

PUBLIC DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION MOORPARK YARD RESERVOIR NO. 2 PROJECT



Lead Agency:

Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1

6767 Spring Road

Moorpark, California, 93020

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Prepared by:

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DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE MOORPARK YARD RESERVOIR NO. 2 PROJECT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The affected parcel currently supports a 1.5-million-gallon potable water reservoir, booster pump station, the District office building, maintenance facilities, storage shed, pipe rack and two telecommunications antenna towers with supporting buildings and generators. The proposed Moorpark Yard Reservoir No. 2 would be constructed immediately east of the existing reservoir (see Figure 1).

The District proposes to build a new 1.0 million gallon potable water reservoir at the site (see Figures 1 and 2). The new reservoir would be an above-ground, welded steel tank, approximately 80.5-feet in diameter and 34 feet in height. A roof vent in the center of the reservoir would extend approximately three feet above the reservoir roof.

It is anticipated that the reservoir would be founded on a buried concrete ring wall and soil pad at an approximate elevation of 733.4 feet. A 24-foot-wide asphalt-surfaced area would be provided around the perimeter of the reservoir, with a concrete curb and gutter. The asphalt-surfaced area would connect to a short concrete apron that would connect the reservoir to an existing unpaved access road (see Figure 2).

Other elements include construction/installation of the following Project components:

- Buried water supply pipeline (16-inch diameter) connecting the new reservoir to the existing 16-inch diameter steel water main located approximately 200 feet west of the proposed reservoir and adjacent to the existing reservoir.
- A new inlet/outlet assembly at the existing reservoir and buried water supply pipeline (12-inch diameter) connecting the new reservoir to the existing reservoir.
- A perimeter stormwater interceptor drain along the north side of the reservoir with two new buried storm drains to connect to a proposed storm drain manhole to be constructed just east of the new reservoir.
- Two buried overflow drains connecting to concrete drain boxes at the tank, extending to the southeast and northeast and connecting to the proposed storm drain manhole.
- A new 24-inch diameter, 389-foot-long buried corrugated high-density polypropylene storm drain pipe connecting the proposed manhole to the swale located to the east. An outlet structure would be provided at the end of the storm drain pipe and include a headwall, wingwalls and 5.33-foot by 11.84-foot energy dissipater composed of 12-inch diameter (minimum) rock (24-inches thick with a buried cut-off wall).
- Wiring, conduits and controls as needed to connect the proposed reservoir to the existing booster pump station and the District's supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.

The preliminary construction start date is December 2026 and completion is expected to occur by June 2028. Construction would primarily occur eight hours per day, Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Site preparation would include grubbing and rough grading to provide access and a level building pad. The tank foundation site would be over-excavated and compacted in accordance with the Geotechnical Investigation Report, prepared for the project by Albus Associates (dated May 13, 2024). Other areas would be graded to produce required ground elevations for Project components. The concrete ring wall would be constructed and the welded steel tank assembled on-site. The tank perimeter area would be paved, and storm drains, overflow drains and storm drain manhole would be constructed. The storm drain pipe and energy dissipater would then be constructed.

Water pipeline and storm drain installation methods would be conventional trenching which includes cutting and removal of pavement (if present), excavation of a trench, preparation of the pipe bed, installation of the pipeline, backfilling the trench, compacting soils and restoring the surface to original conditions. The pipeline trenches would be about two to six feet deep (depending on pipe size and location), with a minimum soil cover of 12 inches.

The total earthwork footprint is estimated as 0.5 acres. It is anticipated that about 38 truck trips would be required for import of concrete, asphalt and other construction material, and import of earth fill materials. Additional truck trips would be required for mobilization and demobilization of equipment. Worker vehicle trips would also be generated during the construction period.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Project site is comprised of a portion of the 22.08 acre parcel (APN 513-0-130-03) owned by the District. This parcel includes the District's offices at 6767 Spring Road, Moorpark. The Project site is comprised of the southcentral portion of this parcel (about two acres) located in the City of Moorpark, approximately 1.2 miles northwest of the State Route 118/State Route 23 interchange.

PROJECT PROPONENT AND LEAD AGENCY

Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1
P.O. Box 250
6767 Spring Road
Moorpark, California 93020
Contact: Homer Arredondo (805) 378-3026

PROPOSED FINDINGS

The District has prepared this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to Sections 15070-15075 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act and the County of Ventura Administrative Supplement to the State CEQA Guidelines. This Mitigated Negative Declaration documents the District's finding that there are no significantly adverse unavoidable impacts associated with the proposed project, and the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The attached Initial Study identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts for identified subject areas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

In compliance with Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, the District will accept written comments on the adequacy of the information contained in the Draft MND. Please make sure that written comments reach the District's office by 5:00 p.m. on November 19, 2026, the close of the public review period. As a result of this project, potentially significant, but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the areas of biological resources, paleontological resources and archeological resources. After the close of the public comment period, the District will make appropriate changes to the document pursuant to the comments received and will release a Final MND.

Due to the non-complex nature of this project, a separate environmental hearing will not be held. However, public testimony will be accepted at the MND approval hearing before the Board of Supervisors. For information regarding scheduling of this hearing, please contact Mr. Homer Arredondo at (805) 378-3026.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures have been integrated into the proposed project and would reduce impacts to a level of less than significant.

Air Quality

Air pollutant emissions reduction measures recommended by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) Air Quality Assessment Guidelines (revised 2003) have been incorporated into the project including:

- The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation operations shall be minimized to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- Pre-grading/excavation activities shall include watering the area to be graded or excavated before commencement of grading or excavation operations. Application of water (preferably reclaimed, if available) should penetrate sufficiently to minimize fugitive dust during grading activities.
- All trucks shall be required to cover their loads as required by California Vehicle Code §23114.

- All graded and excavated material, exposed soil areas, and active portions of the construction site, including unpaved on-site roadways, shall be treated to prevent fugitive dust. Treatment shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, periodic watering, application of environmentally-safe soil stabilization materials, and/or roll-compaction as appropriate. Watering shall be done as often as necessary and reclaimed water shall be used whenever possible.
- Graded and/or excavated inactive areas of the construction site shall be monitored at least weekly for dust stabilization. Soil stabilization methods, such as water and roll-compaction, and environmentally-safe dust control materials, shall be periodically applied to portions of the construction site that are inactive for over four days. If no further grading or excavation operations are planned for the area, the area shall be seeded and watered until plant growth is evident, or periodically treated with environmentally-safe dust suppressants, to prevent excessive fugitive dust.
- Signs shall be posted on site limiting traffic to 15 miles per hour or less.
- During periods of high winds (i.e., wind speed sufficient to cause fugitive dust to impact adjacent properties), all clearing, grading, earth moving, and excavation operations shall be curtailed to the degree necessary to prevent fugitive dust created by on site activities and operations from being a nuisance or hazard, either off site or on site. The site superintendent/supervisor shall use his/her discretion in conjunction with the APCD in determining when winds are excessive.
- Adjacent streets and roads shall be swept at least once per day, preferably at the end of the day, if visible soil material is carried over to adjacent streets and roads.
- Personnel involved in grading operations, including contractors and subcontractors, shall be advised to wear respiratory protection in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health regulations.
- Material stockpiles shall be enclosed, covered, stabilized, or otherwise treated as needed to prevent blowing fugitive dust off site.
- All project construction and site preparation operations shall be conducted in compliance with all applicable VCAPCD Rules and Regulations with emphasis on Rule 50 (Opacity), Rule 51 (Nuisance), Rule 55 (Fugitive Dust) and Rule 10 (Permits Required).
- Off-road construction equipment shall utilize engines certified to the Federal Emissions Standard Category of Tier 3 or Tier 4, if available.
- Signs displaying the VCAPCD complaint line telephone number (805/303-1400 during business hours; 805/303-2797 after hours) shall be posted in a prominent location visible to the public.

Biological Resources

The District shall conduct all vegetation removal, grading and construction activities (affected activities, defined as any activity using heavy equipment or heavy-duty trucks) in such a way as to avoid nesting migratory birds. This can be accomplished by implementing one of the following options:

1. Timing of construction: Prohibit affected activities during the migratory bird breeding season February 15 through August 15, in which case the following measure is not required; or
2. Survey and avoidance of occupied nests: Conduct a breeding bird survey prior to any affected activities conducted during the breeding season (February 15 through August 15). The breeding bird survey shall be conducted no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of affected activities. The breeding bird survey shall include the work area and habitat areas within 300 feet of the work area. A nest buffer area (area between construction work and the nest site) shall be identified for any active nests. Construction work within the nest buffer area shall be avoided until the nest is abandoned or juvenile birds have become independent of the nest.

Implementation of the above measures would minimize project-related disturbance of active bird nests, which would reduce impacts to migratory birds to a level of less than significant.

Paleontological Resources

The District shall implement a paleontological monitoring program for project areas where excavation would have the potential to impact native Saugus Formation materials. The paleontological monitoring program shall be comprised of the following elements:

- A qualified paleontologist shall be retained by the District to monitor initial tank foundation excavation activities into native Saugus Formation materials to determine if continued monitoring is warranted, and if so, to develop a monitoring schedule.
- The project paleontologist shall provide an educational overview relating to paleontological issues in Ventura County and protection of resources at the project site to all construction employees who shall be onsite during the ground-disturbing phases of project construction.
- In the event that fossil remains are found during project construction, work shall be stopped immediately or redirected away from the find. A qualified paleontologist shall be called immediately to assess the site and determine further mitigation measures to be implemented as necessary.
- If fossils are encountered, the paleontologist shall salvage scientifically significant fossil remains.
- The paleontologist shall have the power to temporarily halt or divert grading efforts to allow evaluation and any necessary salvage of exposed fossils which are determined as potentially significant.

- All significant fossils collected shall be identified. These remains shall be donated to an institution with research and/or educational interest in the materials and a retrievable storage system such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.
- Locations of recorded fossil localities are confidential and are to be released on a “need to know” basis only to reduce unauthorized collecting activities.
- A final report summarizing findings, including an itemized inventory and contextual stratigraphic data, shall accompany the fossils to the designated repository with a copy also retained by the District.

Implementation of these measures would minimize potential adverse effects to discovered paleontological resources, which would reduce impacts to a level of less than significant.

Archaeological Resources

The following mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to prevent significant impacts, should resources be found during project-related earthwork:

- A worker cultural resources awareness program shall be implemented for the Project. Prior to any ground-disturbing activity, the District shall provide an initial sensitivity training session to all Project employees, contractors, subcontractors, and other workers prior to their involvement in any ground-disturbing activities, with subsequent training sessions to accommodate new personnel becoming involved in the Project. The program may be conducted together with other environmental or safety awareness and education programs for the Project, provided that the program elements pertaining to cultural resources are provided by a qualified archaeologist.
- Initial tank foundation excavation and related earthwork shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and a Native American representative.
- In the event cultural resources are encountered during the proposed Project (outside the areas of required monitoring), the District shall cease construction activities within a 100-foot radius. Work will resume once an archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards for Archaeology has assessed the find and identified and implemented appropriate mitigation measures.
- If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to the origin and deposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission.

Implementation of these measures would minimize potential adverse effects to discovered cultural resources and human remains, which would reduce archaeological resources impacts to a level of less than significant.

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING

Section 15074(d) of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act and Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code, requires the lead agency (District) to adopt a monitoring program to ensure mitigation measures are complied with during implementation of the project. In compliance with these requirements, a Mitigation Monitoring Program Implementation Table is provided below. This Table identifies the timing, monitoring methods, responsibility and compliance verification method for all mitigation measures identified in this MND. Monitoring would be conducted by the District's project manager and qualified specialists under contract to the District.

**MOORPARK YARD RESERVOIR NO. 2 PROJECT
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM – IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Frequency	Party Responsible for Monitoring	Method of Compliance Verification	Verification of Compliance		
						Signature	Date	Remarks
AIR QUALITY								
The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation operations shall be minimized to prevent excessive amounts of dust.	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will observe work in progress	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
Pre-grading/excavation activities shall include watering the area to be graded or excavated before commencement of grading or excavation operations. Application of water (preferably reclaimed, if available) should penetrate sufficiently to minimize fugitive dust during grading activities	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will observe work in progress	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
All trucks shall be required to cover their loads as required by California Vehicle Code §23114.	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will observe work in progress	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
All graded and excavated material, exposed soil areas, and active portions of the construction site, including unpaved on-site roadways, shall be treated to prevent fugitive dust. Treatment shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, periodic watering, application of environmentally-safe soil stabilization materials, and/or roll-compaction as appropriate. Watering shall be done as often as necessary and reclaimed water shall be used whenever possible.	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will inspect roadways and other exposed soils for excessive dust generation	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			

**MOORPARK YARD RESERVOIR NO. 2 PROJECT
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM – IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Frequency	Party Responsible for Monitoring	Method of Compliance Verification	Verification of Compliance		
						Signature	Date	Remarks
AIR QUALITY (Continued)								
Graded and/or excavated inactive areas of the construction site shall be monitored at least weekly for dust stabilization. Soil stabilization methods, such as water and roll-compaction, and environmentally-safe dust control materials, shall be periodically applied to portions of the construction site that are inactive for over four days. If no further grading or excavation operations are planned for the area, the area should be seeded and watered until grass growth is evident, or periodically treated with environmentally-safe dust suppressants, to prevent excessive fugitive dust	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will inspect dust control efforts and order additional measures as needed	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
Signs shall be posted on-site limiting off-road traffic speed to 15 miles per hour or less	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will ensure signs are posted and maintained	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
During periods of high winds (i.e., wind speed sufficient to cause fugitive dust to impact adjacent properties), all clearing, grading, earth moving, and excavation operations shall be curtailed to the degree necessary to prevent fugitive dust created by on-site activities and operations from being a nuisance or hazard, either off-site or on-site. The site superintendent/supervisor shall use his/her discretion in conjunction with the VCAPCD in determining when winds are excessive	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will coordinate with site supervisor to curtail construction operations as needed during high wind periods	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
Adjacent streets and roads shall be swept at least once per day, preferably at the end of the day, if visible soil material is carried over to adjacent streets and roads	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will ensure roads are swept as needed	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			

**MOORPARK YARD RESERVOIR NO. 2 PROJECT
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM – IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Frequency	Party Responsible for Monitoring	Method of Compliance Verification	Verification of Compliance		
						Signature	Date	Remarks
AIR QUALITY (Continued)								
Personnel involved in grading operations, including contractors and subcontractors, should be advised to wear respiratory protection in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health regulations	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will observe work in progress	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
Material stockpiles shall be enclosed, covered, stabilized, or otherwise treated as needed to prevent blowing fugitive dust off-site.	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will observe work in progress	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
All project construction and site preparation operations shall be conducted in compliance with all applicable VCAPCD Rules and Regulations with emphasis on Rule 50 (Opacity), Rule 51 (Nuisance), Rule 55 (Fugitive Dust) and Rule 10 (Permits Required).	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will observe work in progress	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
Signs displaying the VCAPCD complaint line telephone number (805/303-1400 during business hours; 805/303-2797 after hours) shall be posted in a prominent location visible to the public.	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will ensure the signage is in place	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
Off-road construction equipment shall utilize engines certified to the Federal Emissions Standard Category of Tier 3 or Tier 4, if available.	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will ensure appropriate engines are used	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			

**MOORPARK YARD RESERVOIR NO. 2 PROJECT
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM – IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Frequency	Party Responsible for Monitoring	Method of Compliance Verification	Verification of Compliance		
						Signature	Date	Remarks
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES								
1. Prohibit affected activities during the migratory bird breeding season February 15 through August 15, in which case the following measure is not required; OR 2. Conduct a breeding bird survey prior to any affected activities conducted during the breeding season (February 15 through August 15). The breeding bird survey shall be conducted no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of affected activities. The breeding bird survey shall include the work area and habitat areas within 300 feet of the work area. A nest buffer area (area between construction work and the nest site) shall be identified for any active nests. Construction work within the nest buffer area shall be avoided until the nest is abandoned or juvenile birds have become independent of the nest.	Bird breeding season: February 15 through August 15	The construction inspector will ensure breeding bird surveys and nest avoidance is conducted as required	Weekly during the bird breeding season	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES								
- A qualified paleontologist shall be retained by the District to monitor initial tank foundation excavation activities into native Saugus Formation materials to determine if continued monitoring is warranted, and if so, to develop a monitoring schedule. - The project paleontologist shall provide an educational overview relating to paleontological issues in Ventura County and protection of resources at the project site to all construction employees who shall be onsite during the ground-disturbing phases of project construction.	During initial excavation to depth into the Saugus Formation	The construction inspector will ensure paleontological monitoring is conducted and the educational overview is provided	Weekly during excavation	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			

**MOORPARK YARD RESERVOIR NO. 2 PROJECT
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM – IMPLEMENTATION TABLE**

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Frequency	Party Responsible for Monitoring	Method of Compliance Verification	Verification of Compliance		
						Signature	Date	Remarks
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Continued)								
• In the event that fossil remains are found during project construction, work shall be stopped immediately or redirected away from the find. A qualified paleontologist shall be called immediately to assess the site and determine further mitigation measures to be implemented as necessary. • If fossils are encountered, the paleontologist shall salvage scientifically significant fossil remains. • The paleontologist shall have the power to temporarily halt or divert grading efforts to allow evaluation and any necessary salvage of exposed fossils which are determined as potentially significant. • All significant fossils collected shall be identified. These remains shall be donated to an institution with research and/or educational interest in the materials and a retrievable storage system such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. • Locations of recorded fossil localities are confidential and are to be released on a “need to know” basis only to reduce unauthorized collecting activities. • A final report summarizing findings, including an itemized inventory and contextual stratigraphic data, shall accompany the fossils to the designated repository with a copy also retained by the District.	During initial excavation to depth into the Saugus Formation	The construction inspector will ensure work is stopped and evaluation and reporting of any discovered paleontological resources is conducted	Weekly during excavation	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			

MOORPARK YARD RESERVOIR NO. 2 PROJECT
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM – IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Frequency	Party Responsible for Monitoring	Method of Compliance Verification	Verification of Compliance		
						Signature	Date	Remarks
CULTURAL RESOURCES								
A worker cultural resources awareness program shall be implemented for the Project. Prior to any ground-disturbing activity, the District shall provide an initial sensitivity training session to all Project employees, contractors, subcontractors, and other workers prior to their involvement in any ground-disturbing activities, with subsequent training sessions to accommodate new personnel becoming involved in the Project. The program may be conducted together with other environmental or safety awareness and education programs for the Project, provided that the program elements pertaining to cultural resources are provided by a qualified archaeologist.	Prior to any ground disturbing activity	The District project manager will ensure the program is implemented	Once prior to construction and as needed if new workers become involved in the project	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
Initial tank foundation excavation and related earthwork shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and a Native American representative.	Prior to any tank foundation excavation	The District project manager will ensure monitoring is conducted	Daily when work is affecting archeological site CA-VEN-791	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will review inspection reports			
In the event cultural resources are encountered during the proposed Project (outside the areas of required monitoring), the District shall cease construction activities within a 100-foot radius. Work will resume once an archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards for Archaeology has assessed the find and identified and implemented appropriate mitigation measures.	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will observe work in progress and ensure work is suspended as appropriate, the project manager will ensure evaluation of the find is completed	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will prepare an incident report to be included in the project inspection report			

MOORPARK YARD RESERVOIR NO. 2 PROJECT
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM – IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Methods	Monitoring Frequency	Party Responsible for Monitoring	Method of Compliance Verification	Verification of Compliance		
						Signature	Date	Remarks
CULTURAL RESOURCES (Continued)								
If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to the origin and deposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission.	Throughout the construction period	The construction inspector will observe work in progress and ensure work is suspended as appropriate, the project manager will notify the coroner	Initially and weekly thereafter	Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1	District staff will prepare an incident report to be included in the project inspection report			

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

An Initial Study has been prepared for the Moorpark Yard Reservoir No. 2 Project (proposed Project), which has been proposed by Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1 (District), the Project proponent. Section 2.0 of this document provides a description of the proposed Project. The District is also the “lead agency” for the proposed Project. As defined by Section 15367 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the lead agency is “the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project which may have a significant impact on the environment.” Based on the findings of the Impact Analysis (Section 4.0 of this Initial Study), it has been determined that the Project would not have a significant impact on the environment. As such, a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared for the Project in accordance with CEQA.

1.2 PROJECT PROPONENT AND LEAD AGENCY

Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1
P.O. Box 250
6767 Spring Road
Moorpark, California 93020

Contact: Homer Arredondo (805) 378-3026

1.3 PROJECT LOCATION

The Project site is comprised of a portion of the 22.08 acre parcel (APN 513-0-130-03) owned by the District (see Figure 1). This parcel includes the District’s offices at 6767 Spring Road, Moorpark. The Project site is comprised of the southcentral portion of this parcel (as shown in Figure 1) located in the City of Moorpark, approximately 1.2 miles northwest of the State Route 118/State Route 23 interchange.

1.4 DISTRICT BACKGROUND

The District was formed on November 22, 1921, and serves approximately 37,576 customers through 10,194 service connections, including 10,053 residential and commercial service connections and 141 agricultural service connections. The District encompasses approximately 19,800 acres and includes the City of Moorpark and contiguous unincorporated areas to the north and west. The District provides both water and sanitation services to the customers within its service area. District water supplies come from both imported and local (groundwater) sources.

1.5 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the Project is to provide sufficient potable water storage capacity to serve Hitch Ranch. The Hitch Ranch Development is comprised of a four phased residential project totaling 755 dwelling units (single-family and multi-family residences) and is located approximately 0.8 miles southwest of the Project site. A Water Supply Assessment prepared for the project indicated that the District has sufficient water supplies to serve Hitch Ranch (Milner-Villa Consulting, 2019). However, the District is requiring the developer to provide capital improvements needed to serve Hitch Ranch, including the proposed potable water reservoir.

