by invasive, non-native and ruderal native plant species. According to the biology study of the site, provided as **Appendix 4** to this Initial Study, the Project site is not located within any sensitive habitats, including any USFWS designated Critical Habitat for any federally-listed species. No Riparian/Riverine areas were found within the Project site. There are no natural or man-made streams or other aquatic or riparian habitats within the Project site. Based on the field survey conducted and the information contained in **Appendix 4**, the proposed Project has a less than significant potential to impact to riparian habitat or other sensitive communities. No mitigation is required.

IVc. *No Impact* – Please refer to the discussion under IV(b) above. According to the data gathered by Jacobs as reported in Appendix 4, no federally protected wetlands occur within the Project footprint. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project will have no potential to impact any federally protected wetlands—including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.–through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. No mitigation is required.

IVd. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – As indicated previously, the site and environs are completely disturbed; no large areas of open space exist in the immediate Project area that would facilitate wildlife movement. However, when development proceeds, the Project site could contain nesting birds, which could be adversely impacted. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects all native bird species. A variety of birds, which are protected by the MBTA, could nest in or adjacent to the proposed Project area. As such, to prevent interfering with native bird nesting, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented.

BIO-8 ***The State of California prohibits the "take" of active bird nests. To avoid impacts to nesting birds (common and special status) during the nesting season (generally between February 1 to August 31), a qualified Avian Biologist shall conduct pre-construction nesting bird survey prior to Project-related disturbance to identify any active nests. If no active nests are found, no further action would be required. If an active nest is found, the biologist shall set appropriate no-work buffers around the nest, which would be determined based on the nesting species, its sensitivity to disturbance, nesting stage and expected types, intensity and duration of disturbance. The nests and buffer zones shall be field checked weekly by a qualified biological monitor. The approved no-work buffer zone shall be clearly marked in the field, within which no disturbance activity shall commence until the qualified biologist has determined the young birds have successfully fledged and the nest is inactive.***

Thus, with implementation of the above measure, any effects on wildlife movement or the use of wildlife nursery sites can be reduced to a less than significant impact.

IVe. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Based on the field survey, the Project footprint contains few or no trees that may need be removed as part of the proposed Project. Furthermore, the Frazier Park area is unincorporated and is not subject to any local policies or ordinances the protect native plants. Therefore, it will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

IVf. *No Impact* – The Project sites are not located within any area identified as being covered by a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community or other approved biology conservation plan. Therefore, the Project has no potential to conflict with the provisions of any such plan. No mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the Project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION: The information under this topic is abstracted from the following report, "Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties Frazier Park Public Utilities District Water Supply Improvement Project", CRM TECH, June 2026 (**Appendix 5** of this document).

Background

The following text contains portions of the executive summary from **Appendix 5**.

Between April and June 2026, CRM TECH performed a Phase I cultural resources study on the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the Frazier Park Public Utilities District's (FPPUD) proposed New Potable Water Well and Pipeline Replacement Projects in the unincorporated community of Frazier Park, Kern County, California. The APE consists of a 0.35-acre well site on the south side of Frazier Mountain Park Road, near the intersection with Carnellia Trail, and approximately 18,300 linear feet of pipeline rights-of-way lying mostly along various public roadways. The entire APE lies within Section 31 of T9N R19W and Sections 25, 35, and 36 of T9N R20W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, as depicted in the United States Geological Survey Frazier Mountain, California, 7.5' quadrangle. The vertical extent of the APE, represented by the maximum depth of excavation required for the undertaking, is estimated to be four to six feet below surface.

This study is a part of the environmental review process for the proposed installation of FPPUD Well No. 8 and the replacement of potable water distribution pipelines in three of the district's service areas, namely Summit Area, Lower Summit Area, and Texas Trail. As the lead agency for the Project, FPPUD required the study pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Because the Project will be partially funded by a federal grant administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the study was conducted in accordance with the provisions of both CEQA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), in a process known as CEQA-Plus. The purpose of the study is to provide FPPUD and SWRCB with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the undertaking would have an adverse effect on any "historic properties," as defined by 36 CFR 800.16(l), or "historical resources," as defined by California PRC §5020.1(j), that may exist in or adjacent to the APE.

In order to accomplish this objective, CRM TECH conducted a historical/archaeological resources records search, initiated a Sacred Lands File search, contacted local Native American representatives, pursued historical and geoarchaeological background research, and carried out an intensive-level field survey. Throughout the various avenues of research, the only potential "historic property"/"historical resource" identified in close proximity to the APE is Site 15-020579, the Southern California Edison Frazier Park-Gorman 66kV Transmission Line from the early 1960s, which was previously determined not to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources when it was first recorded in 2019. As such, it does not meet the statutory and regulatory definition a "historic property" or a "historical resource." Furthermore, the field survey demonstrates that the transmission line lies beyond the vertical extent of the APE.

Based on the research results summarized above, this study concludes that no "historic properties" or "historical resources" are known to be present within the APE. Meanwhile, the subsurface sediments in the vertical APE appear to be relatively low in sensitivity for buried archaeological remains of prehistoric origin. In light of these findings, and pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) and Calif. PRC §21084.1, CRM TECH recommends to FPPUD and SWRCB a conclusion that no "historic properties" or "historical resources" will be affected by the proposed undertaking. No further cultural resources investigation is recommended for the undertaking unless Project plans undergo such changes as to include areas not covered by this study. However, if buried cultural materials are discovered during earth-moving operations associated with the undertaking, all work in the immediate area should be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.

Impacts

Va&b. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The historical and archaeological resources report provided as **Appendix 5** summarizes the findings of a cultural resources records search and field survey that was completed for this Project. The cultural resources report concluded that there are no surface historical or archaeological resources within the proposed Project sites, and as such no further cultural resources have been identified as being located on these sites. However, as stated in the background summary above, contingency mitigation is recommended to ensure the possibility for the society to salvage the spring structure within the Project site. As such, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented. Thus, if buried cultural materials are accidentally exposed/discovered during any earth-moving operations associated with the Project, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented:

CUL-1 Should any subsurface or other cultural resources be encountered during construction of the proposed Project, earthmoving or grading activities in the immediate area of the finds shall be halted and an onsite inspection shall be performed immediately by a qualified archaeologist. The archaeological professional shall assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate management measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act. The recommendations shall be implemented by the District.

With the above contingency mitigation incorporation, potential for impact to cultural resources will be reduced to a less than significant level. No additional mitigation is required.

Vc. *Less Than Significant Impact* – No available information suggests that human remains may occur within the APE and the potential for such an occurrence is considered very low. Human remains discovered during the Project will need to be treated in accordance with the provisions of HSC §7050.5 and PRC §5097.98, which is mandatory. State law (Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code) as well as local laws require that the County Sheriff and Coroner's Office receive notification if human remains are encountered. Compliance with these regulations is considered adequate mitigation for potential impacts and no further mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
VI. ENERGY: 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 operations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION

VIab. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed Project consists of drilling one new well, and replacing existing water distribution pipelines and support equipment. These activities will consume energy during construction and during future operations (primarily to operate well pumps and any pump stations.) During construction, the proposed Project will utilize construction equipment that is CARB approved, minimizing emissions generated and electricity required to the extent feasible. Equipment not in use for 5 minutes must be turned off, and electrical construction equipment must be used where available. This standard requirement would prevent a significant impact during construction due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, and would also conform to the CARB regulations regarding energy efficiency.

During future operations overall energy use may change, up or down, for the following reasons. The FPPUD will continue to supply water within the Frazier Park community. The new well will not directly increase the volume of water required by the agency's customers. With new, more energy efficient ground water pumps energy used per volume of water production should be reduced relative to the existing condition. Further, one of the Project's goals is to tap into a portion of the groundwater aquifer where water quality will be improved and hence require less energy intensive treatment compared to the existing condition. Based on these factors, the Project will minimize energy consumption related to water supply for the District's customers.

Energy consumption encompasses many different activities. For example, construction can include the following activities: delivery of equipment and material to a site from some location (note it also requires energy to manufacture the equipment and material, such as harvesting, cutting and delivering wood from its source); employee trips to work, possibly offsite for lunch (or a visit by a catering truck), travel home, and occasionally leaving a site for an appointment or checking another job; use of equipment onsite (electric or fuel); and sometimes demolition and disposal of construction waste. To minimize energy costs of construction debris management, mitigation has been established to require diversion of all material capable of being recycled. The Project will meet this requirement. Energy consumption by construction equipment will be reduced by requiring shutdowns when equipment is not in use after five minutes and ensuring equipment is being operated within proper operating parameters (tune-ups) to minimize emissions and fuel consumption. These requirements are consistent with State and regional rules and regulations. Under the construction scenario outlined above, the proposed Project will not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy consumption during construction.

The proposed Project is currently, and will continue to be powered by Southern California Edison (SCE) through the power distribution system located within the Project area. SCE will be able to supply sufficient electricity, as the proposed use would likely utilize less energy than previously for the reasons outlined above. The Project site will not require natural gas to operate. Security lighting must be constructed in conformance with a variety of existing energy efficiency regulatory requirements or guidelines including:

- Compliance California Green Building Standards Code, AKA the CALGreen Code (Title 24, Part 11). The purpose of the CALGreen Code is to improve public health, safety, and general welfare by enhancing the design and construction of building through the use of building concepts encouraging sustainable construction practices.
- Compliance with CALGreen Code provisions for diversion of construction and demolition materials from landfills.
- Compliance with SJVAPD Rule 2201 (New/Modified Source Review) which requires best available control technology (BACT) for new equipment including engines, compressors, dehydrators.
- Compliance with diesel exhaust emissions from diesel vehicles and off-road diesel vehicle/equipment operations.

According to SCE's website[4], SCE is committed to delivering power reliably and to meet demand; SCE is expanding and upgrading the transmission and distribution networks to meet the region's growing demand for electricity, and improve grid performance, while meeting California's ambitious renewable-power goals. As such, it is anticipated that SCE will continue to have ample power supply to serve the construction of the Project without the need for additional electrical capacity. Therefore, given the lack of energy required to operate the proposed Project, it is not anticipated that the Project would either result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operations, or conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Impacts under these issues are considered less than significant.

Compliance with these regulatory requirements for operational energy use and construction energy use would not be a wasteful or unnecessary use of energy. Under both the operational and construction scenarios for the proposed Project, the proposed Project will not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy consumption that could result in a significant adverse impact to energy issues based on compliance with the referenced laws, regulations and guidelines. Impacts under this issue are less than significant

[4] SCE, 2026. Meeting Demand. https://www.sce.com/about-us/reliability/meeting-demand (accessed 06/10/26)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the Project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
(i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
(ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in onsite or offsite land-slide, 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

SUBSTANTIATION

The proposed Project consists of new replacement wells and support facilities; water pipelines; removal of water tanks and closure of El Adobe Property Owners Association (EAPOA) wells; and installation of water meters. None of these facilities will be occupied by humans.

VIIa. (i) *No Impact* – According to the County of Kern General Plan, Figure 13, the community of Frazier Park is not underlain by any known active faults (**Figure VII-1**). The nearest fault is the San Andreas located a few miles north of Frazier Park. The potential for significant adverse impact from fault activity within the Project area is concluded to be no adverse impact from this geotechnical constraint.

VIIa (ii) *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – According to the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (GPEIR)(Page 4.1-7) most of Kern County is subject to moderate to extreme seismic ground shaking. Due to general proximity to the San Andreas Fault (**Figure VII-1**), Frazier Park could

experience substantial seismic ground shaking in the future. However, the type of uninhabited water infrastructure proposed by this Project are not particularly subject to ground shaking damage, and if removed from production can readily repaired by FPPUD employees. Based on the lack of human risk, requirements to meet current Uniform Building Code design and construction requirements, and the ability to quickly repair the water infrastructure if damaged by ground shaking, the potential adverse impact from seismic ground shaking is concluded to require mitigation. Measure **GEO-1** shall be implemented to ensure that the new water well facilities are provided sufficient protection that after a major earthquake the well can be quickly returned to service

GEO-1 The District shall have prepared and implement a Geotechnical Study of earthquake and ground shaking hazards at the well site and identify design measures required to enhance survivability of the well facilities and to support the ability to place the well back into production after a seismic event.

VIIa. (iii) *Less Than Significant Impact* – The County GPEIR does not identify any liquefaction hazards in the Frazier Park area (GPEIR, Page 4.1-8). Refer to the General Plan Figure 12, which depicts Seismic, Landslides, and Steep Slope Hazards (**Figure VII-2**). Thus, the Project area has a low to negligible potential for liquefaction hazard for the proposed water infrastructure facilities. Based on these findings, the potential adverse impact from liquefaction or other seismic ground failure is concluded to be a less than significant impact.

VIIa. (iv) *No Impact* – Frazier Park is located on the valley-floor between two ridges in the San Emigdio Mountains in Kern and Los Angeles County. There are elevated areas in the vicinity of the community from which a landslide (sediment or rock) could originate. However, there is no evidence of major landslides within the Project area (refer to **Figure VII-2**). Based on these findings, the potential adverse impact from a landslide at all the proposed Project locations is a no impact finding.

