



Prepared For:
Victorville Water District
14343 Civic Drive
Victorville, CA 92392

Amethyst Pipeline Alignment Water Main Extension *Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*



INITIAL STUDY
and
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Amethyst Pipeline Alignment
Water Main Extension

Prepared for:

City of Victorville
Victorville Water District
14343 Civic Drive
Victorville, CA 92392

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

The Victorville Water District (VWD) has prepared this Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the Amethyst Pipeline Project (proposed Project).

The City of Victorville (City) is a participating member agency in the Regional Recharge and Recovery (R3 Project), which recharges the groundwater basin with State Water Project (SWP) water through injection wells. The City has an ultimate allocation of 16,650 acre-feet per year (afy).¹ To meet the City's 2030 average daily demand, the R3 Project would need to replenish approximately 12,000 afy. The proposed Project—one component of the R3 Project—would provide a connection and pipeline for the City to receive R3 water from the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) for groundwater replenishment across the City's and MWA's service area.

In 2006, the MWA published a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR)² evaluating specific projects and operational modifications for a range of alternatives to meet objectives and regional needs for water usage. Part of the analysis included in this Final EIR incorporated the proposed Project pipeline alignment along Amethyst Road. Subsequent addendums to the Final EIR were adopted by MWA's board of directors in 2006³ and 2010⁴ that analyzed alternative siting designs. These documents have been incorporated by reference.

1.2 AUTHORITY

The VWD is both an independent special district that operates under the authority of Division 12 of the California Water Code and a subsidiary district of the City of Victorville; the five members of the City Council also comprise the VWD board of directors. As part of the VWD's approval process, the proposed Project is required to undergo an environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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- 1 City of Victorville, *Draft Final 20-Year Comprehensive Water Master Plan: Victorville Water District* (October 2009), p. ES-6.
 - 2 Mojave Water Agency (MWA), *Water Supply Reliability and Groundwater Replenishment Program Final Project Environmental Impact Report*, accessed January 2018, <https://www.mojavewater.org/files/watersupplyreliabilityandgroundwaterreplenishmentprogramfinaleirjan2006.pdf>.
 - 3 MWA, Resolution No. 875-08, adopted November 24, 2006.
 - 4 MWA, Resolution No. 900-10, adopted January 26, 2010.

The preparation of an IS/MND is governed by CEQA⁵ and, more specifically, by the State CEQA Guidelines,⁶ which guide the process for the preparation of a Negative Declaration (ND) or MND. Where appropriate and supportive to an understanding of the issues, reference will be made to the statute, the State CEQA Guidelines, or the appropriate case law.

This IS, as required by CEQA, contains a Project description; a description of the environmental setting; a discussion of potential environmental impacts; mitigation measures for any significant effects; an analysis of the proposed Project's consistency with plans and policies; and the names of preparers. The VWD is the lead agency for the proposed Project and, as such, is required to conduct an environmental review to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed Project described in this IS. An MND is prepared for a project when the IS has identified mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant effects on the environment to less than significant. For those impacts that would not potentially affect the environment, the IS shows that no substantial evidence indicates the proposed Project would have significant environmental effects.

1.3 WATER SUPPLY FROM MOJAVE WATER AGENCY

The VWD service area lies within the service area of MWA, which was established in 1960 due to concerns over declining groundwater levels in the Mojave Basin, El Mirage Basin, Lucerne Valley, Johnson Valley, and Morongo Basin areas. MWA was created to ensure that sufficient water is available to meet current and future needs in its service area. MWA is one of 29 SWP contractors and imports water from the SWP as a supplemental supply source for its service area. MWA is also responsible for implementing the Mojave Basin Area Judgment, which adjudicated the rights to produce water from the available natural water supply to better manage groundwater supplies.

VWD purchases water from the R3 Project when it is available but does not rely on purchased or imported water as a future potable water supply. Through R3, MWA delivers SWP water to recharge sites located along the Mojave River in Hesperia and southern Apple Valley. MWA recovers the recharged water at wells downstream and delivers it through pipelines directly to retail water agencies. The R3 Project provides an alternate source of supply that allows agencies to reduce pumping and maintain groundwater water levels in the vicinity of their wells. VWD began receiving water from R3 when Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2013 and has a contract to purchase up to 6,800 afy, when available.⁷

5 Public Resources Code, sec. 21000, et seq., California Environmental Quality Act.

6 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15000, et seq., State CEQA Guidelines.

7 Victorville Water District, *2015 Urban Water Management Plan* (June 30, 2016), sec. 6, System Supplies, 22.

Water supply from R3 is interruptible because it depends on the amount of SWP available for storage, as well as other operational constraints. VWD intends to continue maximizing purchases of water from R3 when available; however, given that this is an interruptible source of supply, VWD does not rely on this source to meet its demands.