1.6 PREPARERS OF THE INITIAL STUDY

This document was prepared for the District by the following persons:

- Padre Associates: Matt Ingamells, Project Manager/Senior Biologist
- Padre Associates: Rachael Letter, Senior Archaeologist
- Padre Associates: Chris Letter, Staff Archaeologist
- Padre Associates: Cody Heap, Graphics Specialist

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 EXISTING FACILITIES

The affected parcel currently supports a 1.5-million-gallon potable water reservoir, booster pump station, the District office building, maintenance facilities, storage shed, pipe rack and two telecommunications antenna towers with supporting buildings and generators. The Project site supports a 1.5-million-gallon potable water reservoir, booster pump station, storage shed and pipe rack. The proposed Moorpark Yard Reservoir No. 2 would be constructed immediately east of the existing reservoir (see Figure 1).

2.2 PROJECT COMPONENTS

The District proposes to build a new 1.0 million gallon potable water reservoir at the site (see Figures 1 and 2). The new reservoir would be an above-ground, welded steel tank, approximately 80.5-feet in diameter and 34 feet in height. A roof vent in the center of the reservoir would extend approximately three feet above the reservoir roof.

It is anticipated that the reservoir would be founded on a buried concrete ring wall and soil pad at an approximate elevation of 733.4 feet. A 24-foot-wide asphalt-surfaced area would be provided around the perimeter of the reservoir, with a concrete curb and gutter. The asphalt-surfaced area would connect to a short concrete apron that would connect the reservoir to an existing unpaved access road.

Other elements include construction/installation of the following Project components:

- Buried water supply pipeline (16-inch diameter) connecting the new reservoir to the existing 16-inch diameter steel water main located approximately 200 feet west of the proposed reservoir and adjacent to the existing reservoir.

- A new inlet/outlet assembly at the existing reservoir and buried water supply pipeline (12-inch diameter) connecting the new reservoir to the existing reservoir.
- A perimeter stormwater interceptor drain along the north side of the reservoir with two new buried storm drains to connect to a proposed storm drain manhole to be constructed just east of the new reservoir.
- Two buried overflow drains connecting to concrete drain boxes at the tank, extending to the southeast and northeast and connecting to the proposed storm drain manhole.
- A new 24-inch diameter, 389-foot-long buried corrugated high-density polypropylene storm drain pipe connecting the proposed manhole to the swale located to the east. An outlet structure would be provided at the end of the storm drain pipe and include a headwall, wingwalls and 5.33-foot by 11.84-foot energy dissipater composed of 12-inch diameter (minimum) rock (24-inches thick with a buried cut-off wall).
- Wiring, conduits and controls as needed to connect the proposed reservoir to the existing booster pump station and the District's supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.

2.3 PROJECT SCHEDULE

The preliminary construction start date is December 2026 and completion is expected to occur by June 2028. Construction would primarily occur eight hours per day, Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 am and 4:00 pm.

2.4 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

2.4.1 Methods

Site preparation would include grubbing and rough grading to provide access and a level building pad. The tank foundation site would be over-excavated and compacted in accordance with the Geotechnical Investigation Report, prepared for the project by Albus Associates (dated May 13, 2024). Other areas would be graded to produce required ground elevations for Project components. The concrete ring wall would be constructed and the welded steel tank assembled on-site. The tank perimeter area would be paved, and storm drains, overflow drains and storm drain manhole would be constructed. The storm drain pipe and energy dissipater would then be constructed.

Water pipeline and storm drain installation methods would be conventional trenching which includes cutting and removal of pavement (if present), excavation of a trench, preparation of the pipe bed, installation of the pipeline, backfilling the trench, compacting soils and restoring the surface to original conditions. The pipeline trenches would be about two to six feet deep (depending on pipe size and location), with a minimum soil cover of 12 inches.

The tank grading footprint is estimated as 0.5 acres (see Figure 1). Estimates of cut, fill, import and export volumes for the Project are provided in Table 1. It is anticipated that about 38 truck trips would be required for import of concrete, asphalt and other construction material, and import of earth fill materials (Table 2). Additional truck trips would be required for mobilization and demobilization of equipment. Worker vehicle trips would also be generated during the construction period.

Table 1. Estimate of Cut/Fill and Import/Export Earthwork Volumes

Parameter	Volume (cubic yards)
Estimated cut volume	160
Estimated fill volume	152
Export volume (difference)	8

Table 2. Estimate of Construction-related Truck Round Trips

Task	Round Trips
Concrete/asphalt/rock	27
Water and storm drain pipes	5
Tank shell and appurtenances	5
Export cut earth material	1
Total	38

Traffic control measures would be used when construction activities may affect traffic flow on Spring Road. Standard traffic control methods acceptable to the Ventura County Public Works Agency would be implemented.

2.4.2 Equipment

The construction equipment anticipated to be required for the proposed Project is listed below. Equipment likely to be required for Project construction includes:

- Dozer
- Wheeled loader
- Backhoe
- Grader
- Welding machines
- Tracked excavator
- Water truck
- Dump truck
- Crane
- Concrete truck
- Delivery trucks (materials)

- Soil compactor
- Paver
- Roller compactor (asphalt)
- Air compressor
- Portable generator

2.4.3 Manpower

It is estimated that a crew of up to 16 personnel would be required for Project construction with a maximum of 12 construction employees being required at any one time.

2.4.4 Construction Staging Areas

Staging of equipment and materials would likely be provided on the District's parcel, likely just west of the existing reservoir.

2.5 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Long-term operations and maintenance requirements for the Project would be minimal as the operation of the new reservoir would be automated. The exterior of the reservoir and the site in general would be inspected on a weekly basis by District staff. Any necessary maintenance (e.g., weed abatement, painting of the reservoir, repair of the perimeter paved area) would be conducted when needed. The interior would be inspected once every five years by a consulting specialist. No new permanent employees would be required as a result of the Project.

2.6 RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES AND PERMITS

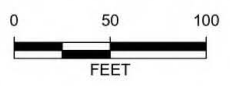
Project implementation would require the following permits and/or approvals:

- Reservoir construction activities would require coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater General Permit Order 2022-0057-DWQ (adopted September 8, 2022) from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region. However, this is not a discretionary action, and the Regional Board would not be considered a responsible agency under CEQA.
- Reservoir construction activities may require a grading permit from the City of Moorpark. However, this is not a discretionary action, and the City would not be considered a responsible agency under CEQA.



- LEGEND:**
- Proposed Grading Limits
 - Project Parcel
 - Parcel Boundary
 - Proposed Tank

MAP EXTENT:

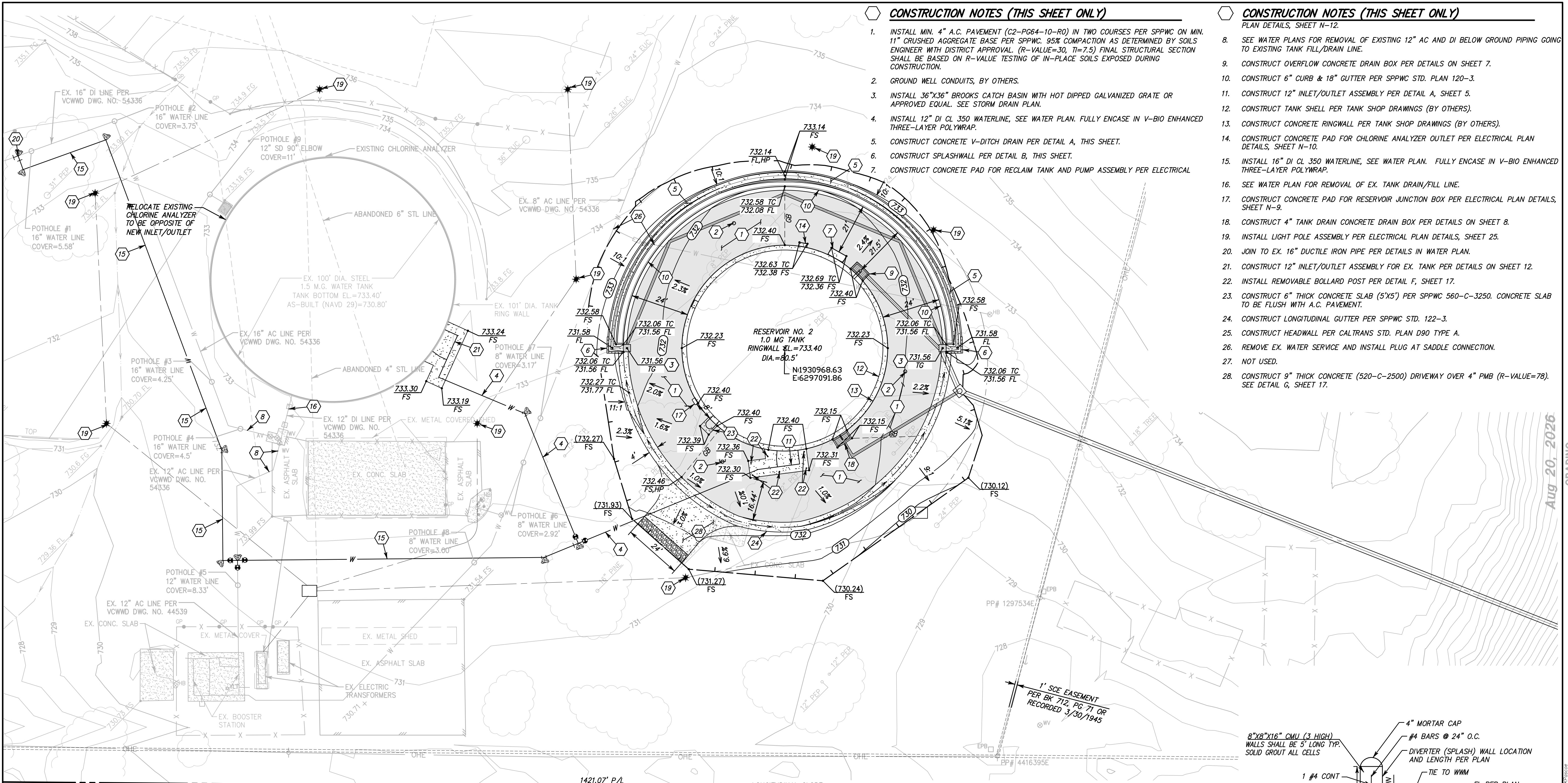


Source: Google Earth Imagery 3/3/24
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet
Notes: This map was created for informational and display purposes only.



PROJECT NAME: MOORPARK YARD RESERVOIR NO. 2 PROJECT VENTURA COUNTY, CA	
PROJECT NUMBER: R26-01825	DATE: September 2026

**PROJECT SITE
LOCATION MAP**



CONSTRUCTION NOTES (THIS SHEET ONLY)

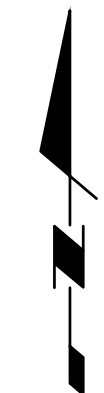
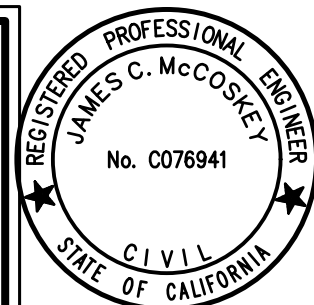
1. INSTALL MIN. 4" A.C. PAVEMENT (C2-PG64-10-R0) IN TWO COURSES PER SPPWC ON MIN. 11" CRUSHED AGGREGATE BASE PER SPPWC. 95% COMPACTION AS DETERMINED BY SOILS ENGINEER WITH DISTRICT APPROVAL. (R-VALUE=30, TI=7.5) FINAL STRUCTURAL SECTION SHALL BE BASED ON R-VALUE TESTING OF IN-PLACE SOILS EXPOSED DURING CONSTRUCTION.
2. GROUND WELL CONDUITS, BY OTHERS.
3. INSTALL 36"x36" BROOKS CATCH BASIN WITH HOT DIPPED GALVANIZED GRATE OR APPROVED EQUAL. SEE STORM DRAIN PLAN.
4. INSTALL 12" DI CL 350 WATERLINE, SEE WATER PLAN. FULLY ENCASE IN V-BIO ENHANCED THREE-LAYER POLYWRAP.
5. CONSTRUCT CONCRETE V-DITCH DRAIN PER DETAIL A, THIS SHEET.
6. CONSTRUCT SPLASHWALL PER DETAIL B, THIS SHEET.
7. CONSTRUCT CONCRETE PAD FOR RECLAIM TANK AND PUMP ASSEMBLY PER ELECTRICAL

CONSTRUCTION NOTES (THIS SHEET ONLY)

- PLAN DETAILS, SHEET N-12.
8. SEE WATER PLANS FOR REMOVAL OF EXISTING 12" AC AND DI BELOW GROUND PIPING GOING TO EXISTING TANK FILL/DRAIN LINE.
 9. CONSTRUCT OVERFLOW CONCRETE DRAIN BOX PER DETAILS ON SHEET 7.
 10. CONSTRUCT 6" CURB & 18" GUTTER PER SPPWC STD. PLAN 120-3.
 11. CONSTRUCT 12" INLET/OUTLET ASSEMBLY PER DETAIL A, SHEET 5.
 12. CONSTRUCT TANK SHELL PER TANK SHOP DRAWINGS (BY OTHERS).
 13. CONSTRUCT CONCRETE RINGWALL PER TANK SHOP DRAWINGS (BY OTHERS).
 14. CONSTRUCT CONCRETE PAD FOR CHLORINE ANALYZER OUTLET PER ELECTRICAL PLAN DETAILS, SHEET N-10.
 15. INSTALL 16" DI CL 350 WATERLINE, SEE WATER PLAN. FULLY ENCASE IN V-BIO ENHANCED THREE-LAYER POLYWRAP.
 16. SEE WATER PLAN FOR REMOVAL OF EX. TANK DRAIN/FILL LINE.
 17. CONSTRUCT CONCRETE PAD FOR RESERVOIR JUNCTION BOX PER ELECTRICAL PLAN DETAILS, SHEET N-9.
 18. CONSTRUCT 4" TANK DRAIN CONCRETE DRAIN BOX PER DETAILS ON SHEET 8.
 19. INSTALL LIGHT POLE ASSEMBLY PER ELECTRICAL PLAN DETAILS, SHEET 25.
 20. JOIN TO EX. 16" DUCTILE IRON PIPE PER DETAILS IN WATER PLAN.
 21. CONSTRUCT 12" INLET/OUTLET ASSEMBLY FOR EX. TANK PER DETAILS ON SHEET 12.
 22. INSTALL REMOVABLE BOLLARD POST PER DETAIL F, SHEET 17.
 23. CONSTRUCT 6" THICK CONCRETE SLAB (5'X5') PER SPPWC 560-C-3250. CONCRETE SLAB TO BE FLUSH WITH A.C. PAVEMENT.
 24. CONSTRUCT LONGITUDINAL GUTTER PER SPPWC STD. 122-3.
 25. CONSTRUCT HEADWALL PER CALTRANS STD. PLAN D90 TYPE A.
 26. REMOVE EX. WATER SERVICE AND INSTALL PLUG AT SADDLE CONNECTION.
 27. NOT USED.
 28. CONSTRUCT 9" THICK CONCRETE (520-C-2500) DRIVEWAY OVER 4" PMB (R-VALUE=78). SEE DETAIL G, SHEET 17.

NOTICE TO THE CONTRACTOR

THE EARTHWORK SUMMARY IS PROVIDED AS A COURTESY AND CONVENIENCE TO THE CONTRACTOR. QUANTITIES SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE, BASED ON THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EXISTING GROUND ELEVATIONS AND FINISH GRADE ELEVATIONS. QUANTITIES PROVIDED MAKE NO PROVISIONS FOR PAVING SECTIONS, TANK RINGWALL, OR OVEREXCAVATION. VARIABLES SUCH AS COMPACTION, SHRINKAGE AND THE CONTRACTOR'S METHOD OF OPERATION, WILL CAUSE THE VOLUME OF DIRT MOVED IN THE FIELD TO DEVIATE FROM THE CALCULATED QUANTITIES. IT IS THE CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE THE EARTHWORK REQUIREMENTS TO ROUGH GRADE THIS JOB.



EARTHWORK VOLUMES

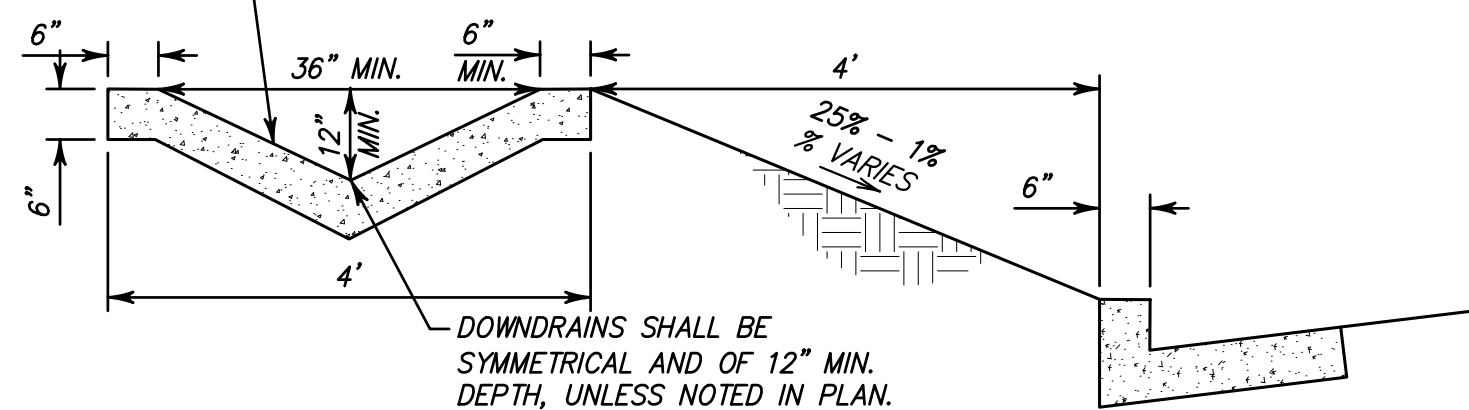
CUT FACTOR	FILL FACTOR	2D AREA	CUT	FILL	NET
0.80	1.0	0.48 ACRES	159 CY	495 CY	336 CY

NOTE: STORAGE TANK STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS PER MANUFACTURER'S APPROVED DESIGN SUBMITTAL.

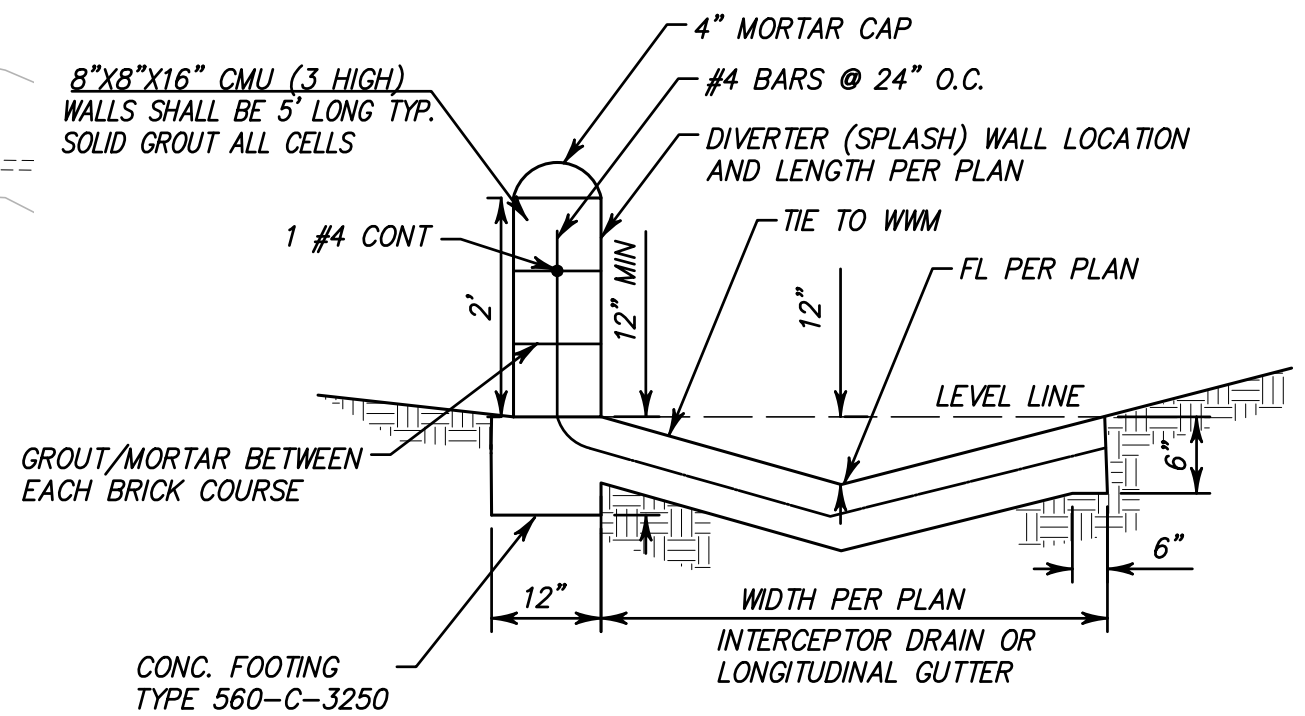
CAUTION:

EXISTING UTILITIES WERE LOCATED FROM BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION. CONTRACTOR SHALL POTHOLE AND LOCATE EXISTING UTILITIES PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION AND NOTIFY ENGINEER OF ANY DISCREPANCIES.