VIIb. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Given the total area of the proposed Project, it is anticipated that more than one acre of ground disturbance will occur in relation to the wells, pipeline installation. As a result, the proposed Project will be required to prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Site specific best management practices (BMPs) shall be implemented to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Mitigation (**GEO-2)** is provided below to ensure implementation. Because the disturbances will occur within existing disturbed ROWs and sites, it should not be necessary to implement long-term BMPs as they should already be installed at the various sites.

GEO-2 The construction contractor shall prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which specifies Best Management Practices that will prevent construction pollutants from contacting stormwater with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving offsite into receiving waters. The SWPPP may include but not be limited to the following BMPs.

- ***The length of trench which can be left open at any given time should be limited to that needed to reasonably perform construction activities. This will serve to reduce the amount of backfill stored onsite at any given time.***
- ***Backfill material should not be stored in areas which are subject to the erosive flows of water.***
- ***Stored backfill material should be covered with water resistant material during periods of heavy precipitation to reduce the potential for rainfall erosion of stored backfill material. If covering is not feasible, then measures such as the use of straw bales, sandbags, silt fencing or detention/desilting basins shall be used to capture and hold eroded material on the Project site for future cleanup.***
- ***The SWPPP shall include a spill prevention and cleanup plan to account for the accidental release of petroleum products or other contaminants during construction activities. This plan shall identify the methods of containing spills, the methods of removing and disposing of spills and the notification procedures to the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over such spills.***

- ***Apply erosion and sediment control design that reduce volume and velocity of flows and content of sediment to levels that do not cause significant rill or gully erosion in susceptible areas. In addition, provide for restoration of areas that do become eroded.***
- ***Add protective covering of mulch, straw or synthetic material (erosion control blankets, tacking will be required).***
- ***Limit the amount of area disturbed and the length of time slopes and barren ground are left exposed. After pipeline installation, soil shall be compacted to a level similar to pre-construction conditions.***
- ***Construct diversion dikes and interceptor ditches to divert water away from construction areas.***

Implementation of the preceding measure and other measures within the Hydrology/Water Quality are deemed sufficient to control adverse erosion impacts associated with installation of the proposed facilities.

VIIc. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Based on a review of the Kern County Safety Element, Figure 12 (**Figure VII-2**), and further based on the GPEIR background data found on page 4.1-10 and 4.1-11, there are no other known geotechnical stability hazards in the Frazier Park Project area. No significant adverse impact is forecast to occur under this impact category.

VIId. *No Impact* – The soils underlying the proposed Frazier Park water infrastructure facilities are mostly alluvial sands and silts that are not considered as expansive soils that could pose hazards to pipelines and wells. Further, while damage to pipelines can occur, damaged pipelines can be repaired and placed back into operation with no loss of human life. Therefore, no potential exists for this Project to create a substantial risk to life or property under this issue.

VIIe. *No Impact* – The purpose of the Project is to install new water infrastructure to provide potable water to the community of Frazier Park. This Project will not generate any wastewater and will not require subsurface septic tank or alternative wastewater management systems to be installed or utilized. No adverse impact can occur under this impact category.

VIIf. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Based on the type of sediments at this site (alluvial) and the highly disturbed nature of the ROWs, no paleontological resources should be impacted by the proposed Project. The Project consists of installing pipelines within existing ROWs and installing a well and other activities within highly disturbed locations. Although the installation of the new facilities will occur within existing disturbed engineering surfaces (primarily paved roadways), the following contingency mitigation measure shall be implemented if subsurface construction activities accidentally expose paleontological resources:

GEO-2 In the event that paleontological resources are encountered within the Project area during construction activities, all land modification activities in the immediate area of the finds should be halted and an onsite inspection shall be performed immediately by a qualified paleontologist. This professional will be able to assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate management actions. Reasonable paleontological resource management actions shall be implemented to protect the accidentally exposed subsurface resources.

With implementation of this mitigation measure, the potential adverse impacts to paleontological resources can be reduced to a less than significant impact level.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the Project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information utilized in this section was obtained from the technical study "Frazier Park Well Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment" prepared by Urban Crossroads dated June 22, 2026 and provided as **Appendix 3** to this document.

Background

Global climate change (GCC) is the change in average meteorological conditions on the earth with respect to temperature, precipitation, and storms. The majority of scientists believe that the climate shift taking place since the Industrial Revolution is occurring at a quicker rate and magnitude than in the past. Scientific evidence suggests that GCC is the result of increased concentrations of GHGs in the earth's atmosphere, including carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and fluorinated gases. The majority of scientists believe that this increased rate of climate change is the result of GHGs resulting from human activity and industrialization over the past 200 years.

An individual Project like the proposed Project evaluated in this memo cannot generate enough GHG emissions to affect a discernible change in global climate. However, the proposed Project may participate in the potential for GCC by its incremental contribution of GHGs combined with the cumulative increase of all other sources of GHGs, which when taken together constitute potential influences on GCC. Because these changes may have serious environmental consequences, this memo will evaluate the potential for the proposed Project to have a significant effect upon the environment as a result of its potential contribution to the greenhouse effect.

GCC refers to the change in average meteorological conditions on the earth with respect to temperature, wind patterns, precipitation and storms. Global temperatures are regulated by naturally occurring atmospheric gases such as water vapor, CO_2, N_2O, CH_4, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6). These particular gases are important due to their residence time (duration they stay) in the atmosphere, which ranges from 10 years to more than 100 years. These gases allow solar radiation into the earth's atmosphere, but prevent radiative heat from escaping, thus warming the earth's atmosphere. GCC can occur naturally as it has in the past with the previous ice ages.

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are often referred to as GHGs. GHGs are released into the atmosphere by both natural and anthropogenic activity. Without the natural GHG effect, the earth's average temperature would be approximately 61 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) cooler than it is currently. The cumulative accumulation of these gases in the earth's atmosphere is considered to be the cause for the observed increase in the earth's temperature.

For the purposes of this analysis, emissions of CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O were evaluated because these gases are the primary contributors to GCC from development Projects. Although there are other substances such as fluorinated gases that also contribute to GCC, these fluorinated gases were not evaluated as their sources are not well-defined and do not contain accepted emissions factors or methodology to accurately calculate these gases.

Assembly Bill 32
The California State Legislature enacted AB 32, which requires that GHGs emitted in California be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. "GHGs" as defined under AB 32 include CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6). Since AB 32 was enacted, a seventh chemical, nitrogen trifluoride, has also been added to the list of GHGs. CARB is the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of GHGs. Pursuant to AB 32, CARB adopted regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective GHG emission reductions.

The State has made steady progress in implementing AB 32 and achieving targets included in Executive Order S-3-05. The progress is shown in updated emission inventories prepared by CARB for 2000 through 2012 (18). The State has achieved the Executive Order S-3-05 target for 2010 of reducing GHG emissions to 2000 levels. As shown below, the 2010 emission inventory achieved this target.

- 1990: 427 $MMTCO_2e$ (million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; AB 32 2020 target)
- 2000: 463 $MMTCO_2e$ (an average 8% reduction needed to achieve 1990 base)
- 2010: 450 $MMTCO_2e$ (an average 5% reduction needed to achieve 1990 base)

CARB has also made substantial progress in achieving its goal of achieving 1990 emissions levels by 2020. As described earlier in this section, CARB revised the 2020 business as usual (BAU) inventory forecast to account for new lower growth Projections, which resulted in a new lower reduction from BAU to achieve the 1990 base. The previous reduction from 2020 BAU needed to achieve 1990 levels was 28.4% and the latest reduction from 2020 BAU is 21.7%.

- 2020: 545 $MMTCO_2e$ BAU (an average 21.7% reduction from BAU needed to achieve 1990 base)

SJVAPCD
The SJVAPCD is the agency responsible for air quality planning and regulation in the Basin. The has SJVAPCD adopted a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). The CCAP directed the SJVAPCD to develop guidance to assist lead agencies, Project proponents, permit applicants, and interested parties in assessing and reducing the impacts of Project specific GHG emissions on global climate change.

Therefore, the SJVAPCD adopted the guidance in December 2009, *Guidance for Valley Land-use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for New Projects under CEQA* (SJVAPCD's GHG Guidance). The SJVAPCD also adopted a policy: *Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for Stationary Source Projects Under CEQA When Serving as the Lead Agency.* These were based on Best Performance Standards (BPS), to assess significance of Project-specific GHG emissions during the environmental review process under CEQA. Projects implementing BPS in accordance with SJVAPCD's guidance are considered to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Significance Thresholds

In response to the requirements of SB97, the State Resources Agency developed guidelines for the treatment of GHG emissions under CEQA. These new guidelines became state laws as part of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations in March, 2010. The CEQA Appendix G guidelines were modified to include GHG as a required analysis element. A Project would have a potentially significant impact if it:

- Generates GHG emissions, directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, or
- Conflicts with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions.

It is important to note that SJVAPCD has not adopted thresholds of significance for GHG emissions from an individual Project. CARB is currently using existing data from the industrial sector to formulate a proposed threshold. At this time, a significance threshold of 3,000 $MTCO_2e$/yr is being used for operational emissions. This threshold is based on the CEQA proposed GHG screening threshold for stationary source emissions for non-industrial Projects, as described in the *Final Staff Report.* SJVAPCD supports the use of the interim thresholds as established by CARB when adopted thresholds are not applicable.

Impact Evaluation

VIIIa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The estimated GHG emissions for Project are summarized in Table VIII-1. The estimated GHG emissions include emissions from Carbon Dioxide (CO_2), Methane (CH_4), Nitrous Oxide (N_2O), and Refrigerants (R). As shown in Table 6, the Project would generate a total of approximately 17.93 $MTCO_2e$/yr. Detailed construction model outputs are presented in **Appendix 3**.

Table VIII-1
TOTAL PROJECT GHG EMISSIONS

Source	Total CO2E
Annual Construction Emissions Amortized Over 30 Years	17.93
Total	17.93
Screening Threshold	3,000
Threshold Exceeded?	NO
Notes: CalEEMod construction and operational-source (unmitigated) emissions are presented in Appendix 3.	

As discussed previously, a screening threshold of 3,000 $MTCO_2e$/yr to determine if additional analysis is required. This approach is a widely accepted screening threshold used by the numerous cities in the SJVAPCD staff's proposed GHG screening threshold for stationary source emissions for industrial Projects, as described in the SJVAPCD *Final Staff Report*.

As shown in Table VIII-1, the Project will result in approximately 17.93 $MTCO_2e$/yr; the proposed Project would not exceed the screening threshold of 3,000 $MTCO_2e$/yr. This would be considered a less than significant impact.

VIIIb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Pursuant to 15604.4 of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency may rely on qualitative analysis or performance-based standards to determine the significance of impacts from GHG emissions.

The 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality (2022 Scoping Plan) lays out a path to achieve targets for carbon neutrality and reduce anthropogenic GHG emissions by 85% below 1990 levels no later than 2045, as directed by Assembly Bill 1279. The actions and outcomes in the plan will achieve significant reductions in fossil fuel combustion by deploying clean technologies and fuels, further reductions in short-lived climate pollutants, support for sustainable development, increased action on natural and working lands to reduce emissions and sequester carbon, and the capture and storage of carbon.

The Project is consistent with the general plan land use designation, density, building intensity, and applicable policies specified for the Project area in Kern Council of Government's 2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, which pursuant to SB 375 calls for the integration of transportation, land-use and housing policies to plan for achievement of the GHG-emissions target for the region. Thus, a less than significant impact related to GHG emissions from Project construction and operation would occur and no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the Project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☒	☐	☐

SUBSTANTIATION: Refer to the GeoTracker and EnviroStor data provided in **Appendix 6**.

IXa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project consists of a new well, water distribution pipelines below ground surface, along with support equipment. The new water well will require treatment with chlorine, which can occur with either chlorine gas or sodium hypochlorite. The latter is a solid, not a gas, and is only mildly hazardous. FPPUD will utilize sodium hypochlorite to minimize potential for spills or otherwise minimize potential to harm nearby residents. The District would comply with State standards. Furthermore, the District has developed safety standards and operational procedures for safe transport and use of its operational and maintenance materials that are potentially hazardous. These procedures would comply with all federal, state and local regulations would ensure that the Project operates in a manner that poses no substantial hazards to the public or the environment. No additional mitigation is necessary to ensure the impact of managing these chemicals result in a less than significant impact on the environment. Other than routine deliveries of sodium hypochlorite, the Project will not routinely transport, use, or dispose of hazardous materials during future operations. The potential for adverse impact exists under this topic is considered less than significant based on the character of the hazard and the low potential for dispersal in the environment.

IXb. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The Project may 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. During construction there is a potential for accidental release of petroleum products in sufficient quantity to pose a significant hazard to people and the environment. The following mitigation measure will be incorporated into the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prepared for the Project and implementation of this measure can reduce this potential hazard to a less than significant level. GeoTracker maps are provided as **Appendix 6**.

HAZ-1 ***All accidental spills or discharge of hazardous material during construction activities shall be reported to the Certified Unified Program Agency and shall be remediated in compliance with applicable state and local regulations regarding cleanup and disposal of the contaminant released. The contaminated waste would be collected and disposed of at an appropriately a licensed disposal or treatment facility. This measure shall be incorporated into the SWPPP prepared for the proposed Project. Prior to accepting the site as remediated, the area contaminated shall be tested to verify that any residual concentrations meet the standard for future residential or public use of the site.***

By implementing this measure, potentially substantial adverse environmental impacts from accidental releases associated with installation of the proposed well can be reduced to a less than significant level. Additionally, roadways adjacent to and within the Project footprint are public roads that can be used by any common carrier to or from the local area. For such transporters, the existing regulatory mandates ensure that the hazardous materials and any hazardous wastes transported to and from the Project site would be properly managed. These regulations are codified in Titles 8, 22, and 26 of the California Code of Regulations. For example, maintenance trucks for construction equipment must transport their hazardous materials in appropriate containers, such as tanks or other storage devices. In addition, the haulers must comply with all existing applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding transport, use, disposal, handling and storage of hazardous wastes and material, including storage, collection and disposal. Compliance with these laws and regulations related to transportation would minimize potential exposure of humans or the environment to significant hazards from transport of such materials and wastes.

The proposed pipeline would be installed underground within existing compacted dirt roadways; once constructed, the roadways would be recompacted to their original condition. Thus, once constructed, the pipeline would not require or result in transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, with implementation of the identified mitigation measure, impacts are considered less than significant.

IXc. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Some of the pipeline facilities proposed for installation under the proposed Project may located within one-quarter mile of existing schools, but the types of chemicals used during construction and future operations are not acutely hazardous. The proposed Project must follow the extensive legal and regulatory requirements in storage, handling, and disposal of any hazardous materials. Given the safety measures in place for the chemicals required to operate the proposed well, it is not anticipated that the Project would emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste during construction or operation in a quantity that would pose any danger to people adjacent to, or in the general vicinity of, the Project site. Thus, based on mandatory compliance with these regulatory requirements, the proposed Project is not forecast to result in any significant exposure of any school to significant hazards. No mitigation is required.

IXd. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project consists of an approximately 5-6 acres spread out over several locations within the community of Frazier Park. The Project will not be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites that are currently under remediation. According to the California Department of Toxic Substance Control's (DTSC) EnviroStor website,[5]

[5] California DTSC, 2026. EnviroStor. https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/ (accessed 07/03/26)

California State Water Board's SWRCB GeoTracker website[6] (consistent with Government Code Section 65962.5), which provide information regarding Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST), there are no clean-up sites within 5000 feet of the center of the Project area, and none are located within the Project APE (**Appendix 6**). The proposed construction and operation of the new Frazier Park PUD system sites will not create a significant hazard to the population or to the environment from their implementation. No impacts are anticipated. No mitigation is required.

IXe. *No Impact* – There are no airports located in the vicinity of the proposed Project sites; therefore, no potential exists for conflicts between the Project and any airport operations.

IXf. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Although the Project is not located on a major evacuation route, the Project will be installing water pipelines within local access roadways of Frazier Park. To ensure that emergency access is available at all locations where pipeline construction will occur within existing road rights-of-way, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented to ensure emergency access to all parcels during construction.

HAZ-2 During pipeline construction or any construction within road rights-of-way, the contractor shall maintain access to all parcels during construction activities. If necessary, this access can be accomplished by having steel sheets available to cover trenches in front of driveways to provide immediate, temporary access. Also, a traffic management plan shall be submitted and approved by the District and County to manage and minimize hazards to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians during pipeline construction.

Mitigation (**MM HAZ-2**) to address any potential traffic disruption and emergency access issues on area roadways are included in this section. Impacts are reduced to a less than significant level with mitigation incorporated. No additional mitigation is required.

IXg. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The Project site is located in suburban residential areas, but is surrounded by wildland areas subject to wildland fires. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer Map,[7] the proposed Project is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) within a State Responsibility Area), refer to **Figure IX-1**. With no substantial wildland fuel load within Project work areas, the potential for causing a wildland fire is considered low, but the following contingency mitigation measure shall be implemented to reduce this potential to a less than significant impact.

HAZ-3 During all construction activities, the contractor(s) shall have fire suppression equipment sufficient to suppress a spot fire caused by construction activities. The contractor(s) shall submit a list of the fire suppression equipment that they will have on hand to carry out this responsibility should a fire be initiated by construction activities for approval by the FPPUD.

Implementation of this measure can ensure that construction activity potential to cause a wildland fire can be controlled to a less than significant impact level.

[6] California SWRCB, 2026. GeoTracker https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/ (accessed 07/03/26)
[7] Cal Fire, 2026. Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer for Real Estate Inspections. https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/03beab8511814e79a0e4eabf0d3e7247/ (accessed 07/03/26)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the Project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such 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 onsite or offsite?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?; or,	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information utilized in this section was obtained from the technical studies prepared by Dee Jasper & Associates, Inc provided as **Appendix 7**.

Xa. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – There are three potential sources of water quality degradation: municipal wastewater; direct discharges of pollutants in industrial wastewater; and indirect discharges of pollutants in surface runoff. This proposed Project's elements do not include the generation, transport or treatment of wastewater. Therefore, no potential to violate water quality standards or degrade water quality will occur under this pathway. Although direct discharges of pollutants are most typically associated with industrial operations, the purpose of the proposed Project is to produce groundwater for drinking that meets all Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for water quality. The drilling of a new production well requires a series of steps, including testing the groundwater to determine the quality of the groundwater and its ability to meet potable drinking water standards. Depending on the quality of the groundwater produced by the FPPUD new Well #8, the District may choose to install a treatment unit at the well site to reduce a contaminant level below a level (MCL) that could harm water customers. To address this issue, the following mitigation measure will be implemented:

HYD-1 The District shall test the groundwater produced from the well prior to discharge. Prior to or during discharge any contaminants shall be blended below the pertinent MCL or treated, including sediment or other material.

HYD-2 The District shall prepare a Drilling Plan that describes the drilling method and construction contingencies to be employed. That plan shall describe waste management control and disposal methods for cuttings, mud, and development water discharges. The Drilling Plan should identify, and illustrate on appropriate scale maps, the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that would be employed to ensure there are no adverse effects on ground or surface water quality; these BMPs shall ensure that the well purge, development water, and pipeline hydrostatic testing discharges not discharge to a stream channel or tributary of a water of the United States, including discharges to land, under requirements specified in General Board Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ. The District shall indicate how they would implement and monitoring the effectiveness of installed BMPs, and make necessary adjustments in the field if necessary to modify those BMPs and protect water quality. The Drilling Plan shall be made available to the Regional Water Quality Control Board for their records.

During the construction to install the various elements of the proposed Project, construction activities have a potential to cause indirect discharges of sediment or to concentrate flows and cause erosion. This potential during construction will be controlled by implementing the SWPPP mandated in **MM GEO-1**. Once the various Project elements are installed and the ROWs or disturbed sites are returned to their pre-existing condition, the existing drainage system serving the Project sites will continue to function and will control long term potential for erosion and sedimentation. Implementation of **MM GEO-1** and **MMs HYD-1 and HYD-2** are considered sufficient to prevent the Project from causing significant water quality degradation.

Xb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – To assess the overall need for system-wide improvements for the FPPUD's water system, a technical Study was prepared by Dee Jaspar & Associates, Inc. (**Appendix 7**)**.** Based on the findings in the Study, it was recommended that the FPPUD replace an existing District well that has exceedances of the potable water quality MCLs. The District's goal is to obtain an estimated 500 gpm production capacity for this well in order to replace the lost production. Thus, the new production from Well #8 is intended to offset the production from closing other District well(s). Increased well production is not the goal of the proposed Project. Based on the preceding information, the proposed Project will not impede any applicable sustainable groundwater management program for the local aquifer. The proposed well site will create some small area of mixed pervious/impervious surface for the well facilities, but all pipelines will be placed within existing paved or compacted pipeline right-of-way and will not increase the amount of impervious surface. Overall, the proposed Project will not substantially interfere substantially with groundwater recharge within the basin due to the small area of pervious surface impacted.

Xc. (i) *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – All of the proposed Project site locations are located within suburban settings where permanent drainage facilities already exist, and most will be impacted for a short period of time and then returned to the original condition. The permanent changes to drainage are minor, and spread out over much of the community, and minimal increases in runoff will result. During construction, **MM GEO-1** will ensure that substantial erosion and siltation will not occur at the various Project sites. Overall impact under this issue is considered to be a less than significant impact through the implementation of mitigation.

Xc. (ii) *Less Than Significant Impact* – The well sites would require minimal grading and site clearing in the small areas in which the well would be installed, and as such would have a less than significant potential to interfere with the discharge of stormwater over the long-term as the site would remain essentially the same, with only the small area that would be disturbed as a result of the well development and pipeline installation. Furthermore, because the development of the well would alter the site only minimally, the Project would not increase the amount of surface runoff, such that flooding

on- or off-site would occur. The roadways would generate essentially the same amount of stormwater as they do at present because no expansion of roadway or change in drainage patterns are anticipated. Conveyance of stormwater to drainage alignments and storm drains within these roadways would remain intact and unchanged once construction has been completed. No substantial change to the existing drainage pattern would result from Project implementation. Adequate drainage facilities exist to accommodate pre- and post-Project drainage flows, and would therefore result in a less than significant impact.

Xc. (iii) *Less Than Significant Impact* – Refer to the response under issue Xc(ii), above. Based on the amount of disturbed area spread out over much of the community of Frazier Park, the proposed Project will not contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of the existing drainage systems serving the proposed facilities and would also not serve as a substantial additional source of polluted runoff. Overall impact under this issue is considered to be a less than significant impact.

Xc. (iv) *No Impact* – None of the proposed Project facilities occur with the path of identified flood flows. Therefore, the proposed Project has no potential to impede or redirect flood flows.

Xd. *No Impact* – The Project area is not subject to either a seiche or tsunami due to the lack of any source of water to generate such hazards. Regarding flood hazards, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel (06029C3854E)[8] for the Project area is provided in **Appendix 8**. The Project area is identified as being in Zone X, primarily with the definition of areas determined to be outside of the 0.2% flood hazard. The Well #8 site is located minimally/partially within an area defined as Zone X, which is areas of 0.2% annual chance flood; areas of 1% chance of flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile, and areas protected by levees from the 1% annual chance flood. . Thus, the Project area is not located in a high flood hazard zone. No adverse impact under this issue will occur.

Xe. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Please refer to the discussions under issues X.a. and X.b. above. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) "requires governments and water agencies of high and medium priority basins to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. Under SGMA, these basins should reach sustainability within 20 years of implementing their sustainability plans. For critically over-drafted basins, that would be 2040. For the remaining high and medium priority basins, 2042 is the deadline."[9] The Project is located within the Cudd Valley Groundwater Basin, which has been identified as very low priority, and therefore has not been subject to preparation of and adherence to a sustainable groundwater management plan. The issues of conflict with a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan are addressed in these two sections of the Initial Study. No significant adverse impacts to these two issues will result from implementing the proposed Project.

[8] FEMA, 2026. FEMA Flood Map Service Center: Search By Address. https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=frazier%20park%2C%20ca (accessed 07/03/26)
[9] California Department of Water Resources, 2025. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management (Accessed 06/26/26)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the Project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION

XIa. *No Impact* – The proposed pipeline is anticipated to be constructed primarily within existing public rights-of-way, and the well would be installed within one of two sites that do not contain any existing structures or housing. There are no features of the well that would create a barrier or physically divide an established community, particularly given that wells are typically integrated into the landscape unobtrusively. Thus, the Project does not involve construction of new structures that would cause any physical division of communities. Since the proposed Project occurs within and supports existing land use designations, no potential exists for the proposed Project to physically divide an existing community. No impact would result and no mitigation is required.

XIb. *No Impact* – Please refer to the discussion under issue XI(a) above. The well would be located on a vacant parcel. In general, water production facilities are zone independent because they are needed to support all types of land uses. Per Government Code Section 53091, building ordinances of local cities or counties do not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the Projection, generation, storage, treatment, or transmission of water or wastewater. Therefore, any Project facilities that could potentially conflict with local General Plan land use designations would not be subject to a conditional use permit or general plan amendment. Since the land uses will not be modified, no conflicts with any land use plan or policy for mitigating adverse environmental effects will result from Project implementation. No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the Project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION:

XIIa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Implementation of the Project would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resources that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. According to the County GPEIR, the proposed Project area is not known for supporting most mineral resources found in the County. The County identifies oil fields within the Project area on **Figure XII-1**, which indicates that the Frazier Park area does not support oil mining. The County's GPEIR indicates that Cuddy Creek sand and gravel deposits in the Frazier Park area have been mined. However, neither the Project sites nor surrounding vicinity have been mined in the past. If mineral resources were present on the Project sites, then there would have been historic operations on the Project sites to commercially extract these resources. Based on this information, any impacts to mineral resources from implementing the Project would be considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

XIIb. *No Impact* – Please reference response XIIa above. The Project sites have not been historically mined for important mineral resources. No specific plan or other land use plan is in place that would delineate important mineral resources on the Project sites. Based on this information, no impacts to mineral resources from implementing the Project are anticipated. No mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XIII. NOISE: Would the Project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of a 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION

Background

The proposed Project consists of a new replacement well and support facilities and water replacement pipelines. Noise is generated in the following manner by these activities. Well drilling generates noise at the well site during drilling and after installation a well pump to bring groundwater to the ground surface will continue to generate noise. Installation of pipelines generates noise, but once installed below ground the pipelines do not generate noise that is audible during operation. The potential impacts and recommended mitigation measures to control noise are discussed in the following text.