LONGITUDINAL SLOPE SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN 0.5%



A INTERCEPTOR DRAIN
NOT TO SCALE



B SPLASHWALL DETAIL
NOT TO SCALE

REVISION	DESCRIPTION	BY	APP	DATE
1				
2				
3				
4				

JAMES C. MCCOSKEY R.C.E. C076941 (EXP. 12-31-26)	DATE
--	------



1672 DONLON STREET
VENTURA, CALIF. 93003
PHONE 805/654-6977
WEB www.sanbell.com

PROJECT MANAGER, WATER
AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT

DRAWN BY:
JUN
CHECKED BY:
JCM

VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS
DISTRICT NO. 1

SPECIFICATION NO.
N/A
PROJ. NO.
31679

MOORPARK YARD RESERVOIR NO. 2
TRACT 5708 HITCH RANCH OFFSITE
TANK SITE PLAN AND GRADING

SHEET
OF
41
DRAWING NO.



a. Proposed reservoir site with existing tank in background, facing west



b. Existing storage facilities and booster pump station (background)



c. Proposed reservoir site, facing east



d. Existing tank and storage shed, facing west

3.0 LAND USE SETTING

The Project site comprises about two acres (including construction staging and materials lay-down areas) of Assessor's Parcel Number 513-0-130-03. This 22.08-acre parcel is owned by the District and is zoned Industrial in the City of Moorpark's General Plan 2050 with a land use designation of Public Facilities.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

This section evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. The analysis of potential impacts utilizes methodology and impact threshold criteria provided in the Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines since the lead agency (Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1) is a County Waterworks District organized under Water Code Section 55000 et seq. However, the proposed Project would be located in the City of Moorpark, and the City's impact threshold criteria are used where available and applicable.

This Initial Study uses the 2011 Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAG) since CEQA analysis began in October 2023, prior to the adoption of the 2025 ISAG in September 2025. Since Ventura County is not issuing a development permit, an application was not filed. For the purposes of this Initial Study, the project was determined to be complete when engineering drawings and associated studies were completed in September 2023.

Impact analysis is organized by environmental topic (e.g., air quality, water resources, etc.). The determinations of significance for project-level and cumulative impacts are summarized in the Initial Study Checklist, which is attached to this document. Cumulative impacts were assessed to determine if the project's incremental contribution would be considerable, such that an environmental impact report would be required. Cumulative impacts were considered significant if project-specific impacts would be significant. Growth inducement is discussed in a separate section following cumulative impacts.

ISSUE 1: AIR QUALITY

Setting. Criteria Pollutants. Criteria air pollutants are those contaminants for which State and Federal ambient air quality standards have been established for the protection of public health and welfare. Criteria pollutants include ozone (O₃) carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less (PM₁₀) and particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}).

Regulatory Overview. Air pollution control is administered on three governmental levels. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has jurisdiction under the Clean Air Act, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has jurisdiction under the California Health and Safety Code and the California Clean Air Act, and local districts (Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [VCAPCD]) share responsibility with the CARB for ensuring that all State and Federal ambient air quality standards are attained.

California is divided geographically into air basins for the purpose of managing the air resources of the State on a regional basis. An air basin generally has similar meteorological and geographic conditions throughout. The Project site is situated in the South Central Coast Air Basin, which encompasses the counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. The USEPA and CARB classify an area as attainment, unclassified, or nonattainment depending on whether or not the monitored ambient air quality data shows compliance, insufficient data available, or non-compliance with the ambient air quality standards, respectively.

Attainment Status. The proposed reservoir would be located in central Ventura County (South Central Coast Air Basin). Ventura County has been designated by CARB and USEPA as unclassified or in attainment of all criteria ambient air pollutant standards with the exception of:

- Federal 2015 8-hour ozone standard: non-attainment, classified as “serious”.
- California 1-hour ozone standard: non-attainment.
- California particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM₁₀) standard: non-attainment.

According to the baseline (2018) air pollutant emissions inventory presented in the VCAPCD’s 2022 Air Quality Management Plan, mobile sources (on-road vehicles, trains, aircraft, marine vessels, farm equipment) account for about 44 percent of the Reactive Organic Compound (ROC) emissions and 92 percent of the NO_x emissions in the County.

Air Quality Planning - Federal. The Federal government first adopted the Clean Air Act (CAA) in 1963 to improve air quality and protect citizens’ health and welfare, which required implementation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The NAAQS are revised and changed when scientific evidence indicates a need. The CAA also requires each state to prepare an air quality control plan referred to as a State Implementation Plan (SIP). The CAA Amendments of 1990 added requirements for states with non-attainment areas to revise their SIPs to incorporate additional control measures to reduce air pollution. The SIP is modified periodically to reflect the latest emissions inventories, planning documents, and rules and regulations of the air basins as reported by their jurisdictional agencies.

The USEPA has been charged with implementing Federal air quality programs, which includes the review and approval of all SIPs to determine if they conform to the mandates of the CAA and its amendments, and to determine whether implementation of the SIPs will achieve air quality goals. If the USEPA determines that a SIP is inadequate, a Federal Implementation Plan that imposes additional control measures may be prepared for the non-attainment area. Failure to submit an approvable SIP or to implement the SIP within the mandated time frame may result in application of sanctions to transportation funding and stationary air pollution sources within the air basin.

Pursuant to the CAA, State and local agencies are responsible for planning for attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS. The USEPA classifies air basins (i.e., distinct geographic regions) as either “attainment” or “non-attainment” for each criteria pollutant, based on whether the NAAQS have been achieved. Some air basins have not received sufficient analysis for certain criteria air pollutants and are designated as “unclassified” for those pollutants. The VCAPCD and CARB are the responsible agencies for providing attainment plans and for demonstrating attainment of these standards within the Project area.

The VCAPCD completed the 2016 update to the County's Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) on February 14, 2017 to build on past AQMPs, including a strategy to attain the 2008 Federal 8-hour ozone standard, photochemical modeling to demonstrate the strategy would ultimately result in attainment of the Federal ozone standard, and a demonstration that reasonable further progress towards attainment of the Federal 8-hour ozone standard would occur. The 2016 AQMP includes control strategies to be implemented both locally (Ventura County) and Statewide to reduce air pollutant emissions as needed to attain the Federal 8-hour ozone standard. The 2016 AQMP includes four new stationary source control measures to be adopted as rules to facilitate attainment of the Federal 8-hour ozone standard.

The VCAPCD adopted a 2022 AQMP on December 13, 2022 which includes emission control measures carried forward from previous Ventura County AQMPs plus new and further study emissions control measures. It also includes a transportation conformity budget that sets the maximum amount of on-road motor vehicle emissions produced while continuing to demonstrate progress towards attainment. Ventura County is anticipated to attain the 2015 Federal 8-hour ozone standard (0.070 ppm) by 2027 (VCAPCD, 2022).

Air Quality Planning - State. The California Clean Air Act (CCAA), signed into law in 1988, requires all areas to achieve and maintain attainment with the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) by the earliest possible date. The CCAA, enforced by CARB, requires that each area exceeding the CAAQS develop a plan aimed at achieving those standards. The California Health and Safety Code, Section 40914, requires air districts to design a plan that achieves an annual reduction in district-wide emissions of 5 percent or more, averaged every consecutive 3-year period. To satisfy this requirement, the local air districts are required to develop and implement air pollution reduction measures, which are described in their clean air plans and incorporated into the SIP, and outline strategies for achieving the CAAQS for criteria pollutants for which the region is classified as non-attainment.

In 1991, the VCAPCD adopted an AQMP to facilitate attainment of the California ozone standards. The CCAA mandates that every three years areas update their clean air plans to attain the State ozone standard. The 2022 AQMP indicates Ventura County is making significant progress towards attaining the California 1-hour ozone standard. The "every feasible measure" analysis conducted for the update identified five existing VCAPCD rules for enhancement and three possible new control measures to facilitate progress toward attainment.

Applicable Regulatory Requirements. The Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) establishes a uniform State-wide program to regulate portable engines and portable engine-driven equipment units. The term "portable" is defined as not residing at a location for more than 12 consecutive months. Once registered in the PERP, engines and equipment units may operate throughout California without the need to obtain individual permits from local air districts. To be eligible for the PERP, an engine must be certified to the current emission tier (non-road, on-highway or marine). The PERP does not apply to self-propelled equipment but would apply to engines used in stationary construction equipment.

VCAPCD rules and regulations applicable to activities to be conducted under the proposed Project are limited to potential nuisances (typically dust and odors):

- Rule 51 (Nuisance): A person shall not discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material in violation of Section 41700 of the Health and Safety Code which cause injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety or any such persons or the public or which cause or have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property.
- Rule 55 (Fugitive Dust): This Rule regulates visible dust beyond the property line, opacity (amount of light blocked by a dust cloud), and track-out of soil onto adjacent roads and applies to construction activities. This Rule applies to dust generated by construction.

Air Quality Monitoring. The air quality of Ventura County is monitored by a network of five stations, operated by the CARB and the VCAPCD. The Thousand Oaks monitoring station is the nearest station to the Project site, located approximately 5.9 miles to the south. Table 3 lists the monitored maximum concentrations and number of exceedances of air quality standards for the years 2023 through 2025. As shown in Table 3, ozone concentrations monitored at the Thousand Oaks station did not exceed the State 1-hour standard or State 8-hour ozone standard from 2023 through 2025. PM₁₀ concentrations exceeded the State 24-hour standard at the Simi Valley station (11.0 miles to the east of the Project site, not monitored at the Thousand Oaks station) on nine sampling days from 2023 through 2025. PM_{2.5} concentrations did not exceed the Federal 24-hour standard at the Thousand Oaks station from 2023 through 2025.

Significance Thresholds. The VCAPCD has prepared Air Quality Assessment Guidelines (2003) for the preparation of air quality impact analyses. The Guidelines indicate that projects within the County would have a significant impact on the environment if they would:

- Result in daily emissions exceeding 25 pounds of reactive organic compounds (ROC) or oxides of nitrogen (NO_x).
- Cause a violation or make a substantial contribution to a violation of an ambient air quality standard.
- Directly or indirectly cause the existing population to exceed the population forecasts in the most recently adopted Ventura County Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).
- Be inconsistent with the AQMP and emit greater than 2 pounds per day ROC or NO_x.

Due to the temporary, short-term nature of construction emissions, the VCAPCD does not apply the quantitative emissions thresholds for ROC and NO_x to construction activities. The VCAPCD does require that emission reduction measures be implemented during construction to reduce exhaust emissions and fugitive dust generation.

Table 3. Ambient Air Quality Summary

Parameter	Standard	Year		
		2023	2024	2025
Ozone (O ₃) – parts per million (Thousand Oaks station)				
Maximum 1-hour concentration monitored (ppm)	0.095 ppm	0.085	0.075	0.079
Number of days exceeding State standard		0	0	0
Maximum 8-hour concentration monitored (ppm)	0.070 ppm	0.070	0.068	0.068
Number of days exceeding State & Federal 8-hour standard		0	0	0
Particulate Matter less than 10 microns (PM ₁₀) – micrograms per cubic meter (Simi Valley station)				
Maximum sample (µg/m ³)	50 µg/m ³	85.5	110.9	64.2
Number of samples exceeding State standard		4	3	2
Number of samples exceeding Federal standard	150 µg/m ³	0	0	0
Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns (PM _{2.5}) – micrograms per cubic meter (Thousand Oaks station)				
Maximum sample (µg/m ³)	35 µg/m ³	23.0	19.2	18.9
Number of samples exceeding Federal 24-hour standard		0	0	0

Part 1.a Regional

Impacts (LS). Temporary air pollutant emissions would be generated by Project construction. The proposed reservoir would require periodic (typically weekly) inspections by District staff. However, maintenance staff are based at the adjacent Moorpark maintenance yard such that no new long-term motor vehicle trips or emissions would be generated.

Project construction emissions were estimated using the OFFROAD 2021 (ver. 1.1.2) and EMFAC 2025 (ver. 2.1.1) emissions estimation models developed by the CARB using input data for Ventura County, based on construction occurring in 2027. Peak day Project emissions (during site preparation) would be 28.1 pounds NO_x and 2.6 pounds ROC. Although peak day NO_x emissions would exceed the 25 pounds per day NO_x threshold established by the VCAPCD, due to the temporary, short-term nature of construction emissions, the VCAPCD does not apply the quantitative emissions thresholds for ROC and NO_x to construction activities. The VCAPCD does require that emission reduction measures be implemented during construction activities to reduce exhaust emissions and fugitive dust generation.

Projects that cause local populations to exceed population forecasts in the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) are considered inconsistent with the AQMP, as exceeding population forecasts can result in the generation of emissions beyond those which have been projected in the AQMP. The proposed Project would not provide any housing or long-term employment opportunities; therefore, it would not result in any population growth. As such, the Project would be consistent with the AQMP.

VCAPCD Emissions Reduction Measures. Air emissions reduction measures recommended by the VCAPCD Air Quality Assessment Guidelines (revised 2003) will be incorporated into the Project including:

- The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation operations shall be minimized to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- Pre-grading/excavation activities shall include watering the area to be graded or excavated before commencement of grading or excavation operations. Application of water (preferably reclaimed, if available) should penetrate sufficiently to minimize fugitive dust during grading activities.
- All trucks shall be required to cover their loads as required by California Vehicle Code §23114.
- All graded and excavated material, exposed soil areas, and active portions of the construction site, including unpaved on-site roadways, shall be treated to prevent fugitive dust. Treatment shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, periodic watering, application of environmentally-safe soil stabilization materials, and/or roll-compaction as appropriate. Watering shall be done as often as necessary and reclaimed water shall be used whenever possible.
- Graded and/or excavated inactive areas of the construction site shall be monitored at least weekly for dust stabilization. Soil stabilization methods, such as water and roll-compaction, and environmentally-safe dust control materials, shall be periodically applied to portions of the construction site that are inactive for over four days. If no further grading or excavation operations are planned for the area, the area shall be seeded and watered until plant growth is evident, or periodically treated with environmentally-safe dust suppressants, to prevent excessive fugitive dust.
- Signs shall be posted on site limiting traffic to 15 miles per hour or less.
- During periods of high winds (i.e., wind speed sufficient to cause fugitive dust to impact adjacent properties), all clearing, grading, earth moving, and excavation operations shall be curtailed to the degree necessary to prevent fugitive dust created by on site activities and operations from being a nuisance or hazard, either off site or on site. The site superintendent/supervisor shall use his/her discretion in conjunction with the VCAPCD in determining when winds are excessive.

- Adjacent streets and roads shall be swept at least once per day, preferably at the end of the day, if visible soil material is carried over to adjacent streets and roads.
- Personnel involved in grading operations, including contractors and subcontractors, shall be advised to wear respiratory protection in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health regulations.
- Material stockpiles shall be enclosed, covered, stabilized, or otherwise treated as needed to prevent blowing fugitive dust off site.
- All Project construction and site preparation operations shall be conducted in compliance with all applicable VCAPCD Rules and Regulations with emphasis on Rule 50 (Opacity), Rule 51 (Nuisance), Rule 55 (Fugitive Dust) and Rule 10 (Permits Required).
- Off-road construction equipment shall utilize engines certified to the Federal Emissions Standard Category of Tier 3 or Tier 4, if available.
- Signs displaying the VCAPCD complaint line telephone number (805/303-3700 during business hours; 805/303-3708 after hours) shall be posted in a prominent location visible to the public.

Part 1.b Local

Impacts (LS). State 1-hour ambient standards for carbon monoxide (CO) are sometimes exceeded at urban roadway intersections during times of peak traffic congestion. These localized areas are sometimes called CO hotspots. Project-related traffic would utilize Walnut Canyon Road (State Route 23) and Spring Road and would contribute to CO emissions at local intersections. However, ambient CO levels in the region are low due to increasingly stringent vehicle emissions standards and use of oxygenated fuels.

The number of temporary construction-related vehicle trips that would be generated by the Project (about 34 one-way trips on a peak day) would not substantially add to traffic volumes on affected roadways. Considering the above, the Project would not be expected to create or contribute substantially to the violation of CO standards.

Fugitive dust would be generated by the operation of heavy equipment and vehicles during Project construction. Dust generation from these activities would be considered a significant impact if VCAPCD Rule 51 is violated. Rule 51 states “A person shall not discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or the public or which endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of any such persons or the public or which cause or have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property.” Fugitive dust generated by the Project may be considered a nuisance by residential land uses located as close as 700 feet from the site. Therefore, fugitive dust reduction measures listed in Part 1.a above have been incorporated into the Project.

ISSUE 2: WATER RESOURCES

Part 2.a Groundwater Quantity

Setting. The Project site is located in the Las Posas Valley Groundwater Basin (LPVB), which is an alluvial groundwater basin located north of Camarillo, California. The Las Posas Valley ranges in elevation from approximately 100 feet above mean sea level in the southwest to more than 1,500 feet above mean sea level in the northeast. The primary surface water drainage in the Las Posas Valley is Arroyo Las Posas, which is named Arroyo Simi upstream of Hitch Boulevard. Land use overlying the LPVB is divided between agricultural, urban uses, and open space.

Although the California Department of Water Resources has defined the LPVB as a single groundwater basin, the western and eastern parts of the basin are hydraulically separated from each other by the Somis Fault, a geologic feature that inhibits groundwater flow across it. As a result, groundwater conditions on the west side of the fault in the Fox Canyon Aquifer and Grimes Canyon Aquifer, two primary aquifers in the LPVB, differ from conditions on the east side of the fault.

Furthermore, the Epworth Gravels Aquifer, located on the east side of the fault is hydrologically separated from the Fox Canyon Aquifer and Grimes Canyon Aquifer. Hydrologic differences in the controls on, and responses to, both recharge and groundwater production necessitate the definition of three separate management areas in the LPVB. These three management areas are the West Las Posas Management Area, the East Las Posas Management Area, and the Epworth Gravels Management Area.

Historical groundwater production in the LPVB has resulted in chronic declines in groundwater levels and loss of groundwater in storage in parts of each of the three management areas. In the West Las Posas Management Area, the average rate of groundwater production between 2015 and 2017 was approximately 14,000 acre-feet per year. In the East Las Posas Management Area and the Epworth Gravels Management Area, the average rate of groundwater production between 2015 and 2017 was approximately 20,500 acre-feet per year and 1,500 acre-feet per year, respectively. Numerical groundwater simulations indicate that if these production rates were carried into the future, groundwater elevations in each of the management areas of the LPVB would not recover during multi-year cycles of drought and recovery.

The California Department of Water Resources has designated the LPVB as a high-priority groundwater basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The majority of the LPVB is within the jurisdiction of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) to manage and protect the aquifers within its jurisdiction for the common benefit of the public and all groundwater users.

The FCGMA is one of three groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that have jurisdiction over portions of the LPVB. The Camrosa Las Posas Valley GSA manages the Camrosa Water District Service area in the Las Posas Valley, and the Las Posas Outlying Areas GSA manages portions of the LPVB not within FCGMA or Camrosa jurisdiction. The FCGMA completed a Final Groundwater Sustainability Plan in December 2019 which covers the entire LPVB, including all areas of the LPVB outside of FCGMA's jurisdiction (FCGMA, 2019). The Final Groundwater Sustainability Plan was approved by the California Department of Water Resources on January 13, 2022.

Significance Thresholds. The following significance thresholds are from the Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAG):

- Any land use or project that will directly or indirectly decrease, either individually or cumulatively, the net quantity of groundwater in a groundwater basin that is overdrafted or creates an overdrafted groundwater basin shall be considered to have a significant groundwater quantity impact.
- In groundwater basins that are not overdrafted, or are not in hydrologic continuity with an overdrafted basin, net groundwater extraction that will individually or cumulatively cause overdrafted basin(s), shall be considered to have a significant groundwater quantity impact.
- In areas where the groundwater basin and/or hydrologic unit condition is not well known or documented and there is evidence of overdraft based upon declining water levels in a well or wells, any proposed net increase in groundwater extraction from that groundwater basin and/or hydrologic unit shall be considered to cause a significant groundwater quantity impact until such time as reliable studies determine otherwise.
- Regardless of the thresholds above, any land use or project which would result in 1.0 acre-feet, or less, of net annual increase in groundwater extraction is not considered to have a significant project or cumulative impact on groundwater quantity.
- Any project that is inconsistent with any of the policies or development standards relating to groundwater quantity of the Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs or applicable Area Plan, may result in a significant environmental impact.

Impacts (LS). The potable water demand of the Hitch Ranch Development was analyzed in the City of Moorpark's Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Hitch Ranch Specific Plan (SCH #2019070253) and found to be a less than significant impact to groundwater supplies (Impact Sciences, 2022). Therefore, this analysis is focused on the construction and operation of the proposed reservoir. The Project would require a small amount of water to produce Portland cement, and for dust control and soil compaction purposes during Project construction. No increase in long-term water usage would occur as a result of the proposed Project. Construction water needs would be met by the District from the pipeline serving the existing reservoir at the site or adjacent sources.

Due to the small volume required for Project construction (maximum of a few thousand gallons per day), and temporary water demand of the Project (only during site preparation and foundation construction phases), additional groundwater extraction would not be required to meet Project demands. In any case, any Project-related groundwater extraction would not result in overdraft of the LPVB or impede sustainable groundwater management of the LPVB.

Part 2.b Groundwater Quality

Setting. Groundwater extracted from the LPVB periodically exceeds water quality objectives for total dissolved solids, chloride, nitrate, boron and sulfate (FCGMA, 2019).