Noise is generally described as unwanted sound. The unit of sound pressure ratio to the faintest sound detectable to a person with normal hearing is called a decibel (dB). Sound or noise can vary in intensity by over one million times within the range of human hearing. A logarithmic loudness scale, similar to the Richter scale for earthquake magnitude, is therefore used to keep sound intensity numbers at a convenient and manageable level. The human ear is not equally sensitive to all sound frequencies within the entire spectrum. Noise levels at maximum human sensitivity from around 500 to 2,000 cycles per second are factored more heavily into sound descriptions in a process called “A-weighting,” written as “dBA.”

Leq is a time-averaged sound level; a single-number value that expresses the time-varying sound level for the specified period as though it were a constant sound level with the same total sound energy as the time-varying level. Its unit is the decibel (dB). The most common averaging period for Leq is hourly.

Because community receptors are more sensitive to unwanted noise intrusion during more sensitive evening and nighttime hours, state law requires that an artificial dBA increment be added to quiet time noise levels. The State of California has established guidelines for acceptable community noise levels that are based on the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) rating scale (a 24-hour integrated noise measurement scale). The guidelines rank noise land use compatibility in terms of "normally acceptable," "conditionally acceptable," and "clearly unacceptable" noise levels for various land use types. The State Guidelines, Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Exposure, single-family homes are "normally acceptable" in exterior noise environments up to 60 dB CNEL and "conditionally acceptable" up to 70 dB CNEL based on this scale. Multiple family residential uses are "normally acceptable" up to 65 dB CNEL and "conditionally acceptable" up to 70 CNEL. Schools, libraries and churches are "normally acceptable" up to 70 dB CNEL, as are office buildings and business, commercial and professional uses with some structural noise attenuation.

Neither the County's General Plan nor Municipal Code, nor FPPUD established numeric maximum acceptable construction source noise levels at potentially affected receivers for CEQA analysis purposes. Therefore, a numerical construction threshold based on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual is used for the analysis of daytime construction impacts, as discussed below. Due to the lack of standardized construction noise thresholds, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides guidelines that can be considered reasonable criteria for construction noise assessment. The FTA considers a daytime exterior construction noise level of 80 dBA Leq as a reasonable threshold for noise-sensitive residential land use.

Kern County Noise Regulations and Standards

Kern County utilizes the CEQA Guidelines noise exposure guidelines to set its noise regulations and standards. According to the CEQA Guidelines, residences located within an area that exceeds 65 dBA Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) are exposed to noise levels that are considered "normally unacceptable." The County's General Plan Noise Element Policy 5 prohibits new noise-sensitive land uses in noise-impacted areas unless effective mitigation measures are incorporated into the Project design. Such mitigation shall be designed to reduce noise to the following levels:

a) 65 dB Ldn or less in outdoor activity areas;
b) 45 dB Ldn or less within interior living spaces or other noise sensitive interior spaces.

Construction Noise Standards

Neither the County General Plan nor Municipal Code established numeric maximum acceptable construction source noise levels at potentially affected receivers for CEQA analysis purposes. Therefore, a numerical construction threshold based on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual[10], is used for the analysis of daytime construction impacts, as discussed below. Due to the lack of standardized construction noise thresholds, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides guidelines that can be considered reasonable criteria for construction noise assessment. The FTA considers a daytime exterior construction noise level of 80 dBA Leq as a reasonable threshold for noise-sensitive residential land use.

Impact Analysis

XIIIa. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Implementation of the proposed Project will generate noise. Generally, well drilling equipment (a Direct Rotary Drill Rig) can generate noise levels of about 85 dBA at a distance of 50 feet from the equipment. This is the highest noise exposure from the Project activities, as all other construction will be limited to daytime pipeline installation activities. Well drilling is allowed to be continuous until the drilling is completed). Short-term construction noise impacts associated with the proposed Project would occur in phases as the Project site is developed. Table XIII-3, Typical Construction Noise Levels, shows the estimated noise levels for the various types of construction equipment that would be used on the Project site.

Table XIII-1
TYPICAL CONSTRUCTION NOISE LEVELS

Construction Phase	Type of Equipment	Noise Levels (dBA) at 50 feet
Grading	Compactors	82
	Front Loaders	85
	Backhoes	80
	Trucks	88
Material Handling	Concrete Mixer	85

[10] FTA, 2018. Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual, Federal Transit Administration

Construction Phase	Type of Equipment	Noise Levels (dBA) at 50 feet
Stationary Equipment	Generators	81
	Compressors	81
Other Equipment	Vibrators	76
	Saws	76
Well Drilling	Drill Rig	85
	Generator	80
	Compressor	82

Source: Referenced Noise Levels from the FTA Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (Table 12-1). https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/FTA_Noise_and_Vibration_Manual.pdf (accessed 07/06/26)

The earth-moving sources are the noisiest type of equipment typically ranging up to 88 dB at 50 feet from the source. Stationary source noise diminishes at a rate of about 6 dB for each doubling of the distance from the source. This means that periodic construction noise levels at the nearest receptor can be about 70-80 dBA on the exterior of the nearest receptor. The well drilling will likely exceed the FTA daytime exterior construction noise level of 80 dBA L_{eq} at the exterior of the nearest sensitive receptors, which consists of some existing residential development. This increase in noise levels will be short term (about 12-20 days). The increased noise levels will not be severe enough to pose a health or hearing hazard, but could be considered a short-term nuisance. Once a well becomes operational, any above ground pump will generate noise; however, this noise can be mitigated, as outlined in the mitigation measure below—by constructing a brick or concrete structural unit to reduce operational noise levels to a less than significant impact. Additionally, to reduce potential short-term effects of noise and long-term noise effects from all Project construction activities to the greatest extent feasible, the mitigation measures presented below will be implemented—which include constructing temporary noise barrier walls and equipment to meet specified noise level limits during construction activities.

NOI-1 ***FPPUD will require the implementation of adequate measures to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible or below 80 dBA L_{eq}, including portable noise barriers or scheduling specific construction activities to avoid conflict with adjacent sensitive receptors.***

NOI-2 ***FPPUD will require that all construction equipment be operated with mandated noise control equipment (mufflers or silencers). Enforcement will be accomplished by random field inspections by District personnel during construction activities.***

NOI-3 ***FPPUD will establish a noise complaint/response program and will respond to any noise complaints received for this Project by measuring noise levels at the affected receptor. If the noise level exceeds an Ldn of 80 dBA exterior, the District will implement adequate measures to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible, including portable noise barriers, scheduling specific construction activities to avoid conflict with adjacent sensitive receptors, or relocation of sensitive receptors during high noise activities.***

NOI-4 ***All construction activities other than well drilling and casing shall be restricted to daylight hours, unless a declared emergency exists.***

NOI-5 ***FPPUD shall will require that well pumps be installed underground, or that noise levels from well installation and operation be at or below 50 dB(A) at the nearest sensitive noise receptor property boundary. Reductions of above ground pump noise can be accomplished be installing surface well housing, which can be a brick or concrete structure that attenuates noise to meet this performance standard.***

NOI-6 Upon request from nearby residents, FPPUD shall provide the option of relocating adjacent residents for the duration of active 24-hour drilling activity.

NOI-7 Construction activities shall be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday (except for well drilling activities which are continuous), and shall be prohibited on Sundays and federal holidays, except during documented emergencies (again except for well drilling). No construction, other than well drilling, may occur during hours of "Darkness" (Night Work), as defined in the California Vehicle Code, Section 280, unless prior authorization is obtained from the County.

NOI-8 All employees that will be exposed to noise levels greater than 75 dB over an 8-hour period shall be provided with adequate hearing protection devices to ensure no hearing damage will result from construction activities.

Implementation of the preceding mitigation measures can reduce noise exposures from all proposed Project activities, both construction and operation, to a less than significant impact level.

XIIIb. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Vibration is the periodic oscillation of a medium or object. The rumbling sound caused by vibration of room surfaces is called structure borne noises. Sources of groundborne vibrations include natural phenomena (e.g., earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, sea waves, landslides) or human-made causes (e.g., explosions, machinery, traffic, trains, construction equipment). Vibration sources may be continuous or transient. Vibration is often described in units of velocity (inches per second), and discussed in decibel (dB) units in order to compress the range of numbers required to describe vibration. Vibration impacts related to human development are generally associated with activities such as well drilling operations, construction, and heavy truck movements.

The background vibration-velocity level in residential areas is generally 50 VdB; Groundborne vibration is normally perceptible to humans at approximately 65 VdB, while 75 VdB is the approximate dividing line between barely perceptible and distinctly perceptible. Construction activity can result in varying degrees of groundborne vibration, and can occur as a result of well drilling activities. While no enforceable regulations for vibration exist within the County of San Bernardino, the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) guidelines identify a level of 80 VdB for sensitive land uses. This threshold provides a basis for determining the relative significance of potential Project-related vibration impacts.

In the short term, most of the construction activities described above have some potential to create some vibration to the nearest sensitive receptors at some sites within the Project footprint. However, any short-term impacts to the nearest sensitive receptors would be considered less than significant through implementing the following mitigation measure:

NOI-9 During future construction activities with heavy equipment within 100 feet of occupied residences, vibration field tests should be conducted at the nearest occupied structure upon request. To the extent feasible, if vibrations exceed 72 VdB, the construction activities shall be revised to reduce vibration below this threshold.

This will reduce the construction-related vibration levels experienced by these existing off-site land uses to a level of less than significant.

XIIIc. *No Impact* – The Project site is not located near an airport, and according to the County's General Plan, is not located within an airport noise contour, and therefore will not experience any aircraft or airport-related noise impacts.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the Project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION

XIVa *Less Than Significant Impact* – Implementation of the Project will not induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure). The Project is considered a vital infrastructure Project because it proposes to replace and existing well, install pipeline, and associated appurtenances within the District's service area. The proposed Project will require a temporary work force; however, this is short-term and with a maximum of about 10 employees will not induce substantial population growth. Furthermore, according to the Frazier Park Public Utility District Rate Study,[11] Frazier Park had a population of 3,121 persons in 2020. The population is expected to grow at a rate of 0.7% annually according to the US Census Bureau. This would result in an annual growth of approximately 218 persons. This indicates that the County and District have plans for population growth in the future. As such, given that no additional employees will be required once the Project components are fully operational, the proposed Project would have a less than significant potential to induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. No mitigation is required.

b. *No Impact* – The proposed Project will occur within existing roadway alignments, adjacent to roadways, and within a singular vacant parcel (Well #8 installation). No housing is proposed as part of the Project and no persons reside within the Project footprint. Therefore, implementation of the Project as a whole will not displace any existing housing or displace a substantial number of people that would necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impacts will occur as a result of Project implementation. No mitigation is required.

[11] FPPUD, 2026. Frazier Park Public Utility District Rate Study
https://www.frazierparkpudca.gov/files/eb6ff88df/Final+FRAZIER+PARK+RATE+STUDY.pdf (accessed 07/06/26)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES: Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION

XVa. *No Impact* – The installation and utilization of the new potable water system facilities have no potential to create any demand for fire protection services that would require new or altered facilities. The proposed Project has a positive benefit because it will ensure sufficient water is available to meet fire flow requirements in the Frazier Park community.

XVb-e. *No Impact* – This includes “other public facilities” which will have sufficient capacity in the future to meet water supply needs that will be generated by communities without requiring expansion of the local supply at the affected sites.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XVI. RECREATION:				
a) Would the Project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUBSTANTIATION

XVIa. *No Impact* – This Project will not contribute to an increase in the population beyond that already allowed or planned for by local and regional planning documents. Therefore, this Project will not result in an increase in the demand for parks and other recreational facilities and implementation of the proposed Project would not increase the use of any parks within the area, now would it result in the physical deterioration of other surrounding facilities. No impacts are anticipated. No mitigation is required.

XVIb. *No Impact* – The proposed Project does not include recreational facilities, nor does it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The Project will occur within existing roadways, adjacent to roadways, and within a singular vacant parcel (Well #8 installation), and does not include the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Thus, there will be no adverse effects on the recreational facilities from implementing this Project. No mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XVII. TRANSPORTATION: Would the Project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous inter-sections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☒	☐	☐

SUBSTANTIATION

Background Regarding Vehicle Miles Traveled

XVIIa. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project includes many locations (local roadways) where specific water system improvement Projects will be implemented. This has one very important effect on transportation issues. Because of the locations where activities will occur, the effect of construction traffic will be dispersed and not concentrated at one location over the life of construction activities. Thus, the proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation, including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths.

This Project does not propose any new bike access roads. In the short term, construction of the proposed facilities will result in the generation of up to about 20 additional roundtrips per day on the roadways adjacent to the various sites by construction personnel, delivery of equipment and materials, and the removal of any graded material and delivery of well construction equipment and materials. During the linear, drainage, utilities and subgrade phase (for a period of about 24 days), up to 170 hauling trips per day may occur (refer to Table III-3). This increase in traffic will be temporary and is not considered sufficient to affect the local level of service of roadways or congestion at any intersection. No measurable increases in traffic are anticipated during operations as the various facilities will not require an increase in maintenance or operational activities above that which exists presently at these sites. No mitigation is required.

XVIIb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project is a discrete construction Project that does not fit into the standard methodology outlined to address Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) issues. The various Project elements will be constructed and once the facilities are integrated into the FPPUD's water supply system, the field maintenance personnel will integrate these new facilities into their daily monitoring and maintenance activities. Further, during construction it is assumed that approximately 15 personnel will be working this Project (assumes well and pipeline work crews) and as many as 170 deliveries will occur by truck per day during (the linear, drainage, utilities and subgrade phase (for a period of about 24 days)(refer to Table III-3). Construction will average about 20 trips per day during all phases per Table III-3. These trips will occur over the short term, estimated to be 12 months until all Project-related construction activities are completed. Once constructed, no greater traffic would be generated by this Project than that which occurs at present or is otherwise planned to occur as part of area development. Other than maintenance to inspect and maintain facilities when necessary, no operational trips are anticipated. This would therefore result in minimal vehicle miles

traveled once the Project is fully operational. As such, development of the Project is not anticipated to result in a significant impact related to vehicle miles travelled, and thus would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b). Impacts under this issue are considered less than significant.

XVII

c&d. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed construction activities in road ROWs will be short term, but these activities can create hazards for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians in areas of pipeline installation. Thus, the Project-related construction activities have a potential to conflict with continuous access. **MM HAZ-2** will be implemented to ensure that hazards are minimized and emergency access is maintained to all parcels.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the Project cause a substantial change in the significance of tribal cultural resources, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographic-ally defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to the California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in sub-division (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.	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION

XVIII

a&b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Frazier Park Public Utilities District has not been contacted by any Native American tribes and therefore, was not required to initiate consultation. However, as outlined in the Cultural Resource technical study, **Appendix 5** to this document, CRM TECH did consult with the Native American Heritage Commission and received names from several tribes to contact regarding traditional cultural resources. Of the seven tribes contacted by CRM TECH, three responded and indicated no concerns with the location of the proposed Project facilities. One of the Tribes initially requested consultation, but did not follow-up with a written request. A copy of this Initial Study will be provided for this Tribe's review and continued participation. **MM CUL-1** requires field review of any exposed subsurface cultural resources, which would allow any archaeological resources to be identified and Native American tribes contacted, where appropriate. Therefore, the District concludes that sufficient protection will be extended to subsurface Tribal Cultural Resources if any are accidentally exposed during ground disturbing activities.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the Project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION

XIXa. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed Project consists of the redevelopment or groundwater production improvements to the FPPUD's water supply system. Based on the detailed evaluation of environmental issues associated with this proposed Project (refer to the contents of this Initial Study), the proposed Project will not cause a significant adverse impact on any of issues addressed in this Initial Study. Thus, the implementation of the proposed Project is not forecast to cause relocation or new construction of expanded wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas or other infrastructure facilities in a manner that would cause a significant environmental effect for any of the issues addressed in this Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form. No mitigation beyond that identified in this document is required.

XIXb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – This Project is a replacement for the existing water systems within the FPPUD. The proposed Project will not cause or result in greater water production for the community than currently exists. Future expansions of water supply within the community due to future growth will require future evaluations and are not considered under this proposed Project.

XIXc. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project will not contribute to generation of wastewater. Future expansions of demand for wastewater treatment or conveyance within either community due to future growth will require future evaluations and are not considered under this proposed Project.

XIXd. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The only solid waste generated by the proposed Project will consist of solid waste generated by clearing of vegetation, asphalt from pipeline trenching, and a limited amount of municipal waste generated by employees. Any construction and demolition (C&D) waste will be recycled to the maximum extent feasible and any residual materials will be

delivered to one of several C&D disposal sites in the area surrounding the project site. Many of these C&D materials can be reused or recycled, thus prolonging the supply of natural resources and potentially saving money in the process.

In accordance with CALGreen Code 5.408.4, 100 percent of trees, stumps, rocks and associated vegetation and soils resulting primarily from land clearing must be reused or recycled. Further, all construction waste that can be recycled will be by implementing the following mitigation measure.

UTIL-1 During future trenching and clearing activities conducted by the FPPUD, the contract shall require all construction waste that can be recycled shall be recycled. At a minimum recycled material shall meet the current State construction material recycling percentage. Documentation of waste recycled shall be required of the contractor, including locations where specific recycling materials were delivered.

The small amount of remaining waste will be delivered to regional landfills with adequate capacity for the small volume of waste associated with this proposed Project. Solid waste impacts will be less than significant from Project implementation after implementing this measure.

XIXe. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Standard practice is to include a contract stipulation that a contractor obey all laws and regulations of the County, State and United States, and this includes solid waste laws and regulations. Any hazardous materials collected on the project site during either construction or operation of the project will be transported and disposed of by a permitted and licensed hazardous materials service provider. Therefore, the proposed project is expected to comply with all regulations related to solid waste under federal, state, and local statutes. No potential conflict with such laws and regulations is anticipated from the waste disposal activities of this proposed Project. Impacts are considered less than significant

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XX. WILDFIRE: If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose Project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

SUBSTANTIATION

XXa. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed construction activities in road ROWs will be short term, but these activities can create hazards for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Thus, the Project-related construction activities have a potential to conflict with continuous access. **MM HAZ-2** will be implemented to ensure that hazards are minimize and emergency access is maintained at all locations where construction is carried out.

XXb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project is located within state responsibility areas, with adjacent lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zone, therefore the proposed Project will have the potential to impact wildfire issues. The proposed Project will enhance water supply and fire flow capacity in areas that are re-piped, which is a beneficial impact. The proposed Project will result in construction in a high wildfire hazard area. **MM HAZ-3** will minimize potential for construction activity to cause a fire. This Project will not generate new occupants, so it cannot expose more humans to wildfire pollutants. As such, no significant impacts under this issue are anticipated.

XXc. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Aside from the water infrastructure that will be installed in support of the proposed Project with no significant adverse impacts identified, the proposed Project will not install any special wildfire related facilities that could result in additional adverse ongoing impacts to the environment.

XXd. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The Project area consists in a mix of flat and lower hillside areas that are by the character of past development at risk of experiencing potential wildfire impacts. However, the proposed Project will not contribute to additional risk and can reduce exposure to wildfire through provision of additional water infrastructure. No mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:				
a) Does the Project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Does the Project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a Project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past Projects, the effects of other current Projects, and the effects of probable future Projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Does the Project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

SUBSTANTIATION

The analysis in this Initial Study and the findings reached indicate that the proposed Project can be implemented without causing any new Project specific or cumulatively considerable unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts. Mitigation is required to control some potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project to a less than significant impact level. The following findings are based on the detailed analyses in the Initial Study of all environmental topics and the implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the previous text and summarized following this section.

XXIa. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The biological and cultural technical reports (**Appendices 4 and 5**) indicate that only limited biological or cultural resources of significance mat occur within the Project area of potential effect. However, contingency mitigation measures were identified to address the potential for encountering protected special species and nesting birds and accidental exposure of subsurface cultural resources. With implementation of these measures, it was determined that the proposed Project would not cause any unavoidable significant adverse impacts.

XXIb. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed Project consists of installing water system infrastructure in the residential community of Frazier Park. No unavoidable significant adverse impacts have been identified for those issues that have a potential for cumulative impact. The issues of Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire require the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less than significant level and ensure that cumulative effects are not cumulatively considerable. All identified mitigation measures will be implemented by the proposed Project. Most potential adverse environmental impacts will be experienced during construction to achieve the long-term goal of enhancing water supply and distribution for the community of Frazier Park. The potential cumulative environmental effects of implementing the proposed Project have been determined to be less than considerable and thus, less than significant impacts.

XXIc. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed Project includes activities that have a potential to cause direct substantial adverse effects on humans. The issues of Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, and Wildfire require the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce human impacts to a less than significant level. All other environmental issues were found to have no significant impacts on humans without implementation of mitigation. The potential for direct human effects from implementing the proposed Project have been determined to be less than significant.

Conclusion

This document evaluated all CEQA issues contained in the latest Initial Study Checklist Form (2026). The evaluation determined that either no impact or less than significant impacts would be associated with all twenty environmental issues. The evaluation determined that either no impact or less than significant impacts would be associated with the issues of Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, and Recreation. The issues of Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire require the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. The required mitigation has been proposed in this Initial Study to reduce impacts for these issues to a less than significant impact level.

Based on the evidence and findings in this Initial Study, the FPPUD proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Frazier Park Public Utilities District New Well #8 and Pipeline Replacement Project. A Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigation Negative Declaration (NOI) will be issued for this Project by the FPPUD. The Initial Study and NOI will be circulated for 30 days of public comment. At the end of the 30-day review period, a final MND package will be prepared and it will be reviewed by the District for possible adoption at a future Board meeting, the date for which has yet to be determined. If you or your agency comments on the MND/NOI for this Project, you will be notified about the meeting date in accordance with the requirements in Section 21092.5 of CEQA (statute).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21095, and 21151, Public Resources Code; *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino*,(1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 296; *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors*, (1990) 222 Cal.App.3d 1337; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; San *Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

Revised 2019
Authority: Public Resources Code sections 21083 and 21083.09
Reference: Public Resources Code sections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3/ 21084.2 and 21084.3

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

Aesthetics

AES-1 Prior to initiating well drilling or approval of the final above ground facilities in close proximity to sensitive light receptors, an analysis of potential exterior lighting to impact the adjacent sensitive light receptors shall be submitted to the FPPUD for review and approval. If potential lighting impacts are identified for adjacent sensitive receptors, the lighting shall be shielded or other design solutions acceptable to the FPPUD shall be implemented to eliminate potential adverse night lighting impacts.

Biological Resources

BIO-1 The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist and shall consist of at least three (3) site visits spaced 2-4 weeks apart during the colony active period. If protocol presence/absence surveys determine that Crotch's bumble bee is absent from the site, no further action would be required.

BIO-2 If Crotch's bumble bee is found within the Project site during protocol surveys and Project impacts to this species cannot be avoided, an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the CDFW would be required prior to initiation of any Project activities that could impact this species.

BIO-3 The Project Proponent shall prepare and implement a Crotch's Bumble Bee Avoidance and Monitoring Plan that would be submitted to CDFW for review and approval prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities within the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment. The Monitoring Plan should include details on avoidance and monitoring actions, such as but not limited to:

- monitoring and surveying of potential nesting sites prior to ground disturbing activities;
- monitoring of vegetation removal in areas of suitable habitat;
- implementation of a Crotch's bumble bee education program from the qualified biologist with physical training materials (e.g., pamphlet or brochure);
- avoidance buffers around suspected nesting sites determined by the biologist;
- measures to be taken if Crotch's bumble bee is observed foraging; and
- procedures for herbicide and pesticide application.

BIO-4 A qualified biologist meeting the surveyor qualifications described in the 2023 "Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species" shall be present on site during all initial Project related ground disturbing activities within the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment to ensure that any potential impacts to Crotch's bumble bee are avoided.

BIO-4 The biologist shall conduct at least 3 pre-construction surveys within the section of the Project site with suitable habitat that is scheduled for ground disturbing activities. Pre-construction surveys shall encompass all areas of potential suitable habitat on the Project site including rodent burrows, floral resources, sloping areas or areas under trees with leaf litter, and a buffer around the Project site as determined by the biologist. If a nest is suspected but not confirmed, the biologist shall flag the potential nest for avoidance and monitor the nest for activity according to the Crotch's Bumble Bee Avoidance and Monitoring Plan.

BIO-5 If Crotch's bumble bee is found within the Project site during pre-construction surveys or construction monitoring and Project impacts to this species cannot be avoided, all activities likely to impact the species must cease immediately and an ITP from the CDFW would be required prior to resuming any Project activities that could impact this species.

BIO-6 For any Project activity that involves construction or ground-disturbing activities within the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment, all construction workers should be required to participate in environmental awareness training. The training should inform Project personnel on: (1) special status species that may occur in the work area and (2) procedures to follow in the event a special status species is encountered within the Project area during construction.