Significance Thresholds. The following significance thresholds are from the Ventura County ISAG:

- Any land use or project proposal that will individually or cumulatively degrade the quality of groundwater and cause groundwater to exceed groundwater quality objectives set by the Basin Plan shall be considered to have a significant impact.
- A land use or project shall be considered to have a significant impact on groundwater quality where there is evidence that the proposed land use or project could cause the quality of groundwater to fail to meet the groundwater quality objectives set by the Basin Plan.
- Any land use or project that proposes the use of groundwater in any capacity and is located within two miles of the boundary of a former or current test site for rocket engines shall be considered to have a significant impact.
- Any project that is inconsistent with any of the policies or development standards relating to groundwater quality of the Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs or applicable Area Plan, may result in a significant environmental impact.

Impacts (NI). The Project would not discharge any wastewater or other materials that may infiltrate to a groundwater basin and adversely affect groundwater quality. Fueling and maintenance of heavy equipment associated with construction of the proposed Project would be conducted in areas away from the Walnut Canyon drainage and other drainages to prevent any inadvertent spillage from affecting any underlying groundwater. In addition, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be prepared, which would include best management practices to be implemented which would also minimize stormwater discharges to surface waters and protect groundwater quality.

Part 2.c Surface Water Quantity

Setting. The Project site is located approximately 700 feet east of the Walnut Canyon drainage which has been converted to a buried culvert near the site. This drainage empties into Arroyo Simi (Calleguas Creek Reach 7) approximately 1.5 miles south of the Project site, via mostly buried storm drains. Arroyo Simi is mostly perennial due to rising groundwater and discharge from dewatering wells upstream (Simi Valley) and periodic discharge of treated wastewater from the Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility. A stream flow gauge (No. 841A) measures surface flow rates in Arroyo Simi upstream of Hitch Boulevard. The largest flow event recorded at this gauge was 12,000 cubic feet per second on January 9, 2005. The most recent recorded large flow is 5,591 cubic feet per second on December 30, 2021.

Significance Thresholds. The following significance thresholds are from the Ventura County ISAG:

- Any project that will increase surface water consumptive use (demand), either individually or cumulatively, in a fully appropriated stream reach as designated by the State Water Resources Control Board or where unappropriated surface water is unavailable, shall be considered to have a significant adverse impact on surface water quantity.
- Any project that will increase surface water consumptive use (demand) including but not limited to diversion or dewatering downstream reaches, either individually or cumulatively, resulting in an adverse impact to one or more of the beneficial uses listed in the Basin Plan is considered a significant adverse impact.
- Any project that is inconsistent with any of the policies or development standards relating to surface water quantity of the Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs or applicable Area Plan may result in a significant environmental impact.

Impacts (NI). The Project would require a small amount of water to produce Portland cement and for dust control and soil compaction purposes during Project construction. Water would be supplied by the District, which includes local groundwater and imported water provided by the Calleguas Municipal Water District. Imported water (in part) originates as surface flows in the Sacramento River delta. The environmental impacts associated with obtaining this water have been fully addressed in CEQA documents prepared for the State Water Project. The proposed Project would not result in any consumptive use of local surface water. The proposed Project would be consistent with the Ventura County 2040 General Plan with regard to surface water uses.

Part 2.d Surface Water Quality

Setting. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) has jurisdiction over waters between Rincon Point (at the western boundary of Ventura County) and the eastern Los Angeles County line. The Regional Board has developed a Water Quality Control Plan, or “Basin Plan”, to protect the quality of surface and groundwaters of the region. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses of waters within the region, sets narrative and numerical water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses, and describes implementation programs intended to meet the Basin Plan objectives.

Beneficial uses established for surface water in Arroyo Simi are municipal supply (potential), industrial supply (intermittent), groundwater recharge (intermittent), warm freshwater habitat (intermittent), wildlife habitat, rare, threatened or endangered species habitat, water contact recreation (intermittent) and non-water contact recreation (intermittent) (LARWQCB 1994, amended 2022).

Surface water of Arroyo Simi is considered impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, due to elevated levels of indicator bacteria, ammonia, boron, chloride, chlorpyrifos, sulfates, total dissolved solids, toxicity, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, cypermethrin, deltamethrin, iron, permethrin, pyrethroids, sedimentation/siltation, trash, chlordane, copper, DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), nitrate/nitrite and selenium (SWRCB 2025). A water body is impaired when data indicate that adopted water quality objectives are continually exceeded or that beneficial uses are not protected.

Significance Thresholds. The following significance thresholds are from the Ventura County ISAG:

- Any land use or project proposal that is expected to individually or cumulatively degrade the quality of surface water causing it to exceed water quality objectives of the Basin Plan may have a significant impact.
- Any land use or project development that directly or indirectly causes stormwater quality to exceed water quality objectives or standards in the County’s Municipal Stormwater MS4 Permit or any other NPDES Permits may have a significant impact.

Impacts (LS). Storm water run-off from the Project site during Project construction may degrade surface water quality. The Project would require coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater General Permit Order 2022-0057-DWQ (adopted September 8, 2022). As required by the conditions of the General Permit, a SWPPP would be prepared, which would include best management practices to be implemented and a monitoring program. The intent of the SWPPP would be to prevent Project-related pollutants from contacting surface water and prevent products of erosion from moving off site into receiving waters.

The Project would also be subject to the Development Construction Program requirements of the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (Order no. R4-2010-0108). Implementation of the SWPPP, monitoring required under the General Permit and compliance with the County's MS4 Permit would prevent significant impacts to surface water quality.

ISSUE 3: MINERAL RESOURCES

Part 3.a Aggregate Resources

Setting. Aggregate resources are defined as construction grade sand and gravel. The Project site is located in an area designated as MRZ-4 by the State of California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG 1993). This designation indicates the significance of aggregate deposits cannot be evaluated based on available data. The nearest aggregate mining operation in the Project area is the Grimes Rock quarry, located approximately 2.8 miles north of the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. The following significance thresholds are from the Ventura County ISAG:

- Any land use or project activity which is proposed to be located on or immediately adjacent to land zoned Mineral Resource Protection overlay zone, or adjacent to a principal access road to an existing aggregate Conditional Use Permit, and which has the potential to hamper or preclude extraction of or access to the aggregate resources, shall be considered to have a significant adverse impact on the environment.
- A project would have a cumulative impact on aggregate resources if when considered with other pending and recently approved projects in the area, hampers or precludes extraction or access to identified resources.

Impacts (LS). The Project site is not located within a Mineral Resource Protection overlay zone or an area that may contain significant aggregate deposits. The proposed Project would require a small amount of aggregate resources for construction purposes but would not generate any regional or long-term demand for aggregate resources or hamper future extraction of aggregate from the area. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact on aggregate resources.

Part 3.b Petroleum Resources

Setting. Petroleum resources are defined as oil and gas deposits. Known petroleum fields are mapped by the State of California Geologic Energy Management Division of the Department of Conservation (CalGEM). According to CalGEM's on-line mapping system, the nearest petroleum well to the Project site is a plugged well, located approximately 0.7 miles northeast of the Project site. The nearest active oil or gas wells (Oak Park Oil Field) are located approximately 2.6 miles to the east-northeast. There are no oil or gas processing facilities in the immediate Project area.

Significance Thresholds. The following significance thresholds are from the Ventura County ISAG:

- Any land use that is proposed to be located on or immediately adjacent to any known petroleum resource area, or adjacent to a principal access road to an existing petroleum CUP, has the potential to hamper or preclude access to petroleum resources.
- If the subject property is not located on or adjacent to land located in an oil field or containing an oil extraction CUP, then the project would not cause a significant impact on the extraction of oil resources. If the subject property is located on or adjacent to land located in an oil field or containing an oil extraction CUP, then the state Division of Oil and Gas Regulation should be consulted for their review of the project application.
- If the subject property is not located adjacent to a road used as a principal means of access to an existing CUP for oil extraction, and the proposed use is not sensitive to the effects of truck traffic to and from the oil CUP, then the project would not cause a significant impact on access to oil resources.

Impacts (NI). As indicated above, the Project site is not located within or adjacent to a petroleum resource area or petroleum production facility. Project-related activities would only use a minor amount of petroleum products for heavy equipment and vehicle fuels and asphalt paving, and would not affect the supply of petroleum in the County. In addition, the proposed Project would not create a barrier to the extraction of petroleum resources, if discovered near the Project site. Therefore, the proposed Project would not impact petroleum resources.

ISSUE 4: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Part 4.a Species

Setting. The Project site is entirely disturbed and supports ornamental trees (mostly Peruvian pepper, Canary Island pine, forest red gum) with a sparse understory of mostly horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*) and summer mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*). A portion of the site is surfaced with gravel. Patches of native lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) occur just east of the Project site. Native coastal scrub vegetation occurs south of the Project site.

A total of 30 vascular plant species were observed at or adjacent to the Project site during an October 3, 2023 botanical survey, including 12 native species (40 percent). The large proportion of non-native plant species found on the Project site (60 percent) reflects the disturbance history of the site, including historic agricultural activities and more recent construction activities (including the existing reservoir). Of the 18 non-native plant species identified, seven are considered invasive by the California Invasive Plant Council, including two species rated as moderately invasive and five species rated as limited invasiveness.

Wildlife observed in proximity to the Project site during the October 3, 2023 biological survey includes red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), Townsend's warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*), orange-crowned warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*), wrenit (*Chamaea fasciata*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*). Wildlife activity was concentrated in native vegetation to the south and in trees to the east of the site.

Table 4 provides a summary of special-status plant and animal species reported within five miles of the Project site. Special-status plant or wildlife species are not anticipated to occur on or near the Project site based on the lack of suitable habitat and the results of the biological survey of the Project site.

Table 4. Special-Status Species Reported within Five Miles of the Project Site

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status	Nearest Reported Location to the Project Site
Mesa horkelia (<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i>)	List 1B.1	North of Ridgecrest Drive (1995, non-specific), 0.4 miles to the north-northeast (CNDDDB, 2026)
Payne's bush lupine (<i>Lupinus paynei</i>)	List 1B.1	Grimes Canyon Road, 3.5 miles to the north (CNDDDB, 2026)
Gerry's curly-leaved monardella (<i>Monardella sinuata</i> ssp. <i>gerryi</i>)	SCE, List 1B.1	Las Posas Hills, 4.0 miles to the southwest (CNDDDB, 2026)
Conejo dudleya (<i>Dudleya parva</i>)	FT, List 1B.2	Near Cal Lutheran, 4.2 miles to the south (CNDDDB, 2026)
Plummer's mariposa lily (<i>Calochortus plummerae</i>)	List 4.2	Near Moorpark College, 3.0 miles to the east (CNDDDB, 2026)
Lyon's pentachaeta (<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>)	FE, SE, List 1B.1	Tierra Rejada Hills, 1.8 miles to the southeast (CNDDDB, 2026)
Chaparral ragwort (<i>Senecio aphanactis</i>)	List 1B.2	Near State Route 23, 4.5 miles to the south-southeast (CNDDDB, 2026)
California Orcutt grass (<i>Orcuttia californica</i>)	FE, SE, List 1B.1	Near State Route 23/Tierra Rejada Road interchange, 2.3 miles to the southeast (CNDDDB, 2026)
Conejo buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum crocatum</i>)	SR, List 1B.2	Near Mountclef Ridge, 4.6 miles to the south, CNDDDB, 2026)
Rocky Mountain bulrush (<i>Schoenoplectiella saximontana</i>)	List 2B.1	Tierra Rejada Valley, 3.4 miles to the southeast (CNDDDB, 2026)
Riverside fairy shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>)	FE	Near State Route 23/Tierra Rejada Road interchange, 2.3 miles to the southeast (CNDDDB, 2026)
Crotch's bumblebee (<i>Bombus crotchii</i>)	SCE	Happy Camp Canyon, 1.9 miles to the north (iNaturalist.org, 2026)

Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	Status	Nearest Reported Location to the Project Site
California legless lizard (<i>Anniella</i> sp.)	CSC	Happy Camp Canyon, 2.9 miles to the north (CNDDDB, 2026)
Arroyo chub (<i>Gila orcuttii</i>)	CSC	Arroyo Simi, 1.8 miles to the east (CNDDDB, 2026)
Western spadefoot toad (<i>Spea hammondi</i>)	FPT, CSC	Happy Camp Canyon, 1.8 miles to the north-northeast (CNDDDB, 2026)
Western pond turtle (<i>Actinemys pallida</i>)	FPT, CSC	Arroyo Simi, 4.6 miles to the east-southeast (CNDDDB, 2026)
Coast horned lizard (<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>)	CSC	Big Mountain, 3.1 miles to the north-northeast (CNDDDB, 2026)
Coastal western whiptail (<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>)	CSC	Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park, 1.0 miles to the northeast (Padre, 1999)
California glossy snake (<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i>)	CSC	Happy Camp Canyon, 1.5 miles to the north (CNDDDB, 2026)
Two-striped garter snake (<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>)	CSC	Arroyo Las Posas, 2.1 miles to the southwest (Z. Abbey, personal observation)
Least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>)	FE, SE	Arroyo Simi, 1.5 miles to the east (CNDDDB, 2026)
White-tailed kite (<i>Elanus leucurus</i>)	FP	Hitch Ranch, 0.9 miles to the southwest (Impact Sciences, 2022)
California gnatcatcher (<i>Poliophtila californica</i>)	FT, CSC	Near Spring Road, 0.3 miles to the south-southeast (CNDDDB, 2026)
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>)	WL	Hitch Ranch, 0.9 miles to the southwest (Impact Sciences, 2022)
American badger (<i>Taxidea taxus</i>)	CSC	Hitch Ranch, 0.9 miles to the west-southwest (Impact Sciences, 2022)

Status Notes:

CSC	California Species of Special Concern (CDFW)
FE	Federal Endangered (USFWS)
FP	Fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code
FPT	Federal proposed threatened (USFWS)
FT	Federal Threatened (USFWS)
List 1B	Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere (CNPS)
List 2B	Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere (CNPS)
List 4	Plants of limited distribution, a watch list (CNPS)
SCE	California candidate endangered (CDFW)
SE	California Endangered (CDFW)
SR	California Rare (CDFW)
WL	Watch list (CDFW)

Significance Thresholds. The following significance thresholds are from the Ventura County ISAG. A project will have a direct or indirect physical impact to a plant or animal species if a project, directly or indirectly:

- Reduces a species' population,
- Reduces a species' habitat,
- Increases habitat fragmentation, or
- Restricts reproductive capacity.

The determination of whether a project's impact is significant or not shall be based on both the current conservation status of the species affected and the severity or intensity of impact caused by the project. Endangered, rare and threatened species, as well as special-status species, are more susceptible to project impacts than a more common species. If a project's impact is severe or intense, it may cause a population of a more common species to decline substantially or drop below self-sustaining levels, which would be considered a significant impact.

Impacts (PS-M). Vegetation to be removed for construction of the reservoir includes ten Peruvian pepper trees (*Schinus molle*), one Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) and two Canary Island pines (*Pinus canariensis*). Project-related loss of vegetation and heavy equipment activity adjacent to other habitat areas may result in take of migratory birds protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and Section 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code.

Mitigation. The District shall conduct all vegetation removal, grading and construction activities (affected activities, defined as any activity using heavy equipment or heavy-duty trucks) in such a way as to avoid nesting migratory birds. This can be accomplished by implementing one of the following options:

1. Timing of construction: Prohibit affected activities during the migratory bird breeding season February 15 through August 15, in which case the following measure is not required; or
2. Survey and avoidance of occupied nests: Conduct a breeding bird survey prior to any affected activities conducted during the breeding season (February 15 through August 15). The breeding bird survey shall be conducted no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of affected activities. The breeding bird survey shall include the work area and habitat areas within 300 feet of the work area. A nest buffer area (area between construction work and the nest site) shall be identified for any active nests. Construction work within the nest buffer area shall be avoided until the nest is abandoned or juvenile birds have become independent of the nest.

Part 4.b Ecological Communities

Setting. Sensitive ecological communities do not occur at or near the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. The following types of impacts to sensitive plant communities (critically imperiled, imperiled or vulnerable to extinction or extirpation) are considered potentially significant:

- Construction, grading, clearing, or other activities that would temporarily or permanently remove sensitive plant communities. Temporary impacts to sensitive plant communities would be considered significant unless the sensitive plant community is restored once the temporary impact is complete.
- Indirect impacts resulting from project operation at levels that would degrade the health of a sensitive plant community.

Impacts (NI). Proposed Project construction would occur within areas lacking sensitive ecological communities.

Part 4.c Waters and Wetlands

Setting. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has jurisdiction over waters of the United States (U.S.) under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The limit of jurisdiction in non-tidal waters extends to the ordinary high water mark and includes all adjacent wetlands. Waters of the U.S. are defined as:

"All waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; including all interstate waters including interstate wetlands, all other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams, mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce."

Arroyo Simi is located approximately 1.7 stream miles downstream of the Project site and is considered waters of the U.S. under the Clean Water Act. Arroyo Simi is also considered "waters of the State" as defined in Section 13050 of the California Water Code. However, the Walnut Canyon drainage located west of Walnut Canyon Road (State Route 23) near the Project site is not considered a water of the U.S. due to its ephemeral nature (see 40 CFR 120.2.a.3).

The Corps and EPA define wetlands as:

"Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas."

Ventura County defines wetlands as (2040 General Plan glossary):

"Lands that are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is periodically covered with shallow water. The frequency of occurrence of water is sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands include marshes, bogs, sloughs, vernal pools, wet meadows, river and stream overflows, mudflats, ponds, springs and seeps."

Federal-defined wetlands, County-defined wetlands and wetland habitat do not occur within or near the Project site, but do occur within Arroyo Simi which is located 1.3 miles south of the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant project impacts to waters and wetlands include:

- Removal of vegetation, grading, obstruction or diversion of water flow, change in velocity, siltation, volume of flow or runoff rate, placement of fill, placement of structures, construction of a road crossing, placement of culverts or other underground piping and/or any disturbance of the substratum.
- Disruptions to wetland or riparian plant communities that would isolate or substantially interrupt contiguous habitats, block seed dispersal routes, or increase vulnerability of wetland species to exotic weed invasion or local extirpation. An example would be disruption of adjacent upland vegetation to a level that would adversely affect the ecological function of the wetland, such as where such vegetation plays a critical role in supporting riparian-dependent wildlife species (e.g., amphibians), or where such vegetation aids in stabilizing steep slopes adjacent to the riparian habitat, which reduces erosion and sedimentation potential.
- Interference with ongoing maintenance of hydrological conditions in a water or wetland. The hydrology of wetlands systems must be maintained if their function and values are to be preserved. Adverse hydrological changes might include altered freshwater input; changes in the watershed area or run-off quantity, quality, or velocity; drawing down of the groundwater table to the detriment of groundwater-dependent habitat; substantial increases in sedimentation; introduction of toxic elements or alteration of ambient water temperature.
- The project does not provide an adequate buffer for protecting the functions and values of existing waters or wetlands. The buffer is measured from the top-of-bank or edge of wetland or riparian habitat, whichever is greater. Ventura County General Plan Policy 1.5.2-4 (Policy COS-1.11 in the 2040 General Plan) requires a minimum buffer of 100 feet from significant wetland habitat. In accordance with this policy, buffer areas may be increased or decreased upon evaluation and recommendation by a qualified biologist and approval by the decision-making body. Factors to be used in determining adjustment of the 100-foot buffer include soil type, slope stability, drainage patterns, presence or absence of endangered, threatened or rare plants or animals, and compatibility of the proposed development with the wildlife use of the wetland habitat area.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project would not result in any loss or disturbance of Federal-defined wetlands, County-defined wetlands or wetland habitat.

Part 4.d Coastal Habitat

Setting. The Project site is not located within the Coastal Zone.

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant project impacts to Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) include:

- Construction, grading, clearing, or other activities and uses that would temporarily or permanently remove ESHA or disturb ESHA buffers (ESHA buffers are within 100 feet of the boundary of ESHA as defined in Section 8172-1 of the Coastal Zoning Ordinance).
- Indirect impacts resulting from project operation at levels that would degrade the health of an ESHA.

Impacts (NI). No Project-related impacts to ESHA or other coastal resources would occur.

Part 4.e Habitat Connectivity

Setting. Wildlife migration corridors are generally defined as connections between habitat patches that allow for physical and genetic exchange between otherwise isolated animal populations. Migration corridors may be local such as between foraging and nesting or denning areas, or they may be regional in nature. Migration corridors are not unidirectional access routes; however, reference is usually made to source and receiver areas in discussions of wildlife movement networks.

"Habitat linkages" are migration corridors that contain contiguous strips of native vegetation between source and receiver areas. Habitat linkages provide cover and forage sufficient for temporary inhabitation by a variety of ground-dwelling animal species. Wildlife migration corridors are essential to the regional ecology of an area as they provide avenues of genetic exchange and allow animals to access alternative territories as fluctuating dispersal pressures dictate.

The South Coast Wildlands Missing Linkages Project (Penrod et al., 2006) has identified the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Landscape Linkage which connects the Santa Monica Mountains to the south and the Sierra Madre Ranges of the Los Padres National Forest to the north. This landscape linkage has been mapped as a regional wildlife corridor in the City of Moorpark's General Plan 2050.

The Project site is located approximately 0.5 miles west of the western strand of this landscape linkage. However, this strand is a very narrow corridor (mostly less than 1,000 feet wide) and has been encroached upon by recent (post-2000) residential development and may not remain functional. Discontinuous fencing is located to the north, east and south of the Project site. The Project site is surrounded by principal arterial roadways (State Route 23, Spring Road) and development, and is not part of a habitat connectivity or wildlife corridor as designated by the City of Moorpark or the Ventura County Planning Division.