BIO-7 A qualified biologist should be present during construction or ground-disturbing activities within the proposed Elm Tank to McGhee Tank replacement pipeline alignment to capture, temporarily possess, and relocate wildlife to avoid harm or mortality in connection with Project construction activities. Any coast horned lizards encountered on site prior to or during construction activities shall be captured by hand and relocated to adjacent appropriate habitat, at least 200 feet from the Project disturbance limits. The relocation site should be well-shaded, with a mix of dense brush and adjacent exposed bare ground, preferably with harvester ants (*Pogonomyrmex spp.*) present nearby. The biologist shall release the lizard as soon as possible, where they can take immediate refuge in dense brush.

BIO-8 The State of California prohibits the "take" of active bird nests. To avoid impacts to nesting birds (common and special status) during the nesting season (generally between February 1 to August 31), a qualified Avian Biologist shall conduct pre-construction nesting bird survey prior to Project-related disturbance to identify any active nests. If no active nests are found, no further action would be required. If an active nest is found, the biologist shall set appropriate no-work buffers around the nest, which would be determined based on the nesting species, its sensitivity to disturbance, nesting stage and expected types, intensity and duration of disturbance. The nests and buffer zones shall be field checked weekly by a qualified biological monitor. The approved no-work buffer zone shall be clearly marked in the field, within which no disturbance activity shall commence until the qualified biologist has determined the young birds have successfully fledged and the nest is inactive.

Cultural Resources

CUL-1 Should any subsurface or other cultural resources be encountered during construction of the proposed Project, earthmoving or grading activities in the immediate area of the finds shall be halted and an onsite inspection shall be performed immediately by a qualified archaeologist. The archaeological professional shall assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate management measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act. The recommendations shall be implemented by the District.

Geology and Soils

GEO-1 The construction contractor shall prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which specifies Best Management Practices that will prevent construction pollutants from contacting stormwater with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving offsite into receiving waters. The SWPPP may include but not be limited to the following BMPs.

- The length of trench which can be left open at any given time should be limited to that needed to reasonably perform construction activities. This will serve to reduce the amount of backfill stored onsite at any given time.
- Backfill material should not be stored in areas which are subject to the erosive flows of water.
- Stored backfill material should be covered with water resistant material during periods of heavy precipitation to reduce the potential for rainfall erosion of stored backfill material. If covering is not feasible, then measures such as the use of straw bales, sandbags, silt fencing or detention/desilting basins shall be used to capture and hold eroded material on the Project site for future cleanup.

- The SWPPP shall include a spill prevention and cleanup plan to account for the accidental release of petroleum products or other contaminants during construction activities. This plan shall identify the methods of containing spills, the methods of removing and disposing of spills and the notification procedures to the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over such spills.
  - Apply erosion and sediment control design that reduce volume and velocity of flows and content of sediment to levels that do not cause significant rill or gully erosion in susceptible areas. In addition, provide for restoration of areas that do become eroded.
  - Add protective covering of mulch, straw or synthetic material (erosion control blankets, tacking will be required).
  - Limit the amount of area disturbed and the length of time slopes and barren ground are left exposed. After pipeline installation, soil shall be compacted to a level similar to pre-construction conditions.
  - Construct diversion dikes and interceptor ditches to divert water away from construction areas.

GEO-2 In the event that paleontological resources are encountered within the Project area during construction activities, all land modification activities in the immediate area of the finds should be halted and an onsite inspection shall be performed immediately by a qualified paleontologist. This professional will be able to assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate management actions. Reasonable paleontological resource management actions shall be implemented to protect the accidentally exposed subsurface resources.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

HAZ-1 All accidental spills or discharge of hazardous material during construction activities shall be reported to the Certified Unified Program Agency and shall be remediated in compliance with applicable state and local regulations regarding cleanup and disposal of the contaminant released. The contaminated waste would be collected and disposed of at an appropriately a licensed disposal or treatment facility. This measure shall be incorporated into the SWPPP prepared for the proposed Project. Prior to accepting the site as remediated, the area contaminated shall be tested to verify that any residual concentrations meet the standard for future residential or public use of the site.

HAZ-2 During pipeline construction or any construction within road rights-of-way, the contractor shall maintain access to all parcels during construction activities. If necessary, this access can be accomplished by having steel sheets available to cover trenches in front of driveways to provide immediate, temporary access. Also, a traffic management plan shall be submitted and approved by the District and County to manage and minimize hazards to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians during pipeline construction.

HAZ-3 During all construction activities, the contractor(s) shall have fire suppression equipment sufficient to suppress a spot fire caused by construction activities. The contractor(s) shall submit a list of the fire suppression equipment that they will have on hand to carry out this responsibility should a fire be initiated by construction activities for approval by the FPPUD.

Hydrology and Water Quality

HYD-1 The District shall test the groundwater produced from the well prior to discharge. Prior to or during discharge any contaminants shall be blended below the pertinent MCL or treated, including sediment or other material.

HYD-2 The District shall prepare a Drilling Plan that describes the drilling method and construction contingencies to be employed. That plan shall describe waste management control and disposal methods for cuttings, mud, and development water discharges. The Drilling Plan should identify,

and illustrate on appropriate scale maps, the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that would be employed to ensure there are no adverse effects on ground or surface water quality; these BMPs shall ensure that the well purge, development water, and pipeline hydrostatic testing discharges not discharge to a stream channel or tributary of a water of the United States, including discharges to land, under requirements specified in General Board Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ. The District shall indicate how they would implement and monitoring the effectiveness of installed BMPs, and make necessary adjustments in the field if necessary to modify those BMPs and protect water quality. The Drilling Plan shall be made available to the Regional Water Quality Control Board for their records.

Noise

NOI-1 FPPUD will require the implementation of adequate measures to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible or below 80 dBA L_{eq}, including portable noise barriers or scheduling specific construction activities to avoid conflict with adjacent sensitive receptors.

NOI-2 FPPUD will require that all construction equipment be operated with mandated noise control equipment (mufflers or silencers). Enforcement will be accomplished by random field inspections by District personnel during construction activities.

NOI-3 FPPUD will establish a noise complaint/response program and will respond to any noise complaints received for this Project by measuring noise levels at the affected receptor. If the noise level exceeds an Ldn of 80 dBA exterior, the District will implement adequate measures to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible, including portable noise barriers, scheduling specific construction activities to avoid conflict with adjacent sensitive receptors, or relocation of sensitive receptors during high noise activities.

NOI-4 All construction activities other than well drilling and casing shall be restricted to daylight hours, unless a declared emergency exists.

NOI-5 FPPUD shall will require that noise levels from well installation and operation be at or below 50 dB(A) at the nearest sensitive noise receptor property boundary. Reductions of above ground pump noise can be accomplished be installing surface well housing, which can be a brick or concrete structure that attenuates noise to meet this performance standard.

NOI-6 Upon request from nearby residents, FPPUD shall provide the option of relocating adjacent residents for the duration of active 24-hour drilling activity.

NOI-7 Construction activities shall be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday (except for well drilling activities), and shall be prohibited on Sundays and federal holidays, except during well drilling or documented emergencies. No construction, other than well drilling, may occur during hours of “Darkness” (Night Work), as defined in the California Vehicle Code, Section 280, unless prior authorization is obtained from the County.

NOI-8 All employees that will be exposed to noise levels greater than 75 dB over an 8-hour period shall be provided with adequate hearing protection devices to ensure no hearing damage will result from construction activities.

NOI-9 During future construction activities with heavy equipment within 100 feet of occupied residences, vibration field tests should be conducted at the nearest occupied structure upon request. To the extent feasible, if vibrations exceed 72 VdB, the construction activities shall be revised to reduce vibration below this threshold.

Utilities and Service Systems

UTIL-1 During future trenching and clearing activities conducted by the FPPUD, the contract shall require all construction waste that can be recycled shall be recycled. At a minimum recycled material shall meet the current State construction material recycling percentage. Documentation of waste recycled shall be required of the contractor, including locations where specific recycling materials were delivered.

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FIGURES

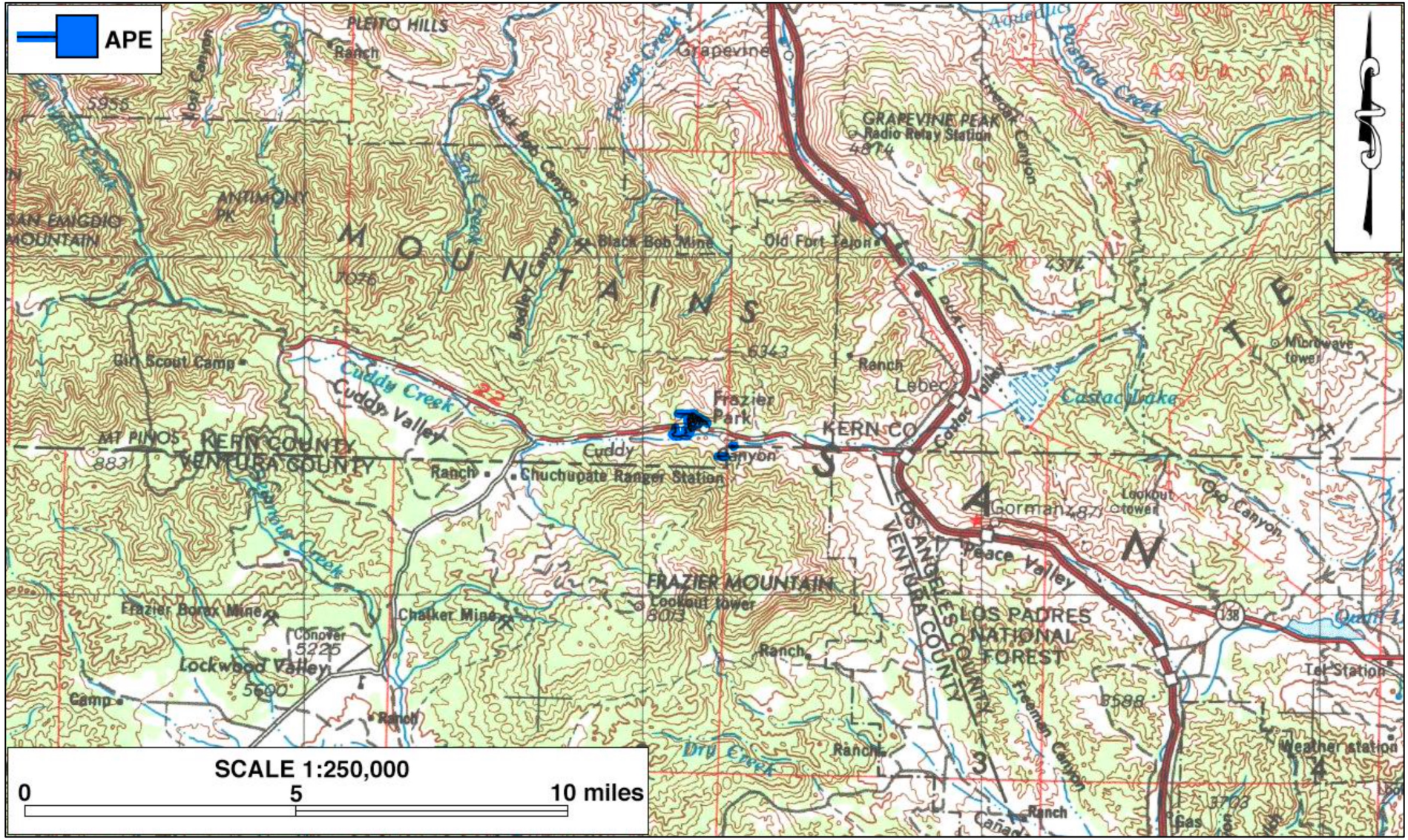


FIGURE 1

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Regional Project Location

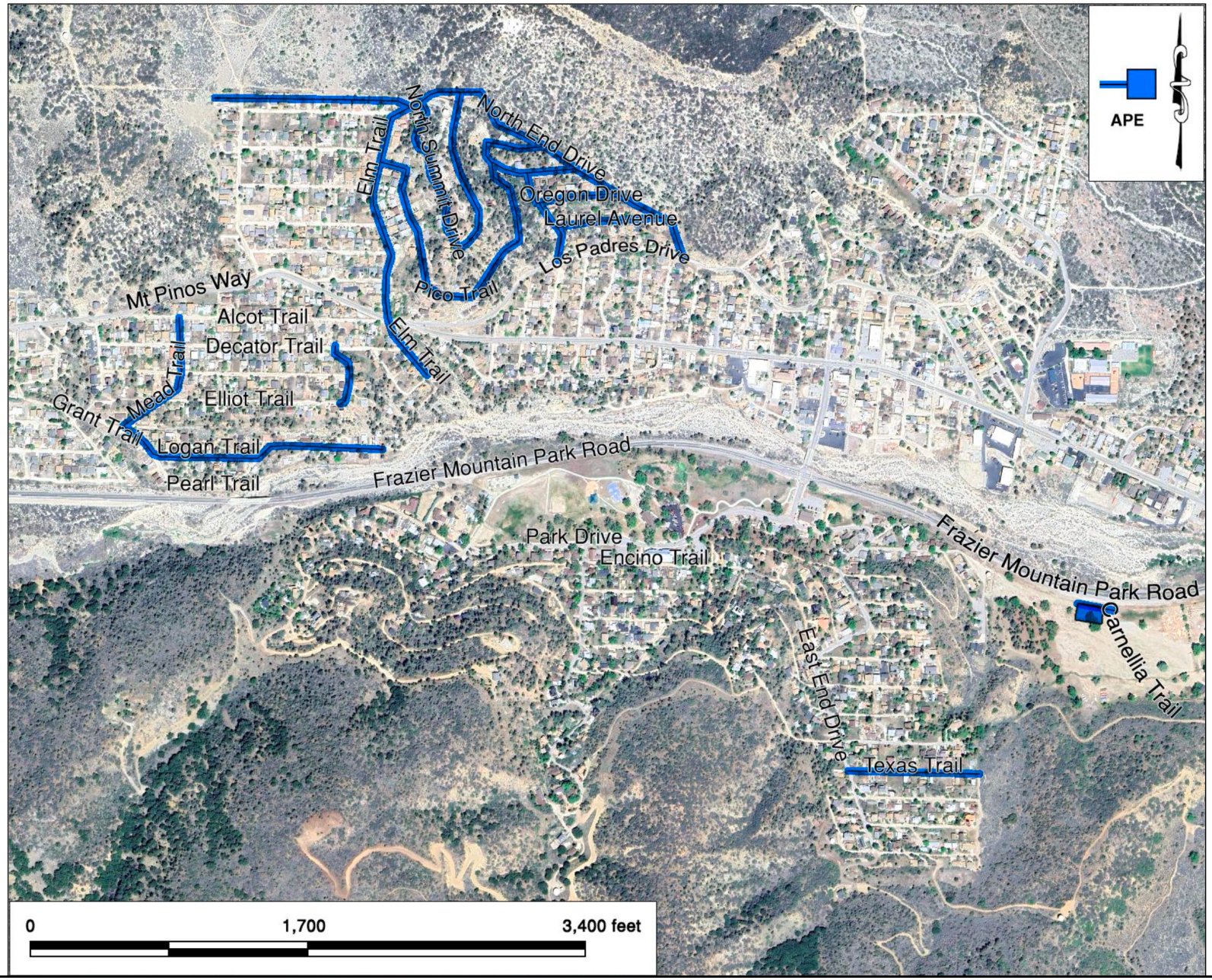


FIGURE 2

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Site Location



FIGURE 3

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Project Pipeline Plans

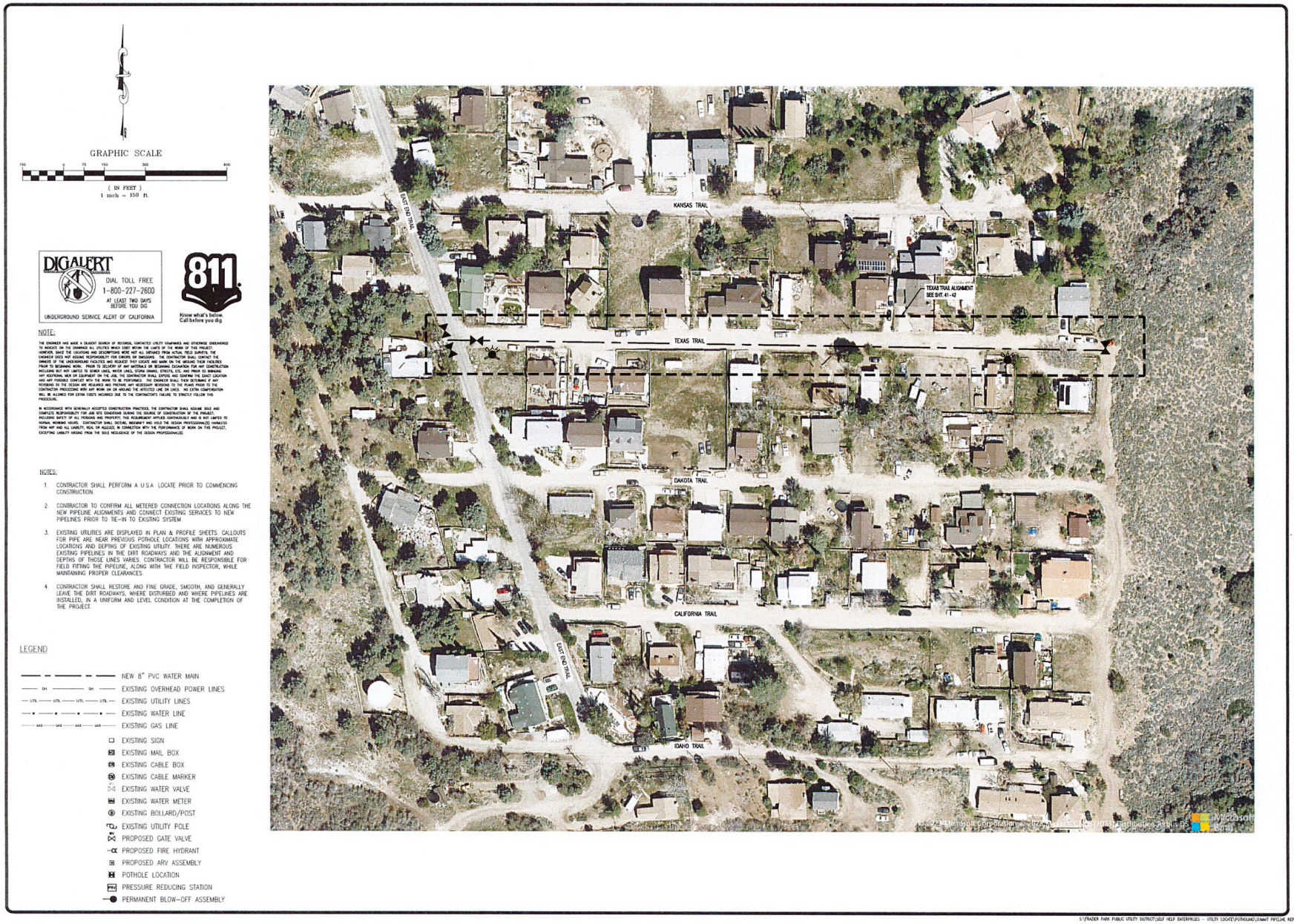


FIGURE 4

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Project Pipeline Plans



FIGURE 5

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FPPUD Service Area

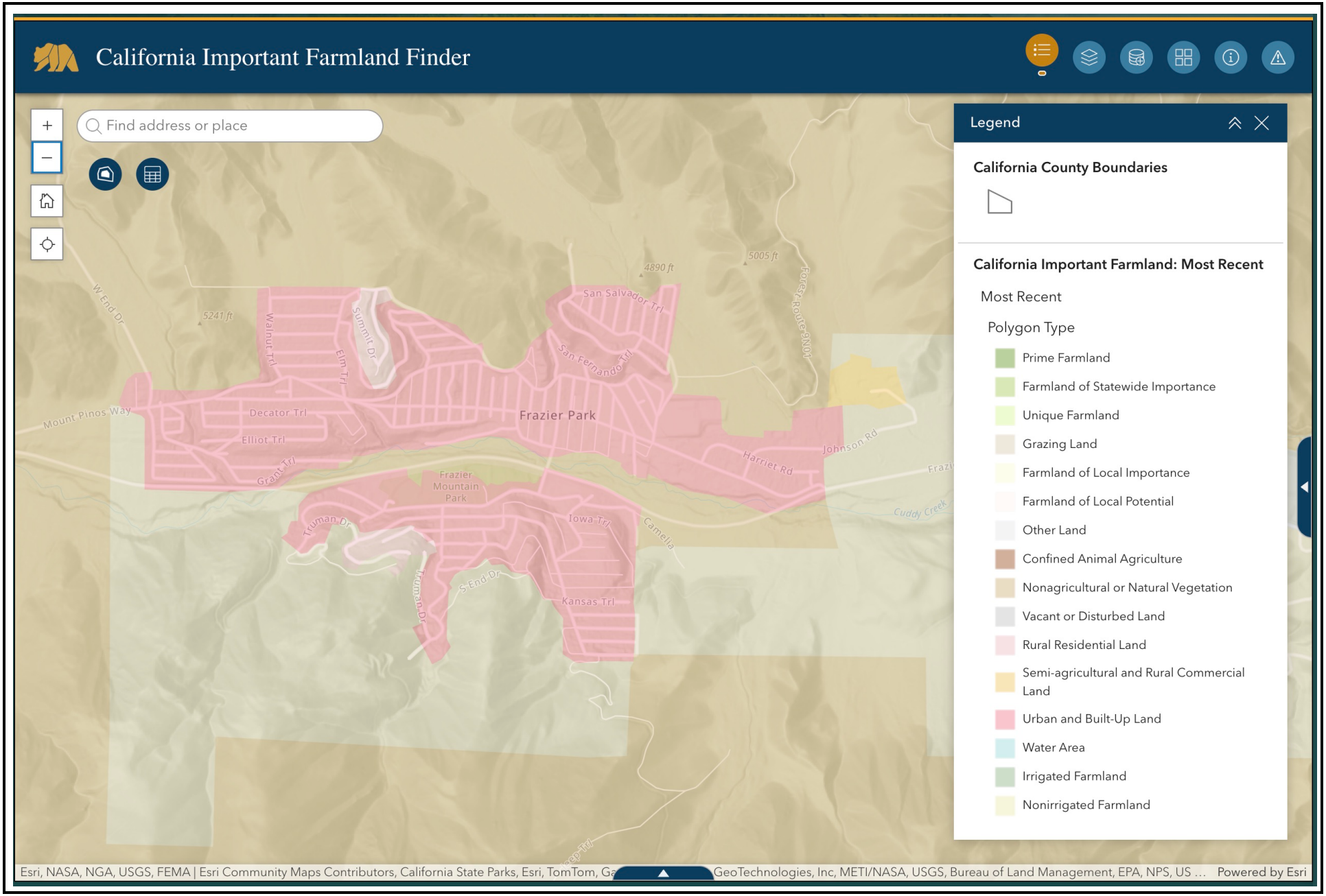


FIGURE II-1

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Farmland Map