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant project impacts to habitat connectivity include:

- A habitat connectivity feature (e.g., a linkage, corridor, chokepoint or stepping stone) would be severed, substantially interfered with, or potentially blocked.
- Wildlife access to foraging habitat, breeding habitat, water sources, or other areas necessary for their reproduction would be prevented or substantially interfered with.

- Wildlife would be forced to use routes that endanger their survival. For example, constraining a corridor for mule deer or mountain lion to an area that is not well-vegetated or that runs along a road instead of through a stream corridor or along a ridgeline.
- Lighting, noise, domestic animals, or other indirect impacts that could hinder or discourage fish and/or wildlife movement within habitat connectivity feature (e.g., a linkage, corridor, chokepoint or steppingstone) would be introduced.
- The width of linkage, corridor or chokepoint would be reduced to less than the sufficient width for movement of the target species (the species relying upon the connectivity feature). The adequacy of the width shall be based on the biological information for the target species; the quality of the habitat within and adjacent to the linkage, corridor, or chokepoint; topography; and adjacent land uses.
- For wildlife relying on visual cues for movement, visual continuity (i.e., lines-of-sight) across highly constrained wildlife corridors, such as highway crossing structures or steppingstones, would not be maintained.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project would be located adjacent to an existing water tank in a developed area and would not hinder wildlife movement in the area. The proposed Project would not introduce any incompatible land uses that would involve substantial new lighting, noise or domestic animals. In addition, wildlife crossing structures or steppingstones would not be adversely affected.

ISSUE 5: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Part 5.a Agricultural Soils

Setting. Agriculture is the leading industry in the County. The gross dollar value of Ventura County's agricultural products was estimated as \$2.4 billion for 2025. Total irrigated farmland acreage in Ventura County is approximately 99,433 (Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner, 2026). Ventura County agriculture focuses on production of fruits and vegetables, including field crops. The Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's Annual Crop & Livestock Report for 2025 indicates strawberries are the leading single commodity with a value of \$808 million, with avocados ranked second at \$241 million. The most valuable crop group is fruits and nuts with a year 2025 value of \$1.65 billion.

The Project site is located in an area mapped as "Urban and Built-up Land" by the California Department of Conservation, and does not support farmland. The soils of the Project site have been mapped as Soper gravelly loam (30-50 percent slopes, eroded) and Chesterton coarse sandy loam (5-10 percent slopes, eroded) (Edwards et al. 1970).

Significance Thresholds. The project would have a significant impact if it would either directly or indirectly result in the loss of important agricultural soils exceeding thresholds in the Ventura County ISAG, including 5 acres of farmlands classified as "Prime" or "Statewide Importance" in agricultural areas. The significance threshold for "Unique" farmlands is 10 acres in agricultural areas.

Impacts (NI). Farmlands do not occur near the Project site and would not be displaced or disturbed by proposed Project construction and operation.

Part 5.b Land Use Incompatibility

Setting. The Project area is developed, with the nearest agricultural operations (orchards) located approximately 0.8 miles to the north and classified as Unique Farmland by the California Department of Conservation.

Significance Thresholds. A proposed non-agricultural land use would have a potentially significant impact if it would be located within 300 feet of classified farmland (without vegetative screening) unless it qualified for a waiver or deviation from the distance standard. Issues to be considered in determining the significance of land use incompatibility include demolition/construction-related dust suppression, storage of wood that may spread sudden oak death disease and depletion of a water source intended for agricultural irrigation.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project is consistent with the City's zoning ordinance and would not be located within 300 feet of any classified farmland, or otherwise adversely affect any agricultural operations.

ISSUE 6: SCENIC RESOURCES

Setting. There are no City or County-designated Scenic Resource Areas or scenic resource protection areas in the Project area. State Route 118 (east of State Route 23 interchange) has been designated an eligible scenic highway. The Project site is not visible from this eligible scenic highway. There are no public views of the Project site due to intervening topography.

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant project impacts to scenic resources include:

- Is located within an area that has a scenic resource that is visible from a public viewing location; and would physically alter the scenic resource either individually or cumulatively when combined with recently approved, current, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.
- Would substantially obstruct, degrade, or obscure a scenic vista, either individually or cumulatively when combined with recently approved, current, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.
- Inconsistent with any of the scenic resources policies of the Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs or policies of the applicable Area Plan.

Impacts (NI). The Project would not adversely affect any designated scenic resources or eligible scenic highway or be inconsistent with City of Moorpark General Plan 2050 policies. The proposed above-ground water reservoir would be approximately 34 feet tall and 80.5 feet in diameter. Intervening topography would prevent views of the proposed reservoir from Spring Road, State Route 23 and other public roadways and viewing areas.

ISSUE 7: PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Setting. The Project site is underlain by the Saugus Formation (Dibblee, 1992), which is composed of non-marine fluvial, weakly consolidated material of the Pleistocene and possibly Pliocene ages and is ranked as a geologic formation of paleontological importance in the Ventura County area as identified in the Ventura County ISAG and ranked as high paleontological sensitivity in the City of Moorpark's General Plan 2050. Borings conducted for the Updated Geotechnical Investigation Report prepared for the project identified the Saugus Formation at the proposed tank site immediately below surficial soils (Albus Associates, 2024).

The comparatively large number of fossil sites, the abundance of vertebrate taxa (particularly terrestrial vertebrates), and the moderate local site densities indicate that the Saugus Formation has a high paleontological sensitivity. This formation has the potential to yield additional scientifically significant paleontological resources of great importance to the understanding of the evolution of mammals in the early Tertiary Eocene and Oligocene times (BonTerra Consulting, 2002).

Marine invertebrates are well known from Saugus Formation deposits in the Moorpark and Simi Valley areas. A diverse assemblage of marine and non-marine vertebrates, including extinct horses, large cats, dogs, elephants, turtles, peccaries, deer, and sharks are known from exposures of the Saugus formation in Simi Valley. Other fossil remains that have been recovered from this formation include rodents, rabbits and lizards (United States Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Game, 2009).

On March 29, 2005, a nearly intact fossilized southern mammoth skeleton was discovered in the Saugus Formation at a residential development construction site about 0.3 miles west of the Project site (Impact Sciences, 2022).

Significance Thresholds. The project would have a significant impact if it would result in the loss of or damage to important paleontological resources. Paleontological resources are important if they are well preserved, identifiable, type/topotypic specimens, age diagnostic, useful in environmental reconstruction, represent rare and or endemic taxa, represent a diverse assemblage, or represent associated marine or non-marine taxa.

Impacts (PS-M). Overall, earthwork would be limited since the reservoir site is relatively level. However, excavation for the proposed reservoir foundation would occur within the underlying Saugus Formation. Due to the potential for Project construction to adversely affect scientifically important fossils within the Saugus Formation, impacts to paleontological resources are considered significant.

Mitigation. The District shall implement a paleontological monitoring program for Project areas where excavation would impact native Saugus Formation materials. The paleontological monitoring program shall be comprised of the following elements:

- A qualified paleontologist shall be retained by the District to monitor initial tank foundation excavation activities into native Saugus Formation materials to determine if continued monitoring is warranted, and if so, to develop a monitoring schedule.

- The Project paleontologist shall provide an educational overview relating to paleontological issues in Ventura County and protection of resources at the Project site to all construction employees who shall be onsite during the ground-disturbing phases of Project construction.
- In the event that fossil remains are found during Project construction, work shall be stopped immediately or redirected away from the find. A qualified paleontologist shall be called immediately to assess the site and determine further mitigation measures to be implemented as necessary.
- If fossils are encountered, the paleontologist shall salvage scientifically significant fossil remains.
- The paleontologist shall have the power to temporarily halt or divert grading efforts to allow evaluation and any necessary salvage of exposed fossils which are determined as potentially significant.
- All significant fossils collected shall be identified. These remains shall be donated to an institution with research and/or educational interest in the materials and a retrievable storage system such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.
- Locations of recorded fossil localities are confidential and are to be released on a “need to know” basis only to reduce unauthorized collecting activities.
- A final report summarizing findings, including an itemized inventory and contextual stratigraphic data, shall accompany the fossils to the designated repository with a copy also retained by the District.

ISSUE 8: CULTURAL RESOURCES

Part 8.a Archaeological Resources

Setting. An Archaeological Survey and Extended Phase I Testing Report was prepared for the Project by Padre Associates and is summarized below.

Ventura County is part of a larger regional cultural area that includes most of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. Wallace (1955), Warren (1968), and King (1990) have developed chronological sequences that apply to the prehistory of Ventura County. The following text uses the chronological sequence developed by King (1990) to discuss the Early, Middle, and Late Periods of cultural development in Ventura County.

Archaeological Context-Early Period (about 8,000 to 3350 years ago). Reliable evidence of Holocene (post-10,000 years ago) settlement in Ventura County begins about 8,000 years ago. The earliest sites were located on terraces and mesas; however, settlement gradually shifted to the coast (Wlodarski, 1988). Site assemblages dating to this period often contained large amounts of milling stones and manos, crude choppers, and core tools (W&S, 1997). Prehistoric peoples used these tools to harvest terrestrial and sea mammals, shellfish, and fish. Mortars and pestles appear toward the end of the period, suggesting a shift towards a greater reliance on acorns (Ventura County RMA, 2011b).

Archaeological Context-Middle Period (about 3350 to 800 years ago). Archaeological material dating to the Middle Period represents a significant evolution in hunter-gatherer technology. The presence of chipped stone tools increases and diversifies, Projectile points became more common, and fishhooks and plank canoes (*tomol*) appear (Wlodarski, 1988; W&S, 1997). Burials dating to this period provide evidence of wealth and social stratification indicating a transition to ranked society. Excavation data from the Santa Monica Mountains demonstrate expansion to the inland region allowing trade and ceremonial exchange patterns to develop (Ventura County RMA, 2011b).

Archaeological Context-Late Period (about 800 to 150 years ago). The cultural complexity initiated during the Middle Period intensified in the Late Period. This period is also referred to as the Chumash Era as Chumash social and religious development peaked during this time. Villages became the main population centers with satellite camps geared toward the seasonal harvest of plants, seeds, game, and material resources (Wlodarski, 1988). The Chumash became expert craftsman of baskets, stone vessels, shell beads, *tomol*, and fishing technology. It is also likely that communication and trade with non-Chumash tribes and villages accelerated during this period (Ventura County RMA, 2011b).

Ethnographic Context. The Project site is located within the ethnographic territory of the Chumash, who inhabited the Coast Ranges between San Simeon and Malibu (Kroeber, 1925). The Chumash have been divided into several geographic groups, each associated with a distinct language dialect (Hoover, 1986). The Chumash living in Ventura County formed the *Ventureño* dialect group of the Chumash language family (Golla, 2007). This group was named for their association with the Spanish *Mission San Buenaventura*, founded in 1782.

The Chumash political organization is comprised of a named village and the surrounding resource areas governed by a chief, known as the *Wot* (Sampson, 2013). Some higher status chiefs controlled large chiefdoms containing several villages. It is likely the Project site was included in the chiefdom *Lulapin*, whose limits extended from Malibu to just beyond modern Santa Barbara. Local villages included *Quimisac*, located approximately three miles east of the Project site in Happy Camp Canyon, and *Ta'apu* and *Shimiya* located in Simi Valley. According to ethnographic studies, inhabitants from different villages bonded through trade, joint ceremonies, and intermarriage (Sampson, 2013). *Quimisac* controlled most of the "fused shale," a material used to manufacture stone tools, trade in the region (Winters, 2016).

Much of their subsistence was derived from pelagic fish, particularly during the late summer and early fall (Hoover, 1986). Shellfish were also exploited, including mussel and abalone from rocky shores and cockle and clams from sandy beaches. Acorns were a food staple; they were ground into flour using stone mortars and pestles and then leached to remove tannic acid. In addition, a wide variety of seeds, including *chia* from various species of sage, was utilized. The Chumash harvested a number of plants for their roots, tubers, or greens (Hoover, 1986).

In this area, as elsewhere in California, basketry served many of the functions that pottery did in other places. The Chumash used baskets for cooking, serving, storage, and transporting burdens. Some basket makers wove baskets so tightly that they could hold water while others waterproofed their baskets by lining them with pitch or asphaltum (Chartkoff and Chartkoff, 1984).

Spanish colonization and the establishment of *Mission San Buenaventura* ended Chumash culture in Ventura County. Chartkoff and Chartkoff (1984) note that Spanish settlement barred many Native Americans from traditionally important resources including clamshell beads, abalone shells, Catalina steatite, shellfish, and asphaltum. The introduction of European customs and diseases transformed the hunter-gatherers into agricultural laborers and decimated the native population.

Records Search. Conejo Archaeological Consultants completed an archaeological records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University, Fullerton on October 10, 2023. The records search included a review of all recorded historic-era and precontact archaeological sites within the Project site and a ¼-mile radius, as well as a review of known cultural resource surveys and technical reports.

The records search identified one archaeological resource, CA-VEN-791, within the proposed Project site. Specifically, the proposed water tank, storm drainpipes, rip-rap dissipaters, and half of the access road would be located entirely within the site boundaries. The records search also identified six previously recorded cultural resources within a ¼-mile radius of the Project site.

CA-VEN-791 was initially recorded in 1984 by Michael Kuhn, who described the site as a 220-meter by 425-meter prehistoric lithic scatter with ground stone bowl fragments. The site is located on a terrace adjacent to a spring, which typically indicates a habitation site; however, no utilized tools, faunal remains, or midden soils were observed. Kuhn also noted that CA-VEN-791 had been previously disturbed from agricultural activities (i.e., discing, tree planting) and the construction of the current District office complex.

In 2003, the portion of CA-VEN-791 within the parcel directly south of the Project site was tested and evaluated by SWCA in support of the SunCal development (Paige, 2003; Maxon, 2008). Testing consisted of nine 1x1-meter test units and 10 backhoe trenches, which yielded a small number of formed stone tools, minimal faunal remains, and lithic debitage. The deposit was recorded to a depth of 60 centimeters below surface; however, modern trash was present up to 20 centimeters below surface and evidence of bioturbation was present throughout. An interim report describing the testing results was prepared, but never finalized (Maxon, 2008).

Chambers Group, Inc., in support of the Moorpark Vistas and North Hills Parkway Project, reviewed the 2003 testing results, and recommended that the portion of CA-VEN-791 within the parcel directly south of the Project site was not eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources. This determination was based on a lack of internal integrity due to bioturbation, minimal diversity of artifact and material types, low artifact density, and the lack of potential to yield important information (Maxon, 2008).

Dudek completed a pedestrian survey of the parcel directly south of the Project site in 2014 and relocated CA-VEN-791. Archaeologists observed one Projectile point, several flakes, and extended the site boundary approximately 90 meters to the south. During the same survey substantial disturbance, including mechanical excavation, trash dumping, terracing, off-road vehicle use, was observed. Dudek maintained that the portion of CA-VEN-791 on the property directly south of the Project site was not eligible for inclusion in the (Stone and Victorino, 2014).

Field Survey Results. Padre Staff Archaeologist Christopher Letter and Native American Frank Arredondo of Ksen~Sku~Mu – CRM conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project site on November 7, 2023. The Project site was examined using parallel transects spaced at no more than 5-meter intervals. Ground visibility ranged from less than ten percent in the more vegetated areas to 100 percent in areas with exposed soil. The total size of the survey area was approximately 3.5 acres. Field conditions were documented with color digital photographs.

The field survey confirmed the presence of CA-VEN-791 in the eastern third of the Project site. One flake was observed on the surface approximately 42 meters (138.5 feet) northeast of the proposed tank location and another was observed on the surface approximately 16 meters (53.8 feet) southwest of the proposed tank location. Mr. Letter and Mr. Arredondo also observed a concentration of lithic artifacts approximately 67 meters (219.8 feet) northeast of the proposed tank area. Within this concentration, lithic material types observed consisted of obsidian, dacite, fused shale and quartzite and the stages of lithic reduction observed consisted mainly of secondary flakes with some tertiary flakes. No features or ground stone artifacts were observed.

Extended Phase I Testing. Immediately after the field survey, Mr. Letter and Mr. Arredondo completed the Extended Phase I Testing Program. The team excavated three 50-centimeter diameter Shovel Test Probes (STP) spaced at random intervals within the area of the proposed water tank, storm drainpipes, and rip-rap dissipaters. Each STP was excavated in 20-centimeter increments and the excavated material dry-screened through 1/8-inch mesh. STPs 1 and 3 were excavated to a depth of 100 centimeters and STP 2 was excavated to a depth of 85 centimeters due to rock refusal. Cultural remains from each level were counted but not collected. A standard excavation form was used to document artifacts and soil stratigraphy for each level of the STPs. Soil sediments were described, including Munsell color, texture, and other characteristics. Color digital photographs were taken to document the fieldwork and Padre mapped all STP locations.

The soil stratigraphy and materials observed during the extended Phase I testing indicate that the integrity of CA-VEN-791 within the area of the proposed reservoir, storm drain pipes, and rip-rap dissipater is poor. Subsurface disturbance was identified within each STP, and the density of cultural materials present subsurface was very low. Thus, the deposit in this location is so disturbed that it no longer has the potential to contribute to the overall cultural importance of CA-VEN-791 as a whole.

Tribal Consultation. On March 26, 2024, the District formally notified Ms. Julie Tumamait-Stenslie of the Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians and Ms. Sarah Brunzell of the Fernandeno-Tataviam Band of Mission Indians via certified mail of the decision to undertake the proposed Project to allow the tribes to request consultation under Section 21080.3.1(d) of the Public Resources Code. These two tribal representatives are the only traditionally and culturally affiliated contacts that have requested consultation notification from Ventura County.

The District received an e-mail from Ms. Sarah Brunzell of the Fernandeno-Tataviam Band of Mission Indians on April 3, 2024 deferring consultation to the Barbereño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians. The Barbereño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians did not respond to the District's consultation request.

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant Project impacts to archaeological resources include:

- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the Project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not archaeologically or culturally significant; or
- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an archaeological resource that convey its archaeological significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.

Impacts (PS-M). The record search, field survey and extended Phase I testing program did not identify any intact archaeological resources within the Project's area of potential effect. However, excavation associated with the construction of the reservoir and installation of buried water pipelines and storm drains may result in disturbance of undiscovered portions of site CA-VEN-791 or other cultural deposits (isolated artifacts, burials, middens, Native American occupied sites).

Mitigation. The following mitigation measures are consistent with the guidelines of the State Office of Historic Preservation and shall be incorporated into the Project to prevent significant impacts, should resources be found during excavation.

- A worker cultural resources awareness program shall be implemented for the Project. Prior to any ground-disturbing activity, the District shall provide an initial sensitivity training session to all Project employees, contractors, subcontractors, and other workers prior to their involvement in any ground-disturbing activities, with subsequent training sessions to accommodate new personnel becoming involved in the Project. The program may be conducted together with other environmental or safety awareness and education programs for the Project, provided that the program elements pertaining to cultural resources are provided by a qualified archaeologist.
- Initial tank foundation excavation and related earthwork shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and a Native American representative.

- In the event cultural resources are encountered during the proposed Project (outside the areas of required monitoring), the District shall cease construction activities within a 100-foot radius. Work will resume once an archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards for Archaeology has assessed the find and identified and implemented appropriate mitigation measures.
- If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to the origin and deposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission.

Implementation of the above measures would reduce impacts to archaeological resources to a level of less than significant.

Part 8.b Historical Resources

Setting. Contact Period (A.D. 1542 - 1782). Juan Cabrillo, while exploring the California coast, became the first European to travel near the Project site when he anchored near Point Mugu in October 1542. Over two hundred years later, Gaspar de Portolá led the first Spanish land expedition in January 1770, traveled through Simi Valley and camped near a Chumash village (Bolton, 1926; Browning, 1992; Priestley, 1937). Several accounts of this expedition exist, including those of Juan Crespi (Bolton, 1926), Miguel Costansó (Browning, 1992), and Pedro Fages (Priestley, 1937). Costansó's diary contains observations regarding the native inhabitants' houses, settlement patterns, dress, and customs, as well as their attitudes toward the expedition (Browning, 1992). Fages noted the general Chumash population was distributed in small, numerous villages (Priestley, 1937). In 1776, Juan Bautista de Anza traveled through Ventura County as leader of the San Francisco colonists, stopping near the outlet of the Santa Clara River.

Mission Period (A.D. 1772 – 1834). Junípero Serra founded *Mission San Buenaventura*, approximately 22 miles west of the Project site, in 1782. Newly baptized Chumash provided all the labor to construct and maintain the mission, which included the seven-mile long aqueduct system that carried water from the Ventura River. The aqueduct allowed the mission to maintain large orchards and gardens, which produced surplus food for trade. Most of the missions were similar in design and consisted of a church and living quarters for the priests, soldiers, and baptized Chumash. By the early nineteenth century, the surrounding Chumash villages were barely inhabited (Triem, 1985).

Rancho Period (A.D. 1821 – 1845). The Project site is located within the Rancho Simi, a 113,009-acre parcel granted to Santiago Pico and Luis Peña by Governor Diego de Borica in 1795 (Atkins, 2012). Pico constructed a large adobe dwelling on the property in the early nineteenth century, which served as the rancho headquarters and a stopover place between the Missions San Fernando Rey and San Buenaventura (Simi Valley Historical Society, 2016).

In 1821, Mexico declared independence from Spain; a year later, California became a Mexican Territory. After the secularization of the missions in 1834, lands were gradually transferred to private ownership via a system of land grants (Hoover, 1990). José de la Guerra purchased Rancho Simi from the Pico family in 1842 and raised cattle and sheep on the property (Atkins, 2012).

The standard rancho labor force mostly consisted of local Chumash and often small rancherias or villages were scattered about the estate (Lebow et al., 2001). Cattle ranching, and to a lesser extent, sheep became the principal agricultural activities, primarily for the lucrative hide and tallow trade (Bean, 1968).

Anglo-Mexican Period (A.D. 1845-1860). Following the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846, John C. Frémont and the California Battalion marched into San Buenaventura, finding all the inhabitants fled except the Chumash neophytes. The Treaty of Hidalgo formally transferred California to the United States in 1848 and statehood was achieved in 1850. At the time, the area that would become Ventura County was originally the eastern portion of Santa Barbara County (Murphy, 1979).

Locally, the Philadelphia and California Petroleum Company, headed by Thomas A. Scott, purchased most of Rancho Simi after de la Guerra's death in 1858. The rest of de la Guerra's family moved to an adobe in Tapo Rancho (Atkins, 2012). During the 1860s, Americans settled in the area and raised livestock and crops (Simi Valley Historical Society, 2016).

Americanization Period (A.D. 1860-present). The Philadelphia and California Petroleum Company failed to find oil on Rancho Simi. After Scott died in 1881, most of the property was sold and divided into ranches and farms (Atkins, 2012). In 1887, the Simi Land and Water Company was established and advertised the real estate in publications throughout the United States (Simi Valley Historical Society, 2016). A group of Chicago doctors formed the California Mutual Benefit Colony of Chicago, hoping to establish a health resort or sanatorium along the Simi River. The health resort never materialized and many of the doctors returned to Chicago (Atkins, 2012).

Robert W. Poindexter, the secretary of the Simi Land and Water Company, received the plot of land that would become Moorpark when the company dissolved in 1887. In the 1890s, the Southern Pacific Railroad announced plans to relocate its Coast Line route from Los Angeles to San Francisco through the Santa Susana Mountains. Poindexter and his wife surveyed and plotted the town site in 1900. That same year, a train depot was built and an application for a post office was submitted and approved. Poindexter named the town after the Moorpark apricot, which used to grow in the area. The town slowly grew after the completion of the Santa Susana railroad tunnel in 1904 (Moorpark Historical Society, 2016).

Agriculture was the main source of revenue as early settlers preferred dry land farming to grow apricots, black-eyed beans, hay, and lima beans. As more water wells were drilled and irrigation systems improved, walnuts and citrus crops became the preferred crops because of the higher yields. After World War II, chicken, turkey, and egg ranches were established (Moorpark Historical Society, 2016). In 1961, Julius Goldman founded Egg City, a massive chicken farm, approximately 1.5 miles north of the Project site (Maiella, 1993). The complex was closed in 1996 and the ruins destroyed by a wildfire in 2006 (Rasmussen, 2006).

In 1957, Moorpark became the first town in the United States to be powered by nuclear energy. The Sodium Reactor Experiment, built at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory near Simi Valley, operated until 1964 (Barnett, 2003). Despite this notable event, Moorpark remained a small community until the late 1970s and early 1980s when large housing developments were constructed on the northern and southern edges of town. The city was incorporated on July 1, 1983 (Moorpark Historical Society, 2016).

The nearest Ventura County designated landmarks are the Methodist Church and High Street Pepper Trees, located in Moorpark approximately 0.6 miles south of the Project site. The Moorpark Historical Society lists nine Points of Interest, with Tanner's Corner the closest, located approximately 0.7 miles south of the Project site. The cultural resources record search did not identify any historic resources near the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant Project impacts to historic resources include:

- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.
- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or its identification in an historical resources survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the Project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant.
- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.

Impacts (NI). No historic landmarks, structures or properties would be adversely affected by implementation of the proposed Project.

ISSUE 9: COASTAL BEACHES AND SAND DUNES

Setting. The nearest coastal beach (near the Ventura-Los Angeles County line) is located approximately 17 miles to the south of the Project site. The nearest sand dunes are located at Point Mugu State Park, approximately 17.2 miles southwest of the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant Project impacts to coastal beaches and sand dunes include:

- Any Project that causes a direct or indirect adverse physical change to a coastal beach or sand dune, which is inconsistent with any of the coastal beaches and coastal sand dunes policies of the California Coastal Act, corresponding Coastal Act regulations, Ventura County Coastal Area Plan, or Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs.
- Any Project, when considered together with one or more recently approved, current, and reasonably foreseeable probable future Projects, would result in a direct or indirect, adverse physical change to a coastal beach or sand dune.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project would not directly affect any beaches or sand dunes. The Project would not indirectly affect beaches and sand dunes because it would not alter the volume or rate of sediment generated or transported to local beaches and sand dunes.

ISSUE 10: FAULT RUPTURE HAZARD

Setting. The entire Southern California region, including the Ventura County area, is located within a seismically active area. The nearest fault (Simi-Santa Rosa Fault System) is located approximately 2.4 miles south of the Project site. This fault system has a fault displacement recurrence interval of about 1,000 years and an average displacement of about one meter per event (Fugro West, 2003). No faults are known to pass through the Project site, and it is not located within a designated Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone.

Significance Thresholds. The Project would have a significant impact if it would place persons or property at risk of loss of life or damage due to fault rupture.

Impacts (NI). As described above, the Project site is not within an Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone or seismic hazard zone. The proposed reservoir would be designed and constructed to current California Building Code seismic design standards. The proposed Project would not affect off-site fault rupture hazards (such as flooding caused by catastrophic tank failure) and would not increase the number of persons exposed to fault rupture hazards.

ISSUE 11: GROUND-SHAKING HAZARD

Setting. Ground-shaking is the cause of most damage during earthquakes. The Project area has a 10 percent chance of exceeding a peak ground acceleration of 0.71 g (alluvium conditions) in 50 years (California Department of Conservation, 2001). The Oak Ridge Fault (approximately six miles north of the Project site) is anticipated to pose the greatest seismic hazard with an estimated maximum magnitude earthquake in the Project area of 6.9 (Fugro West, 2003).

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant Project impacts related to ground-shaking hazard include:

- Proposed structures not designed to be built in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Ventura County Building Code, which has the potential to expose people or other structures to potential significant adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving ground shaking hazards.

- Significant impacts from ground-shaking hazards would result for Projects involving high-rise structures, critical facilities, and Projects of unique design not covered by ordinary provisions of the Uniform Building Code. Such Projects may subject persons and property to greater risk of loss of life or substantial damage during strong ground-shaking events.

Impacts (NI). The proposed reservoir would be designed and constructed to current California Building Code seismic design standards. The proposed Project would not affect off-site ground-shaking hazards (such as flooding caused by catastrophic tank failure) and would not increase the number of persons exposed to ground-shaking hazards.

ISSUE 12: LIQUEFACTION HAZARDS

Setting. Liquefaction occurs when strong, cyclic motions during an earthquake cause water-saturated soils to lose their cohesion and take on a liquid state. Liquefied soils are unstable and can subject overlying structures to substantial damage. The occurrence of liquefaction is highly dependent on local soil properties, depth to groundwater, and the strength and duration of a given ground-shaking event. The Project site is not located within a liquefaction hazard zone as designated by the California Department of Conservation (2001). The immediate Project area is not considered susceptible to liquefaction (Fugro West, 2003). The potential for liquefaction to occur beneath the tank site is considered very low (Albus Associates, 2024)

Significance Thresholds. The Project would have a significant impact if liquefaction hazards would subject persons or property to loss of life or substantial injury or damage. Projects located within liquefaction hazard areas identified by the California Department of Conservation may result in significant adverse effects.

Impacts (NI). The proposed reservoir would not be affected by liquefaction, would not affect off-site liquefaction hazards and would not increase the number of persons exposed to liquefaction hazards.

ISSUE 13: SEICHE AND TSUNAMI HAZARDS

Setting. Tsunamis are seismically induced sea waves that can be of sufficient size to cause substantial damage to coastal areas. The last major tsunami in Southern California was in 1812, generated by an earthquake in the Santa Barbara Channel. The largest tsunami wave amplitude recorded by modern instrumentation in Ventura County was 8.8 feet, associated with the Chilean earthquake of 1960. In 2010, an earthquake in Chile generated a tsunami which caused minor damage to structures and vessels in the Ventura Harbor. A tsunami generated by a volcanic eruption in Tonga in January 2022 caused minor damage to a few boats in the Ventura Harbor. The nearest tsunami inundation hazard area is located approximately 17.5 miles south of the Project site near El Pescador State Beach (California Geological Survey, 2021).

Seiches are oscillating waves that occur in enclosed or semi-enclosed bodies of water such as lakes and bays. Seiches are commonly caused by earthquakes. There is no record of a seiche occurring in Ventura County. The nearest body of water that may be subject to seiches is Lake Bard, located approximately 4.4 miles southeast of the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant Project impacts related to seiche and tsunami hazards include:

- The proposed Project is located within about 10 to 20 feet of vertical elevation from an enclosed body of water such as a lake or reservoir. The height of hazard above the water level is dependent on the ground motion intensity, duration of shaking, and subsurface topography of the lake or reservoir and surface topography of the shoreline.
- The proposed Project is located in a mapped area of tsunami hazard as shown on Tsunami Hazard Maps prepared by the California Emergency Management Agency.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project is not located in a tsunami hazard zone and would not increase the severity, or the number of persons potentially affected by a tsunami. The proposed Project is not located in a seiche hazard zone and would not increase the severity, or the number of persons potentially affected by a seiche.

ISSUE 14: LANDSLIDES/MUDFLOW HAZARD

Setting. Areas of high landslide or mudflow potential are typically hillside areas with slopes of greater than 10 percent. The Project site is not located within a seismically-induced landslide hazard area (California Department of Conservation 2001).

Significance Thresholds. A project would have a significant impact if the project site would be affected by a landslide/mudflow hazard or contribute to landslides/mudslides that could not be mitigated. The threshold for landslide/mudflow hazard is determined by the Public Works Agency Certified Engineering Geologist based on the location of the site or project within, or outside of mapped landslides, potential earthquake induced landslide zones, and geomorphology of hillside terrain.

Impacts (NI). The Project site does not include existing slopes exceeding 10 percent. Proposed final slopes produced by earthwork to prepare the site for Project construction would not exceed 10 percent. Therefore, the Project would not result in any hazards associated with landslides or mudslides.

ISSUE 15: EXPANSIVE SOILS HAZARDS

Setting. Expansive soils are primarily clay-rich soils subject to changes in volume with changes in moisture content. Based on the regional soil map, soils at the Project site have been mapped as Soper gravelly loam (30-50 percent slopes, eroded) and Chesterton coarse sandy loam (5-10 percent slopes, eroded) (Edwards et al. 1970).

Chesterton coarse sandy loam (5-15 percent slopes, eroded) has a high shrink-swell potential and Soper gravelly loam (30-50 percent slopes, eroded) has a moderate shrink-swell potential (Edwards et al. 1970). Laboratory testing of soil samples obtained from drill holes at the Project site indicate near surface soils have a very low expansion potential (Albus Associates, 2003).

Significance Thresholds. The determination of a significant soils expansion effect shall be based upon an inquiry of whether a proposed project will expose people or structures to potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving soil expansion if it is located within an expansive soils hazard zone or where soils with an expansion index greater than 20 are present.

Impacts (NI). The proposed reservoir is not anticipated to be adversely affected by expansive soils. In addition, the proposed Project would not increase the number of persons exposed to expansive soils hazards.

ISSUE 16: SUBSIDENCE HAZARD

Setting. Subsidence is generally related to over-pumping of groundwater or petroleum reserves from deep underground reservoirs. Subsidence of up to 2.2 feet occurred in the Pleasant Valley area by the early 1970's due to over-pumping of groundwater in this area (Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency 2007). The Project site is not located within a probable subsidence zone identified in the Ventura County 2040 General Plan Background Report (Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 2020).

Significance Thresholds. The determination of a significant subsidence effect is based upon an inquiry of whether a proposed project will expose people or structures to potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving subsidence if it is located within a subsidence hazard zone.

Impacts (NI). Groundwater levels in the area are not substantially declining and subsidence is not anticipated. As such, the Project would neither cause nor be subjected to ground subsidence and would have no impact.

ISSUE 17: HYDRAULIC HAZARDS

Part 17.a Non-FEMA (Erosion & Siltation)

Setting. Generally speaking, erosion is the wearing away of soil and rock by weathering, mass wasting, and the action of streams, glaciers, waves, wind and underground water. The process of deposition of sediment from a state of suspension in water or air is referred to as sedimentation or siltation. There are no non-FEMA regulated flood control facilities near the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. The project would have a significant impact if it would cause substantial erosion or siltation. Potential erosion/siltation hazards and flooding hazards are addressed through compliance with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District's Standards and Specifications Design Manual. Erosion/siltation hazards and the effects of flooding hazards are required to be considered within the existing framework of grading and building code ordinances, which apply to all sites and projects.

Impacts (NI). Proposed Project construction activities would not occur within a floodway or floodplain or result in excessive erosion that may cause siltation of flood control facilities.

Part 17.b FEMA

Setting. The Project site is located approximately 700 feet east of the Walnut Canyon drainage which is a FEMA-regulated floodplain (0.2 percent annual chance flood hazard, see Flood Insurance Rate Map panel 06111C0817E, effective January 20, 2010 and LOMR 12-09-0985P, effective July 18, 2012). No flood hazard areas are located within or in close proximity to the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. Methodology to determine the significance of impacts is taken from the Ventura County ISAG:

- **No Impact:** If the entire development is located outside of the boundaries of a Special Flood Hazard Area and is located entirely within a FEMA-determined 'X-Unshaded' flood zone (beyond the 0.2% annual chance floodplain: beyond the 500-year floodplain).
- **Less than Significant:** If the entire development is located outside of the boundaries of a Special Flood Hazard Area and is located entirely within a FEMA-determined 'X-Shaded' flood zone (within the 0.2% annual chance floodplain: within the 500-year floodplain). If the proposed development, in part or in whole, is located within the boundaries of a Special Flood Hazard Area, but is located outside of the boundaries of the Regulatory Floodway, if it can be demonstrated that the proposed development can be designed and constructed, as part of the Floodplain Development Permit and Building Permit processes, to be in compliance with all applicable floodplain management standards and measures.
- **Potentially Significant – Mitigation Incorporated:** Potentially significant impacts from the 1% annual chance flood can be mitigated through project design or measures, such as but not limited to, relocating the proposed development elsewhere on the property where the risk of flood damage is potentially lower, implementing FEMA-supported building construction and grading technologies that mitigate flood damage and thereby reducing the risk of the flood hazard.
- **Potentially Significant:** If the proposed development, in part or in whole, is located within the boundaries of the Regulatory Floodway, as determined using the 'Effective' and latest available Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project does not involve any activities or placement of structures or materials within the floodway or flood hazard area and would not affect flood water elevations.

ISSUE 18: FIRE HAZARDS

Setting. Ventura County Building Code, Article III Section 702A identifies High Fire Hazard Areas/Fire Hazard Severity Zones as “geographical areas in unincorporated Ventura County designated by the Ventura County Fire Protection District pursuant to California Public Resources Codes Sections 4201 through 4204 and classified as Very High, High, or Moderate in State Responsibility Areas or as Local Agency Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones designated pursuant to California Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189”. The Fire Code also defines Hazardous Watershed Fire Areas as a location within 500 feet of a forest or brush, grass, or grain covered land, exclusive of small individual lots or parcels of land located outside of a brush, forest, or grass covered area.

The Project site is located within a very high fire hazard severity zone as designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Project site is served by Ventura County Fire Department Station 42 located at 295 East High Street, Moorpark, and includes three engines. Station 42 is located approximately 1.2 road miles from the Project site (via Spring Road).

Significance Thresholds. Projects located within High Fire Hazard Areas/Fire Hazard Severity Zones or Hazardous Watershed Fire Areas may have a significant fire hazard impact. The fire hazard impact can be mitigated by compliance with Building and Safety requirements for structures and the Fire Protection District Hazard Abatement program which calls for the clearing of brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth located within 100 feet of structures or buildings. Projects not located within High Fire Hazard Areas/Fire Hazard Severity Zones or Hazardous Watershed Fire Areas will not have a significant impact.

Impacts (LS). The Project site and adjacent areas to the east and south support flammable vegetation, including pine trees, pepper trees and native shrubs. However, flammable vegetation would be removed from construction work areas (grubbing) as an initial work task. Project-related ignition sources may include heavy equipment and hand tools (including welders and grinders) and motor vehicles. All construction equipment and vehicles would be equipped with manufacturer-supplied mufflers as appropriate, and water applied for dust control (see emissions reduction measures under Issue 1.a) would minimize the potential for ignition of any vegetation. Overall, potential increases in fire hazard are considered less than significant.

ISSUE 19: AVIATION HAZARDS

Setting. The Project site is located approximately 12.7 miles northeast of the Camarillo Airport, and outside the Airport’s sphere of influence.

Significance Thresholds. A review of a project's potential aviation hazards, as those hazards relate to proposed development of properties near County public airports, will focus on that project's compliance with the County's Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan and pre-established federal criteria set forth in Federal Aviation Regulation Part 77 (Obstruction Standards), as well as those recommendations for good land-use planning made by state and county governments. The Airport Land Use Commission will give special attention to all residential development within the sphere of influence of County airports, as well as churches, schools and high commercial purpose buildings within the same sphere of influence. Projects which do not meet these applicable criteria may have the potential to cause a significant aviation impact.

Impacts (NI). The Project would not adversely affect aircraft operations or implementation of the Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Project would not involve any activities or structures that are incompatible with the safe operation of aviation facilities and impacts to aviation safety would not occur.

ISSUE 20: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE

Part 20.a Materials

Setting. A "hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, physical or chemical characteristics poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or environment. A review of the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker data base indicates four underground fuel storage tank leakage cases (soil contamination) are located along High Street, approximately 0.7 miles south of the Project site. Each of these cases were closed by 2008, having met RWQCB cleanup standards.

A review of the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) Envirostor data base indicates a former agricultural property (Morrison Property, 0.6 miles east of the Project site) was investigated for historical soil contamination by pesticides as part of a school siting analysis. Metals and pesticides were found in soils at the property, but health risk thresholds were not exceeded.

Significance Thresholds. Methodology to determine the significance of impacts is taken from the Ventura County ISAG:

- No Impact: the proposed project will not utilize hazardous materials.

- **Less than Significant:** A project will utilize hazardous materials that are subject to regulation by the Environmental Health Division and/or Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD). Compliance with applicable state regulations enforced by the Environmental Health Division and/or VCFPD will reduce potential project related and cumulatively impacts to a less than significant level. A determination of less than significant will be made when the project will utilize hazardous materials and will be connected to an onsite sewage disposal system. For development in areas without public sewer service, intentional or unintentional discharges of hazardous materials into a building's plumbing system may result in groundwater contamination. State regulations have been enacted to ensure that public health, the environment and natural resources are protected from potential adverse impacts from the improper storage, handling and disposal of hazardous materials. Compliance with these State regulations will reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.
- **Potentially Significant - Mitigation Incorporated:** Project related and cumulatively potentially significant impacts from hazardous material(s) can be successfully mitigated to a less than significant level by project design or measures using currently acceptable technology and/or through adoption of specific project condition. Compliance with applicable regulations enforced by the Environmental Health Division and through adoption of a specific project conditions will mitigate existing underground tanks not in compliance to a less than significant level.
- **Potentially Significant:** Project related and cumulatively significant or potentially significant impacts from hazardous materials cannot be feasibly mitigated to a less than significant level using currently available information.

Impacts (LS). The Project site was historically cultivated for agricultural purposes and has the potential for soil contamination associated with historical pesticide application and fueling and maintenance of farm equipment and vehicles. However, the Project site has never been developed and has not been cultivated since at least 1959 and is not anticipated to have any soil contamination. Overall, the potential for the discovery of hazardous materials is very low during Project construction and significant exposure of the public and the environment to hazardous materials is not anticipated.

Part 20.b Hazardous Waste

Setting. Hazardous materials are defined as any substance, which if improperly handled, can be damaging to the health and well-being of humans. Hazardous materials become hazardous waste when the material has been used for its original intended purpose and is going to be discarded or recycled.

Significance Thresholds. Methodology to determine the significance of impacts is taken from the Ventura County ISAG:

- **No Impact:** The proposed project will not produce hazardous waste.

- Less than Significant: The project will produce hazardous waste that is subject to State regulations enforced by the Environmental Health Division. The project will produce hazardous waste and will be connected to an onsite sewage disposal system. A determination of less than significant will be made when the project will utilize hazardous materials and will be connected to an onsite sewage disposal system. For development in areas without public sewer service, intentional or unintentional discharges of hazardous materials into a building's plumbing system may result in groundwater contamination. State regulations have been enacted to ensure that public health, the environment and natural resources are protected from potential adverse impacts from the improper storage, handling and disposal of hazardous materials. Compliance with these State regulations will reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.
- Potentially Significant - Mitigation Incorporated: The project will produce hazardous waste, and the Environmental Health Division identifies that a potentially project related and cumulative significant impact is present which can be successfully mitigated to a less than significant level by project design or measures using currently acceptable technology and/or through adoption of specific project condition.
- Potentially Significant: If the Environmental Health Division finds that the character and quantity of the hazardous waste produced by the project and cumulative projects may seriously degrade groundwater that cannot be feasibly mitigated to a less than significant level.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project is limited to construction of a potable water reservoir and installation of associated pipeline connections. Therefore, no hazardous waste would be generated, stored or transported, and no impacts would occur.