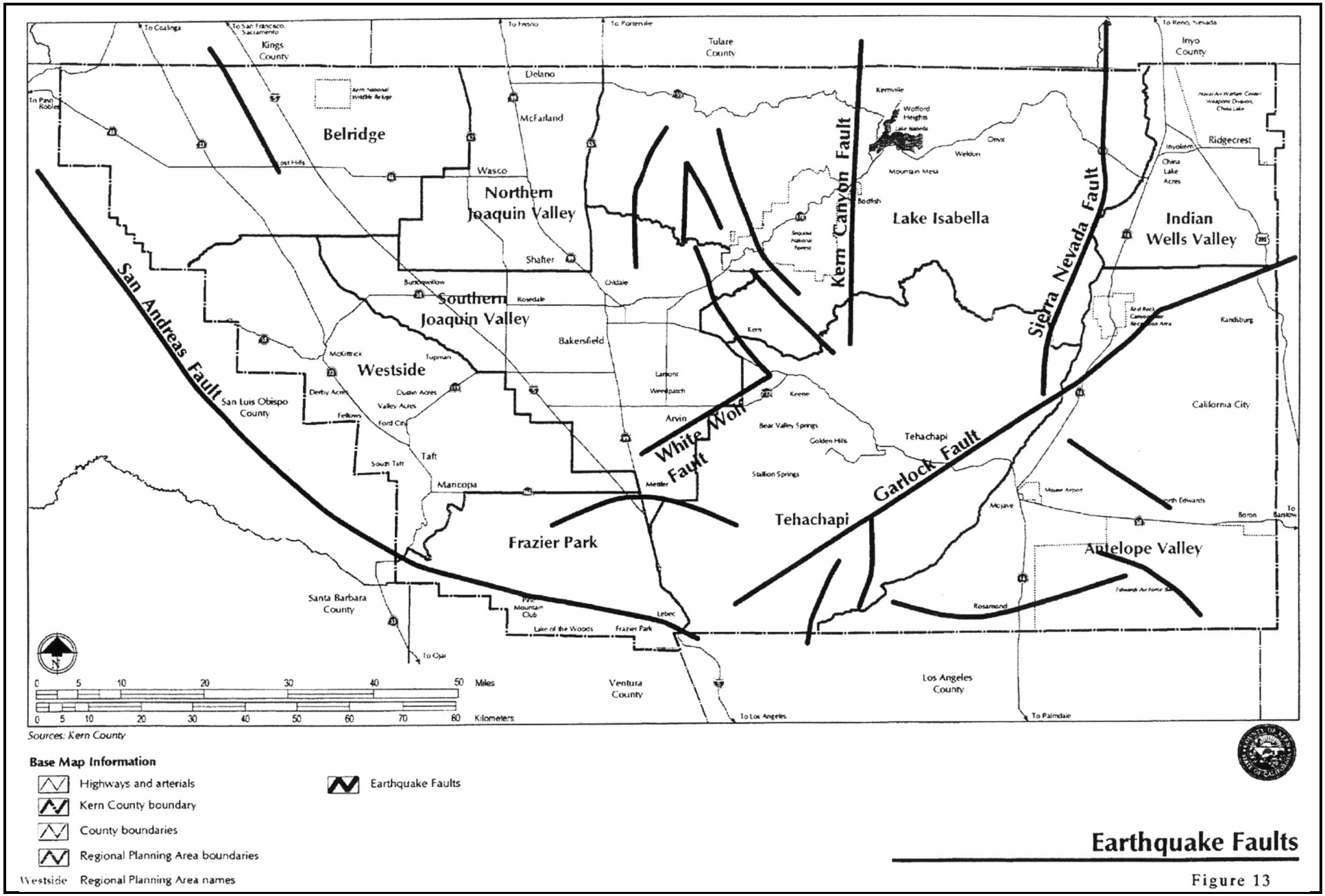


FIGURE VII-1

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Fault Map

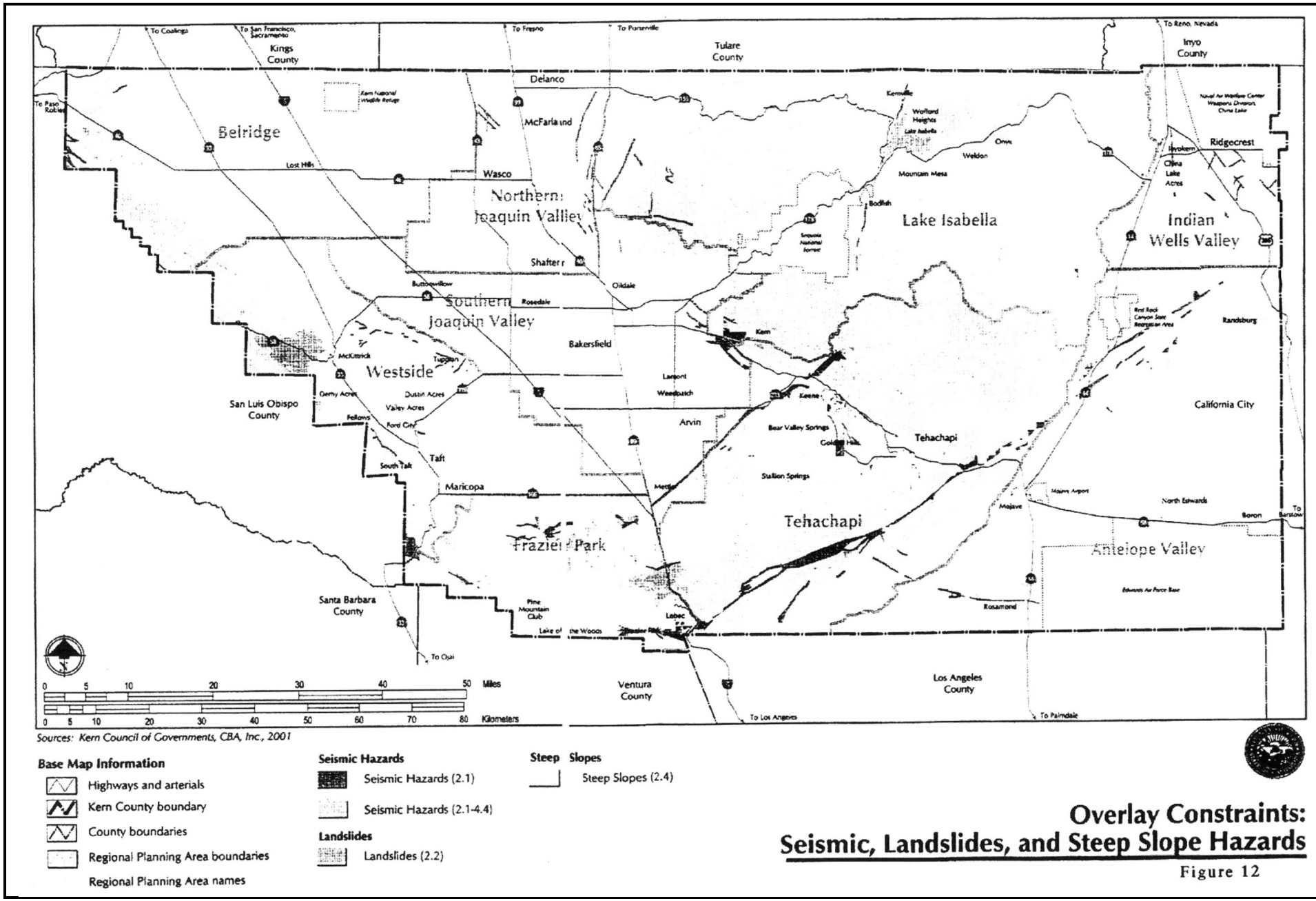


FIGURE VII-2

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Seismic, Landslides, and Steep Slope Hazards

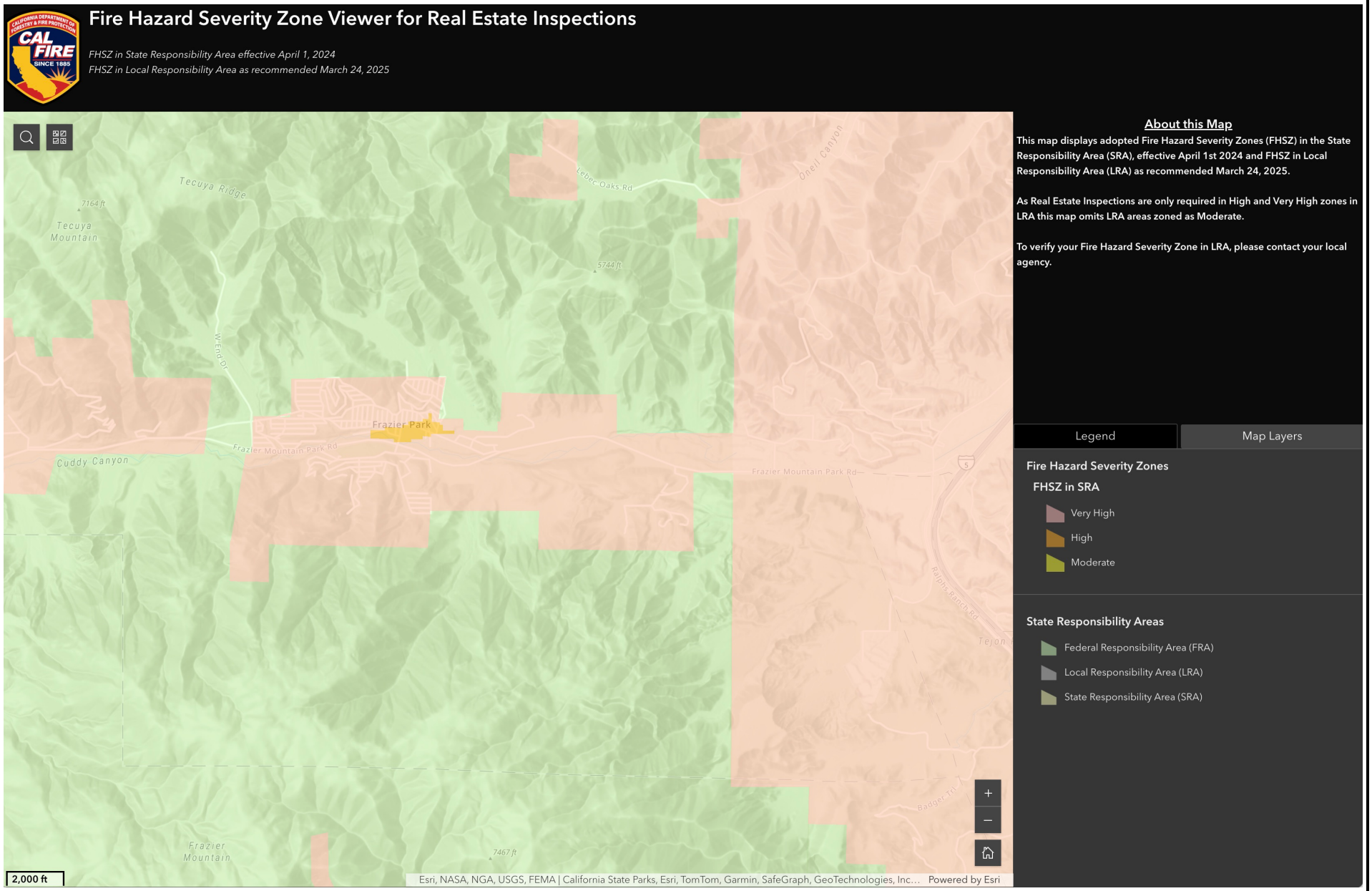
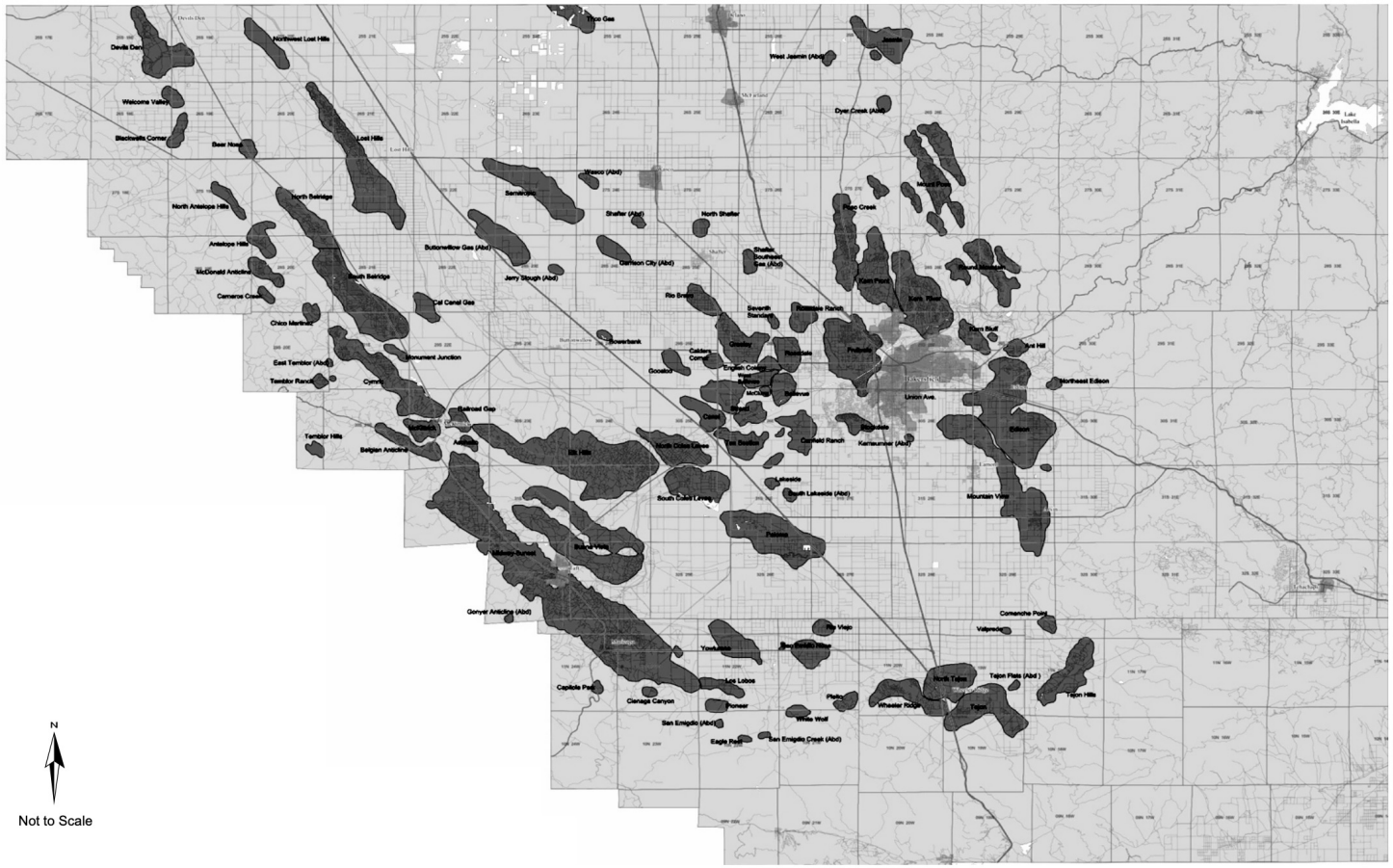


FIGURE IX-1

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Cal Fire Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map



Source: California Dept. of Conservation, Kern County, Quad Knopf, Inc.

Kern County Oil Fields

Figure 4.8-1

Kern County General Plan Update PEIR

FIGURE XII-1

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Oil Fields Map