ISSUE 21: NOISE AND VIBRATION

Setting. Noise is generally defined as unwanted or objectionable sound. Noise levels are measured on a logarithmic scale because of physical characteristics of sound transmission and reception. Noise energy is typically reported in units of decibels (dB). Noise levels diminish (or attenuate) as distance to the source increases according to the inverse square rule, but the rate constant varies with the type of sound source. Sound attenuation from point sources such as industrial facilities is about 6 dB per doubling of distance. Heavily traveled road with few gaps in traffic behave as continuous line sources and attenuate at 3 dB per doubling of distance. Noise from more lightly traveled roads is attenuated at 4.5 dB per doubling of distance.

Community noise levels are measured in terms of the A-weighted decibel (dBA). A-weighting is a frequency correction that correlates overall sound pressure levels with the frequency response of the human ear. Equivalent noise level (Leq) is the average noise level on an energy basis for a specific time period. The duration of noise and the time of day at which it occurs are important factors in determining the impact of noise on communities. Noise is more disturbing at night and noise indices have been developed to account for the time of day and duration of noise generation. The Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) and Day-Night Average Level (DNL or Ldn) are such indices. These indices are time-weighted, and average acoustic energy values over a 24-hour period. The CNEL index penalizes nighttime noise (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) by adding 10 dB and evening noise (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.) by adding 5 dB to account for increased sensitivity of the community during these hours. The Ldn index penalizes nighttime noise the same as the CNEL index, but does not penalize evening noise.

The dominant source of noise in the Project area is motor vehicle traffic on local roadways (primarily State Route 23 and Spring Road). Consistent with the Ventura County ISAG, noise sensitive uses are considered dwellings, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, churches and libraries. Existing noise sensitive uses in proximity to the Project site are limited to single-family residences, located at least 700 feet away.

Traffic noise modeling was conducted for the City of Moorpark General Plan 2050 using 2022 traffic volumes. Modeling results indicate the 60 dBA CNEL noise contour is located about 250 feet from the centerline of State Route 23 and 300 feet from the centerline of Spring Road near the Project site.

Noise levels were measured near the closest legally accessible noise sensitive receptor (residence at southwest corner of the Walnut Canyon Road/Rangewood Court intersection) on October 3, 2023 from 7:23 to 7:43 a.m. The measurement was conducted using a Larson-Davis LXT Type 1 Precision Integrating Sound Level Meter. The Meter was calibrated using a Larson-Davis CAL200 Calibrator at 94 dBA. The measured noise value was 66.9 dBA Leq, typical of noise levels along arterial roadways. The primary noise source during the noise measurement period was vehicle traffic (444 total vehicles per hour and 84 heavy-duty trucks per hour based on a five-minute count) on Walnut Canyon Road. Noise measurement was also conducted near the existing District office building; yielding a noise level of 56.8 dBA Leq (from 7:57 to 8:18 a.m.).

Significance Thresholds. The Project site is located in the City of Moorpark and subject to the noise restrictions of Section 17.53 of the City's Municipal Code. Section 17.53.070 of the City's Municipal Code prohibits construction-related noise that would exceed 60 dBA at single-family residential properties between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. on Monday through Saturday or anytime on Sundays.

Impacts (LS). The proposed Project would generate noise during Project construction. Potential noise sensitive receptors in the Project area are limited to residences, located at least 700 feet from the Project site. Peak day reservoir construction noise (earthwork) was estimated using the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Roadway Construction Noise Model, composed of simultaneous operation of one dozer, one soil compactor, one grader and two wheeled loaders. The results of the noise modelling indicates the peak day construction noise level would be 60.7 dBA Leq at the nearest residence, which is less than the ambient noise level measured on October 3, 2023.

The proposed Project would comply with the City's Municipal Code because noise levels at the nearest residence would not increase and construction activities would be conducted between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Once in operation, the proposed reservoir would not generate noise, except for maintenance-related tasks which may include noise generated by vehicles and power tools. Maintenance work would also comply with the City's Municipal Code because these activities would be conducted between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Construction-related vibration was estimated using methodology provided by the California Department of Transportation (2020), which indicates construction-related vibration (based on use of a large dozer) at the nearest occupied structure (District building, 350 feet away) would generate a peak particle velocity of 0.001 inches/second, which would not be perceptible to humans. Therefore, vibration impacts would be less than significant.

ISSUE 22: DAYTIME GLARE

Setting. Sources of light in the immediate Project area are limited to exterior lighting at residential land uses, security lighting at agricultural land uses and the existing Stockton Reservoir, and vehicle headlights on roadways. The Project site does not have any existing lighting or reflective surfaces.

Significance Thresholds. The project would have a significant impact if:

- The proposed project would create a new source of disability glare or discomfort glare for motorists travelling on any road of the County's Regional Road Network.
- The post-project luminance histogram (generated by a computer-based comparison of before and after digital photographs) would be greater than 3 times the median background.

Impacts (NI). Proposed construction activities would be conducted during daytime and would not involve any reflective surfaces or lighting. The proposed reservoir would be painted with non-reflective paint and security lighting would be shielded and directed towards the ground. Therefore, the proposed Project would not create a new source of glare that may affect motorists or the public.

ISSUE 23: PUBLIC HEALTH

Setting. A public health issue is defined by the County's ISAG as a human health related issue, such as, but not limited to, vectors, bioaerosols, and other pathogens or environmental factors that may pose a substantial present or potential hazard to public health. Note that hazardous materials or waste that may adversely affect human health are addressed under Issue 20.

Significance Thresholds. Significance for public health related impacts must be determined on a case-by-case basis, and is related to project type, location, and other environmental factors.

Impacts (NI). The Project would not generate or benefit vectors, bioaerosols, and other pathogens or environmental factors that may pose a substantial present or potential hazard to public health.

ISSUE 24: GREENHOUSE GASES

Setting. Climate change, often referred to as "global warming" is a global environmental issue that refers to any significant change in measures of climate, including temperature, precipitation, or wind. Climate change refers to variations from baseline conditions that extend for a period (decades or longer) of time and is a result of both natural factors, such as volcanic eruptions, and anthropogenic, or man-made, factors including changes in land-use and burning of fossil fuels. Anthropogenic activities such as deforestation and fossil fuel combustion emit heat-trapping greenhouse gases (GHG), defined as any gas that absorbs infrared radiation within the atmosphere.

Global surface temperatures have increased significantly since the pre-industrial period (1850–1900), when the average temperature was about 13.7–13.8°C (56.7–56.9°F). By 2024, the global average surface temperature was 1.46°C (2.63°F) above pre-industrial levels, making it the warmest year on record. In 2025, the global mean temperature was slightly lower at 1.44°C (2.60°F) above pre-industrial levels, ranking it as the third warmest year since 1850. Over the last decade, all ten of the warmest years have occurred, highlighting an accelerating warming trend. The United States has warmed faster than the global rate.

GHG emissions are a global issue, as climate change is not a localized phenomenon. Eight recognized GHGs are described below. The first six are commonly analyzed for projects, while the last two are often excluded for reasons described below.

- Carbon Dioxide (CO₂): natural sources include decomposition of dead organic matter; respiration of bacteria, plants, animals, and fungus; evaporation from oceans; and volcanic degassing; anthropogenic sources of CO₂ include burning fuels such as coal, oil, natural gas, and wood.
- Methane (CH₄): natural sources include wetlands, permafrost, oceans and wildfires; anthropogenic sources include fossil fuel production, rice cultivation, biomass burning, animal husbandry (fermentation during manure management), and landfills.

- Nitrous Oxide (N₂O): natural sources include microbial processes in soil and water, including those reactions which occur in nitrogen-rich fertilizers; anthropogenic sources include industrial processes, fuel combustion, aerosol spray propellant, and use of racing fuels.
- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs): no natural sources, synthesized for use as refrigerants, aerosol propellants, and cleaning solvents.
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs): no natural sources, synthesized for use in refrigeration, air conditioning, foam blowing, aerosols, and fire extinguishing.
- Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF₆): no natural sources, synthesized for use as an electrical insulator in high voltage equipment that transmits and distributes electricity. SF₆ has a long lifespan and high global warming potential.
- Ozone: unlike the other GHGs, ozone in the troposphere is relatively short-lived and, therefore, is not global in nature. Due to the nature of ozone, and because this Project is not anticipated to contribute to upper atmospheric ozone concentrations, it is excluded from consideration in this analysis.
- Water Vapor: the most abundant and variable GHG in the atmosphere. It is not considered a pollutant and maintains a climate necessary for life. Because this Project is not anticipated to contribute significant levels of water vapor to the environment, it is excluded from consideration in this analysis.

The primary GHGs that would be emitted during construction and operation of the proposed Project are CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O. The Project is not expected to have any associated use or release of HFCs, CFCs or SF₆.

CO₂ is also used as a reference gas for climate change. To account for different GHG global warming potentials, emissions are often quantified and reported as CO₂ equivalents (CO₂E). Currently, the CO₂ global warming potential is set at a reference value of 1, CH₄ has a global warming potential of 27.9 (i.e., 1 ton of methane has the same global warming potential as 27.9 tons of CO₂), while nitrous oxide has a global warming potential of 273.

Climate change is having and will continue to have widespread impacts on California's environment, water supply, energy consumption, public health and economy. Many impacts already occur, including increased fires, floods, severe storms, and heat waves. Documented effects of climate change in California include increased average, maximum, and minimum temperatures; decreased spring runoff to the Sacramento River; shrinking glaciers in the Sierra Nevada; sea-level rise at the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco Bay; warmer temperatures in Lake Tahoe, Mono Lake, and other major lakes; and plant and animal species found at changed elevations (California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, 2018).

The primary legislation affecting GHG emissions in California is the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill [AB] 32). AB 32 (Nuñez; Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) focuses on reducing GHG emissions in California and required the State to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. CARB prepared a Draft Scoping Plan for Climate Change in 2008 pursuant to AB 32. The Climate Change Scoping Plan was updated in May 2014 and November 2017.

In 2016, the State met the AB 32 target, 4 years early. The State Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 32 (Pavley; Chapter 249, Statutes of 2016), which codifies a 2030 GHG emissions reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels. With SB 32, the Legislature passed companion legislation AB 197, which provides additional direction for developing the Scoping Plan. The 2017 update to the Scoping Plan focused on strategies to achieve the 2030 target set by Executive Order B-30-15 and codified by SB 32.

Executive Order B-55-18, signed September 10, 2018, sets a goal “to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative emissions thereafter.” The goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 is in addition to other statewide goals, meaning not only should emissions be reduced to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, but that, by no later than 2045, the remaining emissions should be offset by equivalent net removals of GHGs from the atmosphere, including through sequestration in forests, soils, and other natural landscapes. CARB finalized the 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality (2022 Scoping Plan) on November 16, 2022 which lays out a path to achieve targets for carbon neutrality and reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by 85 percent below 1990 levels no later than 2045.

As part of the Ventura County 2040 General Plan, a GHG emissions reduction strategy (which serves as the County’s Climate Action Plan) was prepared and integrated with the General Plan as Appendix B. A baseline GHG inventory was prepared using a baseline year of 2015 and focusing on community-wide emissions. As indicated within General Plan Appendix B (Figure B-1), transportation (36%), solid waste (17%), building energy (17%), stationary source (16%), and agriculture (13%) made up the majority of GHGs in unincorporated Ventura County. The County’s GHG emissions forecast predicts a 7.8 percent decrease from the 2015 baseline by the year 2050 for unincorporated Ventura County, based on implementation of existing State and federal regulations. Ventura County GHG reduction goals and targets are similar to the state targets, but are focused on reductions in the County’s 2015 GHG inventory:

- Two percent below 2015 levels by 2020
- 41 percent below 2015 levels by 2030
- 61 percent below 2015 levels by 2040
- 80 percent below 2015 levels by 2050

Significance Thresholds. To date, GHG thresholds of significance have not been adopted by the City of Moorpark or Ventura County. On November 8, 2011, the VCAPCD completed a staff report assessing several options and strategies in developing GHG thresholds for land development projects. Although no GHG thresholds were developed, the November 8, 2011 staff report stated that consistency with any GHG thresholds developed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is preferred. On December 5, 2008, the SCAQMD governing board adopted an interim GHG significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons per year CO₂ equivalent (including amortized construction emissions) for industrial projects. Due to the lack of any other applicable threshold, this value is used in this analysis to determine the significance of the contribution of the project to global climate change.

Impacts (LS). GHG emissions associated with Project construction were estimated using the OFFROAD 2021 and EMFAC 2025 models, using input data for Ventura County and peak year construction occurring in 2027. These models were selected as they were developed by CARB for the preparation of emissions inventories and are appropriate for the emissions sources associated with the Project. Peak year construction greenhouse gas emissions would be 398.6 metric tons CO₂ equivalent. Since annual GHG emissions would be less than the significance threshold, global climate change impacts are considered less than significant.

ISSUE 25: COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Setting. The Project site is located within a somewhat isolated rural area (about 200 acres) with single-family residential areas to the east and west. The City's zoning designation for the Project site is Industrial, with a land use designation of Public Facilities.

Significance Thresholds. The project would have a significant impact to community character if it was:

- A project that is inconsistent with any of the policies or development standards relating to community character of the Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs or applicable Area Plan, is regarded as having a potentially significant environmental impact; and/or
- A project has the potential to have a significant impact on community character, if it either individually or cumulatively when combined with recently approved, current, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects would introduce physical development that is incompatible with existing land uses, architectural form or style, site design/layout, or density/parcel sizes within the community in which the project site is located.

Impacts (NI). The Project consists of the construction of a new potable water reservoir at an existing water infrastructure site supporting an existing reservoir. The proposed Project is consistent with existing zoning and land use designations and would not have any effect on the character of nearby communities.

ISSUE 26: HOUSING

Setting. The Project site is located within a somewhat isolated rural area (about 200 acres) with single-family residential areas to the east and west.

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant project impacts to housing include:

- Elimination of three or more dwelling units that are affordable to households with moderate income levels (coastal zone) or lower income (entire County) is considered a significant project-specific and cumulative impact on existing housing.
- Projects that result in 30 or more new full-time-equivalent ("FTE") lower-income employees.

Impacts (NI). The Project would not involve the removal of any existing housing. However, any project that would involve construction has the potential to generate a demand for construction worker housing. Any employment opportunities associated with proposed reservoir construction activities are not expected to generate demand for housing, due to the short-term nature (about 200 working days) and small number of workers needed (about 12 on average). Therefore, these services are anticipated to be supplied by existing construction workers within the County, and an impact on housing demand in the City or County is not anticipated.

ISSUE 27: TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

The following analysis is consistent with the Ventura County ISAG, which have not been updated to address revisions to the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15064.3) regarding determining the significance of transportation impacts. These revisions focus on increases in vehicle miles travelled associated with proposed changes in land use.

The proposed Project would generate temporary construction-related vehicle trips, vehicle miles traveled and associated climate change and air quality impacts. The proposed Project would generate up to 34 one-way vehicle trips per day associated with worker and equipment transportation, import of materials and export of unusable earth material. New long-term vehicle trips would be limited to weekly maintenance trips from the adjacent District maintenance facility. Projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day generally may be assumed to cause a less-than significant transportation impact (Governor's Office of Planning and Research, 2017). Therefore, the Project is consistent with Section 15064.3 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Setting. The quality of traffic service provided by a roadway system can be described through the Level of Service (LOS) concept. LOS is a standardized means of describing traffic conditions by comparing traffic volumes in a roadway system with the system's capacity. An LOS rating of A-C indicates that the roadway is operating efficiently. Minor delays are possible on an arterial with a LOS of D. Level E represents traffic volumes at or near the capacity of the highway, resulting in possible delays and unstable flow.

The Project site is accessed from Spring Road, a four-lane primary arterial roadway with a landscaped median. Based on traffic counts conducted in 2019, peak hour a.m. traffic volumes on Spring Road are 686 southbound and 369 northbound between Walnut Canyon Road and High Street. The Spring Road/High Street intersection is estimated to operate at LOS D during a.m. peak hour and LOS C during p.m. peak hour (iteris, 2022).

Part 27.a Roads and Highways

County Roadway Significance Thresholds. Excluding five roadway segments, the minimum acceptable level of service for County maintained local roads is LOS C, and LOS D for County thoroughfares and state highways. The minimum acceptable level of service is LOS E for the portion of State Route 34 north of Camarillo, which is located approximately 5.6 miles southwest of the Project site. A project would have a significant impact on roads and highways if it would:

- Add one or more peak hour trip to a roadway currently operating at an unacceptable LOS.

- Cause a roadway to fall below an acceptable LOS.

County Intersection Significance Thresholds. The project would have a significant impact on an intersection if it would:

- Increase volume/capacity ratios (V/C) by 0.20 for intersections operating at LOS A.
- Increase V/C by 0.15 for intersections operating at LOS B.
- Increase V/C by 0.10 for intersections operating at LOS C.

27.a(1) Roads and Highways Level of Service

Impacts (LS). The proposed Project would generate short-term construction-related vehicle traffic on Spring Road, with about 34 one-way trips on a peak day. However, many of these trips would occur during off-peak hours because proposed construction activities would generally begin prior to a.m. peak hour and typically end at or before p.m. peak hour. The proposed Project would not generate sufficient peak hour traffic volumes to reduce LOS at affected intersections. Therefore, Project impacts to roadway level of service would be less than significant.

27.a(2) Safety and Design of Public Roads

Impacts (NI). The Project does not involve construction of a public road; therefore, no impacts to the safety and design of public roads would occur.

27.a(3) Safety and Design of Private Access

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project does not involve any new access roads, the proposed reservoir would be located adjacent to an existing reservoir and accessed from Ventura County Public Works' Moorpark maintenance yard. No impacts to the safety and design of private access roads would occur.

27.a(4) Tactical Access

Setting. Tactical access describes an organized system of roads that provides access to and from a project site in the event of any emergency or disaster. The project may have a significant impact with respect to tactical access if it would involve the construction of a public or private road with single access that is over 800 feet in length.

Impacts (NI). The Project does not involve any habitable structures requiring emergency access. Private driveways would not be affected by the Project. Therefore, emergency access to adjacent land uses would not be affected.

Part 27.b Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities

Setting. Class II bike lanes are provided along Spring Road near the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant project impacts to pedestrian/bicycle facilities include:

- A project that would cause actual or potential barriers to existing or planned pedestrian/bicycle facilities.

- Projects that generate or attract pedestrian/bicycle traffic volumes meeting requirements to provide protected highway crossings or pedestrian and bicycle facilities (pedestrian overcrossings, traffic signals, and bikeways).

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project would not adversely affect the use of Spring Road or any other bike lanes or designated bikeways by bicyclists and pedestrians.

Part 27.c Bus Transit

Setting. Bus service in the Project area is provided along High Street, Moorpark Avenue, Second Street and lower Spring Road in the City of Moorpark as well as along State Route 118 and State Route 23.

Significance Thresholds. A project may have a significant impact if it would substantially interfere with existing bus transit facilities or routes, or create a substantial demand for bus transit facilities or services.

Impacts (NI). The Project would not involve the construction of housing, provide long-term employment opportunities or otherwise increase the population in the area. Therefore, the Project would not result in an increase in demand for bus transit services, or adversely affect bus transit facilities. Proposed Project construction activities would not hamper access to bus stops or bus service.

Part 27.d Railroads

Setting. The nearest tracks (Union Pacific Railroad/Metrolink) are located approximately 0.7 miles south of the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. A project would normally have a significant impact on a railroad if it would substantially interfere with an existing railroad's facilities or operations.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project would not generate rail traffic or interfere with railroad operations. No impacts to railroads would occur.

Part 27.e Airports

Setting. The Project site is located approximately 12.7 miles northeast of the Camarillo Airport, and outside the Airport's sphere of influence.

Significance Thresholds. Incompatible uses (such as tall buildings, residential units, refineries, churches and schools) within the airport sphere of interest may cause a significant impact. Generally, projects with the potential to generate complaints and concerns, or which are within the sphere of influence of a County-operated airport, would interfere with the County's mission and be deemed as having a significant project-specific and/or cumulative impact.

Impacts (NI). The Project site is not located within the airport sphere of interest or height restriction zone. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with airport operations, or adversely affect airport facilities.

Part 27.f Harbor Facilities

Setting. The nearest harbor is in Port Hueneme, located approximately 21.1 miles to the southwest.

Significance Thresholds. The significance of impacts to harbors is determined by the harbor operator, which is the Oxnard Harbor District for the Port Hueneme harbor.

Impacts (NI). The Project would not increase harbor traffic, or adversely affect harbor facilities.

Part 27.g Pipelines

Setting. Pipelines in proximity to the Project site include water supply and distribution pipelines. A standard utility investigation (i.e., Digalert, utility company contact) would be conducted to identify any pipelines within construction work areas.

Significance Thresholds. A project would have a significant impact if it would substantially interfere with, compromise the pipeline integrity or otherwise affect the operations of an existing pipeline.

Impacts (NI). The Project would not interfere with the operation of existing pipelines.

ISSUE 28: WATER SUPPLY

Setting. The potable water needs of the Project vicinity are served by local groundwater and imported water provided by the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1.

Part 28.a Quality

Setting. Domestic water is defined by the County of Ventura ISAG as a supply of potable water used for human consumption or connected to domestic plumbing fixtures in which the supply is obtained from an approved individual water supply system or a public water system operating with an unrevoked permit from the Ventura County Environmental Health Division or the California State Department of Health Services.

Significance Thresholds. The project would have a significant impact if it would result in the use of domestic water that does not meet applicable State Drinking Water Standards as described in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, as well the Ventura County Building Code and Ordinance Code.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project would utilize water during construction activities provided by the District that meets all applicable water quality standards. Therefore, no impacts to domestic water quality would result.

Part 28.b Quantity

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant project impacts to water supply include:

- Projects without a demonstrated permanent supply of water.
- Any project that is inconsistent with any County policies or development standards relating to water supply.

- Either individually or cumulatively when combined with recently approved, current, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects would introduce physical development that would adversely affect the water supply of the hydrologic unit in which the project site is located.

Impacts (LS). The proposed Project would increase the District's water storage capacity to serve the Hitch Ranch Development, but would not consume water. However, the proposed Project would use small amounts of water on a temporary basis to produce Portland cement and for dust control and compaction during construction activities.

Part 28.c Fire Flow

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant project impacts to fire water flow include:

- Projects that cannot meet the required fire flow.
- Served by a private water system that cannot meet flow, duration or reliability requirements of the Ventura County Waterworks Manual and VCFPD Code.

Impacts (NI). The Project would not require fire protection or a source of fire water. As such, no impacts with respect to fire flow are expected.

ISSUE 29: WASTE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Part 29.a Individual Sewage Disposal Systems

The Project would not involve the use of any individual septic systems, and would have no impacts in this respect.

Part 29.b Sewage Collection/Treatment Facilities

Setting. The Project site does not generate sewage. Domestic wastewater produced by the nearby District offices are treated at the Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility.

Significance Thresholds. The project would have a significant impact if it would individually or cumulatively generate sewage effluent which would be discharged to and exceed the capacity of an existing sewer main or sewage treatment plant. If the project description includes improvements to existing, or construction of new sewer mains and/or sewage treatment plants which would then be capable of serving the project and other cumulative development, there would be a less than significant impact.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project would not contribute wastewater to any wastewater treatment or disposal facilities.

Part 29.c Solid Waste Management

Setting. Solid waste generated in the City of Moorpark is disposed at the Simi Valley Landfill by Waste Management, with recyclables transported to the Azusa Transfer Station for sorting and recovery.

Significance Thresholds. Any project that generates solid waste would have an impact on the demand for solid waste disposal capacity in Ventura County. However, unless the County has reason to believe that there is less than 15 years of disposal capacity available for County disposal, no individual project would have a significant impact on the demand for solid waste capacity.

The Countywide Siting Element approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board on June 20, 2001 demonstrates that the approval of extension of the existing Solid Waste Facility Permit for the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center, combined with the existing permitted capacity of the Toland Road Landfill would provide Ventura County with sufficient disposal capacity beyond the 15-year planning period mandated by State law. Therefore, no individual project would have a significant impact on the demand for solid waste capacity.

Impacts (LS). The proposed Project would generate solid waste associated with construction materials packaging. The Project would comply with the requirements of the Ventura County Public Works Integrated Waste Management Division, including recycling any debris, using recyclable construction materials, segregation of green-waste, and recycling and reusing soil and green-waste. Solid waste impacts would be less than significant.

Part 29.d Solid Waste Facilities

Setting. Solid waste generated in the City of Moorpark is disposed at the Simi Valley Landfill.

Significance Thresholds. Solid waste facilities shall comply with the following statutes and regulations and are subject to enforcement by the Ventura County Environmental Health Division, the Local Enforcement Agency:

- California Health and Safety Code, Parts 13 and 14.
- California Code of Regulations, Title 14.
- California Code of Regulations, Title 27.
- California Public Resources Code, Division 30.
- Ventura County Ordinance Code.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project does not involve a solid waste operation or facility and would not have an impact on solid waste facilities within the region.

ISSUE 30: UTILITIES

Energy: Impacts (LS). The proposed Project would consume non-renewable energy in the form of fuels for vehicles and equipment used to conduct Project construction activities. This energy use would not be wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary.

Electricity: Impacts (NI). The Project site is currently provided with electrical service. No new transmission lines would be required to serve the proposed Project. Therefore, impacts to electricity service would be less than significant.

Natural Gas: Impacts (NI). The Project site is not currently provided with natural gas service. Proposed Project construction and operation would not require natural gas service. Therefore, no impacts to natural gas service would result.

Communications: Impacts (NI). The Project site is currently provided with communications service. Proposed Project construction and operation would not require new communications facilities. Therefore, no impacts to communications service would result.

ISSUE 31: FLOOD CONTROL FACILITIES/WATERCOURSES

Part 31.a Watershed Protection District Facilities/Watercourses

Setting. The nearest District facility to the Project site is the Walnut Canyon drainage, approximately 700 feet to the west.

Significance Thresholds. Significance thresholds are taken from the Ventura County ISAG. Potentially significant project impacts to County-maintained water courses include:

- Reducing the capacity of flood control facilities and watercourses, including planting of vegetation within the watercourse or on the banks thereof.
- Eroding watercourse bed and banks due to high velocities, changes in adjacent land use, encroachments into the channel such as bridges, and loading the top of the channel embankment with structures.
- Deposition of any material of any kind in a watercourse.
- Placement of a structure that encroaches on a flood control facility or that does not have sufficient setback from a watercourse.

Less than Significant (LS). The proposed Project does not involve the placement of any materials or structures within the floodway or floodplain and would have no impact on the capacity of the Walnut Canyon drainage or any other adverse effect. A small increase in storm run-off may occur due to the Project-related increase in impervious surfaces (0.35 acres per Sanbell, 2026) associated with the proposed tank and asphalt and concrete paving; however, the effect on the capacity of Watershed Protection District facilities would be minimal.

Part 31.b Other Facilities/Watercourses

Setting. No other drainage facilities or watercourses are located near the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. The project would have a significant impact if it would substantially change the flow rate (i.e., increased runoff), velocity, erosion potential, or capacity of flood control channels. In reviewing a project for impacts, the following are to be given consideration:

- Deposition of sediment and debris materials within existing channels and allied obstruction of flow.
- Capacity of the channel and the potential for overflow during design storm conditions.

- Increased runoff and the effects on areas of special flood hazard and regulatory channels both on and off site.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project would not adversely affect other drainage facilities or watercourses.

ISSUE 32: LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY SERVICES

Setting. The Project area is served by the Ventura County Sheriff Department's Moorpark Station at 610 Spring Road, located approximately 1.2 road miles from the Project site. Emergency (paramedic) services would be provided from Ventura County Fire Department Station 42, located at 295 High Street approximately 1.2 road miles from the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. Projects that do not include adequate measures to address increased demand for law enforcement or emergency services would have a potentially significant project-specific and cumulative impact.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project does not involve any habitable structures or other facilities requiring law enforcement or emergency services.

ISSUE 33: FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

Part 33.a Distance and Response

Setting. Fire protection services would be provided from Ventura County Fire Department Station 42, located approximately 1.2 road miles from the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. Projects located greater than five miles (measured from the apron of the fire station to the structure or pad of the proposed structure) from a full-time paid fire department is considered a significant impact.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project does not involve any habitable structures or other facilities requiring fire protection services.

Part 33.b Personnel, Equipment and Facilities

Impacts (NI). Additional Ventura County Fire Department personnel, equipment or facilities would not be needed to serve the proposed Project.

ISSUE 34: EDUCATION

Part 34.a Schools

Setting. The term "schools" includes public elementary, secondary and college level educational facilities. This issue entails the direct impact to, and demand for school facilities. Schools in the Project area include Walnut Canyon School, Chaparral Middle School, Flory Elementary, Campus Canyon Elementary and Moorpark College. The nearest school is Walnut Canyon School, located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the Project site.

Significance Threshold. A project will normally have a significant impact on school facilities if it would substantially interfere with the operations of an existing school facility.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project is non-residential and would not provide any long-term employment opportunities, or otherwise create any demand for schools. The proposed Project would not interfere with the operations of any school.

Part 34.b Public Libraries

Setting. This issue entails the direct impact to, and demand for, public library facilities and services. The nearest public library is the Moorpark City Library, located at 699 Moorpark Avenue approximately 1.4 road miles from the Project site.

Significance Threshold. A project has a significant project-specific impact on public library facilities and services if it would substantially interfere with the operations of an existing public library facility, put additional demands on a public library facility which is currently deemed overcrowded, or limit the ability of individuals to access public library facilities by private vehicle or alternative transportation modes. A project has a cumulative impact on public library facilities and services if the project, in combination with other approved projects in its vicinity, would cause a public library facility to become overcrowded.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project is non-residential and would not provide any long-term employment opportunities, or otherwise create any demand for public libraries or services. The proposed Project would not interfere with the operations of any public library.

ISSUE 35: RECREATION FACILITIES

Local Parks/Facilities

Setting. The nearest local park in the area is Poindexter Park in the City of Moorpark, located approximately 0.9 miles southwest of the Project site.

Significance Thresholds. A project would have a significant impact on recreation if it would cause an increase in the demand for recreation when measured against the following standards:

- Local Parks/ Facilities: 5 acres of developable land (less than 15% slope) per 1000 population.
- Regional Parks/Facilities: 5 acres of developable land per 1000 population.
- Regional Trails/Corridors: 2.5 miles per 1000 population.

A project would have a significant impact on recreation if it would impede future development of Recreation Parks/Facilities and/or Regional Trails/Corridors.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project is not a new or expanded development and would not create a demand for recreational facilities or affect access or future development of existing facilities. Therefore, the Project would not impact local parks/facilities.

Regional Parks/Facilities

Setting. A regional park is defined as an extent of land that, by its unique, natural character or unusual or extensive development, offers recreation opportunities that attract patronage from beyond the local vicinity without regard to physical, political, or municipal boundaries. The nearest regional park in the Project area is the County's Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park and Rustic Canyon Golf Course, located approximately 1.2 miles north-northeast of the Project site.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project would not create a demand for recreational facilities and would not impede the use of any park. Therefore, no impacts to regional parks would occur.

Regional Trails/Corridors

Setting. Regional trails are intended to accommodate non-motorized recreational travel through areas removed from vehicular traffic. Regional trails/corridors should link major park and recreation facilities. Regional trails in the Project area are limited to those within the Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park, located approximately 1.2 miles north-northeast of the Project site.

Impacts (NI). The proposed Project would generate any demand for regional trails and would not adversely affect any trails.

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual effects which, when considered together are considerable, or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. Under Section 15064 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the lead agency must identify cumulative impacts, determine their significance and determine if the effects of the project are cumulatively considerable.

5.1 CUMULATIVE PROJECTS DESCRIPTION

The following provides a list of other planned or recently approved projects in adjacent areas of Ventura County and the City of Moorpark that may contribute to cumulative environmental impacts.

5.1.1 Ventura County

Based on the September 2, 2026 list of pending and approved projects, the following projects within about five miles involving physical changes to the environment are under review by the Resource Management Agency:

- PL13-0116: Modification to CUP 4571-5 to expand the mining area and increase the permitted production rate and extend the permit life of the Wayne J sand and gravel mine.
- SD09-0025: Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 5837 to subdivide a 580+ acre property at 1313 Tierra Rejada Road into 24 residential lots within the unincorporated County of Ventura and one 63.9 portion of the property in the City of Simi Valley.

- PL25-0085: Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a 500-megawatt, 2,000-megawatt-hour battery energy storage system at 11018 Los Angeles Avenue.

5.1.2 City of Moorpark

Based on the City's Quarterly Report for July 2026, the following projects involving substantial physical changes to the environment are under review or have been approved and may be constructed at about the same time as the proposed Project:

- LA Perch (7200 Walnut Canyon Road): 52 single-family residences.
- Bellgrove (475 Los Angeles Avenue): 180 attached single-family residences.
- North Ranch (5979 Gabbert Road): 135 single-family residences and five estates.
- Hitch Ranch Specific Plan (near Casey Road): 755 residential units.
- Everett Street Terraces (Everett Street): 60 condominium residences.
- Casey Road Senior Community: 390 residential unit senior community.
- Canyon Crest (Marine View Lane): 21 single-family residences.
- Vistas at Moorpark (Wicks Road): 205 single-family residences and 141 townhomes.
- Pacific Arroyo (Maureen Lane): 284 single-family residences.
- Green Island Villas (635 Los Angeles Avenue): 63 townhomes.
- Beltramo Ranch (near Maureen Lane): 47 single-family residences.
- Prologis (west of Gabbert Road): three industrial buildings.
- Pentair Expansion (10941 Los Angeles Avenue): 90,566 square foot industrial building.
- Moorpark Mixed Use (347 Moorpark Road): 8,578 square foot mixed use building with commercial spaces and six residential units.
- Moorpark West Studios (Los Angeles Avenue): motion picture studio complex.

5.2 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

5.2.1 Air Quality

Each of the projects listed in Section 5.1 would generate short-term construction emissions. Proposed Project construction activities would contribute to cumulative short-term construction emissions, should construction of these projects occur at the same time as the proposed Project. However, construction emissions of both the proposed Project and other projects would be mitigated by standard measures required by the Ventura County APCD. Implementation of these measures is considered to prevent significant Project-specific and cumulative air quality impacts from construction. Therefore, the incremental contribution of the Project to cumulative air quality impacts from construction is considered less than significant.

Each of the projects listed in Section 5.1 would generate motor vehicle emissions associated with operation, and industrial projects may generate point source air pollutant emissions. The proposed Project would not generate any long-term emissions and would not contribute to cumulative long-term vehicle emissions. Overall, the incremental contribution of the Project to cumulative air quality impacts would not be considerable.

5.2.2 Water Resources

Each of the projects listed in Section 5.1 would involve construction and may result in storm water run-off during the construction period, contributing to surface water quality impacts. The proposed Project would be primarily constructed during the dry season and is unlikely to contribute to storm water-related surface water quality impacts. In any case, most of these projects would be subject to the Construction Stormwater General Permit Order 2022-0057-DWQ and would implement a SWPPP.

The cumulative projects would be subject to the County's stormwater quality management program developed for the Ventura County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (Order R4-2010-0108, NPDES Permit No. CAS004002). Implementation of the storm water pollution prevention plan and monitoring required under the General Permit, and compliance with the Storm Sewer System Permit would prevent significant impacts to surface water quality.

Most of the projects listed in Section 5.1 would require a permanent potable water supply for domestic uses. The proposed Project would not require a permanent potable water supply and would not incrementally contribute to the water supply demand.

5.2.3 Biological Resources

Some of the cumulative projects listed in Section 5.1 would result in the loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, and may significantly impact special-status species, sensitive ecological communities or wetlands. The proposed Project may incrementally contribute to impacts to breeding migratory birds. However, with proposed mitigation, the Project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts to biological resources would not be considerable.

5.2.4 Paleontological Resources

Some of the cumulative projects listed in Section 5.1 involve excavation within the Saugus Formation and may result in the loss or destruction of scientifically important fossils. The proposed Project may incrementally contribute to impacts to fossils of the Saugus Formation. However, with proposed mitigation, the Project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts to paleontological resources would not be considerable.

5.2.5 Cultural Resources

Cumulative projects listed in Section 5.1 may adversely affect intact and/or known archaeological resources. In addition, similar to the proposed Project, isolated and/or unreported resources may be inadvertently discovered during construction-related ground disturbance. The proposed Project may contribute to this cumulative impact; however, mitigation measures are provided to avoid and minimize potential impacts to discovered archaeological resources.

The cumulative projects may adversely affect historic resources. The proposed Project would not contribute to such impacts.

5.2.6 Noise

Most of the projects listed in Section 5.1 may generate both short-term construction noise and long-term traffic noise. The proposed Project would contribute to short-term cumulative noise impacts. However, the proposed Project is not located in close proximity to other projects and would not have a considerable incremental contribution to cumulative impacts at noise sensitive receptors affected by these projects.

5.2.7 Transportation

Most of the projects listed in Section 5.1 would generate both short-term construction and long-term vehicle trips. The proposed Project would not generate vehicle trips in proximity to other projects such that the Project's incremental contribution to transportation impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

6.0 GROWTH INDUCEMENT

Projects have the potential to foster economic or population growth, which may cause indirect impacts associated with construction of housing and/or community service facilities (Section 15126.2(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines). A project would have a significant impact if it would induce substantial growth. A project would have the potential to induce substantial growth if it would eliminate or remove an impediment to growth in the area. This includes both physical impediments (lack of roads, flood control facilities, sewers, water lines, etc.) and policy impediments (e.g., existing land use and zoning designations, General Plan policies, etc.).

The proposed Project would not provide long-term employment opportunities or housing and would not draw people to the area and increase population.

The proposed Project would provide potable water storage capacity to serve the Hitch Ranch Development which has been approved by the City of Moorpark. The storage capacity provided by the proposed Project would not facilitate or influence approval of other development projects in the area.

The Project would not require the amendment of existing land use designations, zoning designations, General Plan policies, ordinances, development guidelines, or any other policies that would allow for increased development of the area.

The proposed Project does not include residential units or commercial land uses that may generate substantial employment opportunities; therefore, it would not directly increase population levels, or create a demand for goods or services. Since the proposed Project would not affect existing physical and/or policy impediments to growth, it would not induce population growth.

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APPENDIX A

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

The Initial Study Checklist was prepared following the format adopted by the County of Ventura (2011).

ISSUE	PROJECT IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT *				CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT*			
	<u>N</u>	<u>LS</u>	<u>PS-M</u>	<u>PS</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>LS</u>	<u>PS-M</u>	<u>PS</u>
RESOURCES: 1. <u>Air Quality:</u>								
a. Regional	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Local	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
2. <u>Water Resources:</u>								
a. Groundwater Quantity	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Groundwater Quality	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
c. Surface Water Quantity	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
d. Surface Water Quality	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
3. <u>Mineral Resources:</u>								
a. Aggregate	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Petroleum	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
4. <u>Biological Resources:</u>								
a. Species	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Ecological Communities	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
c. Waters and Wetlands	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
d. Coastal Habitat	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
e. Habitat Connectivity	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
5. <u>Agricultural Resources:</u>								
a. Soils	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
b. Land Use Incompatibility	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
6. <u>Scenic Resources:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
7. <u>Paleontological Resources:</u>	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
8. <u>Cultural Resources:</u>								
a. Archaeological	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Historical	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
9. <u>Coastal Beaches & Sand Dunes:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

<u>ISSUE</u>		<u>PROJECT IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT*</u>				<u>CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT*</u>			
		<u>N</u>	<u>LS</u>	<u>PS-M</u>	<u>PS</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>LS</u>	<u>PS-M</u>	<u>PS</u>
HAZARDS:	10. <u>Fault Rupture Hazard:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	11. <u>Ground-shaking Hazard:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	12. <u>Liquefaction Hazard:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	13. <u>Seiche & Tsunami:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	14. <u>Landslides/Mudflow Hazard:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	15. <u>Expansive Soils Hazard:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	16. <u>Subsidence Hazard:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	17. <u>Hydraulic Hazards:</u>								
	a. Non-FEMA	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	b. FEMA	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	18. <u>Fire Hazards:</u>	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
	19. <u>Aviation Hazards:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	20. <u>Hazardous Materials/Waste:</u>								
	a. Hazardous Materials	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
	b. Hazardous Waste	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	21. <u>Noise and Vibration:</u>	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
	22. <u>Daytime Glare:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	23. <u>Public Health:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	24. <u>Greenhouse Gases:</u>	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
LAND USE:	25. <u>Community Character:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	26. <u>Housing:</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
PUBLIC FACILITIES:	27. <u>Transportation/Circulation</u>								
	a. Roads and Highways								
	(1) Level of Service	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
	(2) Safety/Design of Public Roads	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	(3) Safety/Design of Private Access	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	(4) Tactical Access	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	b. Pedestrian/Bicycle	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	c. Bus Transit	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	d. Railroads	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	e. Airports	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	f. Harbor Facilities	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	g. Pipelines	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

<u>ISSUE</u>		<u>PROJECT IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT *</u>				<u>CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT *</u>			
		<u>N</u>	<u>LS</u>	<u>PS-M</u>	<u>PS</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>LS</u>	<u>PS-M</u>	<u>PS</u>
PUBLIC FACILITIES:	28. <u>Water Supply</u>								
	a. Quality	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	b. Quantity	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
	c. Fire Flow	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	29. <u>Waste Treatment/Disposal</u>								
	a. Individual Sewage Disposal System	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	b. Sewage Collection/Treatment Facilities	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	c. Solid Waste Management	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
	d. Solid Waste Facilities	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	30. <u>Utilities</u>	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
	31. <u>Flood Control/Watercourses</u>								
	a. WPD Facilities/Watercourses	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
	b. Other Facilities/Watercourses	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	32. <u>Law Enforcement/Emergency Svs.</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	33. <u>Fire Protection</u>	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	a. Distance/Response Time	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	b. Personnel/Equipment/Facilities	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	34. <u>Education</u>								
	a. Schools	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	b. Libraries	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	35. <u>Recreation</u>								
	1. Local Parks/Facilities	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	2. Regional Parks/Facilities	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
	3. Regional Trails/Corridors	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

*Explanation: Degree of Effect

N = No Effect

LS = Less Than Significant Effect

PS-M = Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation is Incorporated

PS = Potentially Significant Impact

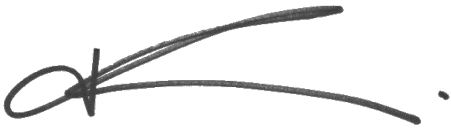
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<u>Yes/Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Does the project have the potential to 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, 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?	<u>X</u>	—
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one that occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future).	—	<u>X</u>
3. Does the project have impacts which 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 effect of other current projects, and the effect of probable future projects. (Several projects may have relatively small individual impacts on two or more resources, but the total of those impacts on the environment is significant).	—	<u>X</u>
4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<u>X</u>	—

DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

On the basis of this evaluation:

- ☐ I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION should be prepared.
- ☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in Section 5.0 of the Initial Study will be applied to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION should be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project, individually or cumulatively, MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required*.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "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 adequately addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Ventura County Public Works Water & Sanitation Director

10/14/2026

Date