1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The content and format of this IS/MND are designed to meet the requirements of CEQA. The IS/MND consists of the proposed findings that the Project, as mitigated, would have no significant impacts. The IS/MND contains the following sections and supporting studies:

- **Section 1: Introduction** identifies the purpose and scope of the IS/MND and the terminology used in this document.
- **Section 2: Project Description** identifies the location, background, and planning objectives of the proposed Project and describes the proposed Project in detail.
- **Section 3: Environmental Setting** describes the existing conditions, surrounding land use, general plan, and existing zoning in the proposed Project area.
- **Section 4: Environmental Checklist** presents the checklist responses and evaluation for each resource topic.
- **Section 5: Environmental Analysis** includes an analysis for each resource topic and identifies potential impacts of implementing the proposed Project. It also identifies mitigation measures, if applicable.
- **Section 6: References** identifies all printed references and individuals cited in this IS/MND.
- **Section 7: List of Preparers** identifies the individuals who prepared this IS/MND and their areas of technical specialty.
- Appendices present data supporting the analysis or contents of this IS/MND. These include:
 - **Appendix A:** Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Modeling Data
 - **Appendix B.1:** Biological Resources Technical Report
 - **Appendix B.2:** Preliminary Jurisdictional Delineation
 - **Appendix C:** Cultural Resource Report
 - **Appendix D:** Geotechnical Exploration

1.5 PUBLIC AND AGENCY REVIEW OF THE DRAFT IS/MND

CEQA requires that the lead agency provide the public and agencies the opportunity to review and comment on a Draft IS/MND. As outlined by CEQA, the VWD is providing a 30-day period for review and

comment on the Draft IS/MND. Upon completion of the public and agency review period, the VWD, as lead agency, will evaluate comments on environmental issues received from persons who reviewed the Draft IS/MND and prepare written responses. The VWD will include these comments and responses in a Final MND, along with any changes that will be reviewed and considered for adoption by the City Council.

Interested individuals, organizations, responsible agencies, and other agencies can provide written comments to:

City of Victorville
Victorville Water District
14343 Civic Drive
Victorville, CA 92392
Contact: Shah Nawaz, PE

Comments may also be sent by facsimile to (760) 269-0088 or by email to snawaz@victorvilleca.gov. Please put "Amethyst Pipeline Project" in the subject line. Agency responses should include the name of a contact person within the commenting agency.

The Draft IS/MND is available for review at the following locations:

City of Victorville
Victorville Water District
14343 Civic Drive
Victorville, CA 92392

Victorville City Library
15011 Circle Drive
Victorville, CA 92395

In addition, the Draft IS/MND is available on the Water District's website at:

<http://www.victorvilleca.gov/Site/CityServices.aspx?id=2974>

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROPOSED PROJECT

The Amethyst Road Pipeline Alignment Project was developed to import water from the MWA to ultimately store the imported water in the local groundwater aquifer, thus improving groundwater reliability for the VWD.

The proposed Project would provide for the conveyance of R3 Project water from the MWA's infrastructure along Mesa Road to VWD's Turnout No. 5 pumping station within the City's water facility at Sycamore Street and Amethyst Road.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Project is located in the City of Victorville in San Bernardino County (County), as shown in **Figure 2.0-1: Regional Location Map**. As shown in **Figure 2.0-2: Victorville Water District Service Area**, the VWD service area encompasses approximately 85 square miles. The proposed Project is located approximately 200 feet west of Interstate 15 (I-15) at the closest point of the pipeline alignment and approximately half a mile south of Bear Valley Road. The Amethyst Basin recharge facility is located west of the proposed Project's northernmost alignment, south of Sycamore Street.

2.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As shown in **Figure 2.0-3: Project Site Location and Alignment**, the 24-inch transmission pipeline as proposed would originate at the northwest corner of Mesa Street and Amethyst Road via a connection to MWA's pipeline infrastructure; extend for approximately 1 mile, or up to 5,500 linear feet, generally along Amethyst Road; and then continue west on Sycamore Street to the intersection with Amethyst Road (the Project Site). At the northern end of the Project Site, the transmission pipeline deviates approximately 125 feet to the east and northeast into Assessor's Parcel Number 307225133 (a City-owned property) to connect to a turnout metering station, extending north for approximately 280 feet and then back to the northwest along Amethyst Road. The northern portion of the water transmission pipeline would cross the Oro Grande Wash south of Sycamore Street. At the Sycamore Street and Amethyst Road intersection, the proposed Project would connect to the City's existing water facility site located at the Zone 3090 tank farm site (11734 Amethyst Road).

The 24-inch transmission pipeline would include isolation valves, air release valves, blow-off valves, and all other necessary appurtenances. All pipelines would be polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or ductile iron pipe (DIP); they would be installed using typical open-trench, cut-and-cover methods, with a minimum cover of approximately 4 feet of native soils and roadway pavement above the pipeline. Bedding and backfill

material would be used for fill around and below the proposed water pipeline. The proposed Project would generally be located within the public right-of-way for the length of the alignment.

Operation-related trips would generate up to 2 vehicle trips per day for the proposed pipeline infrastructure.

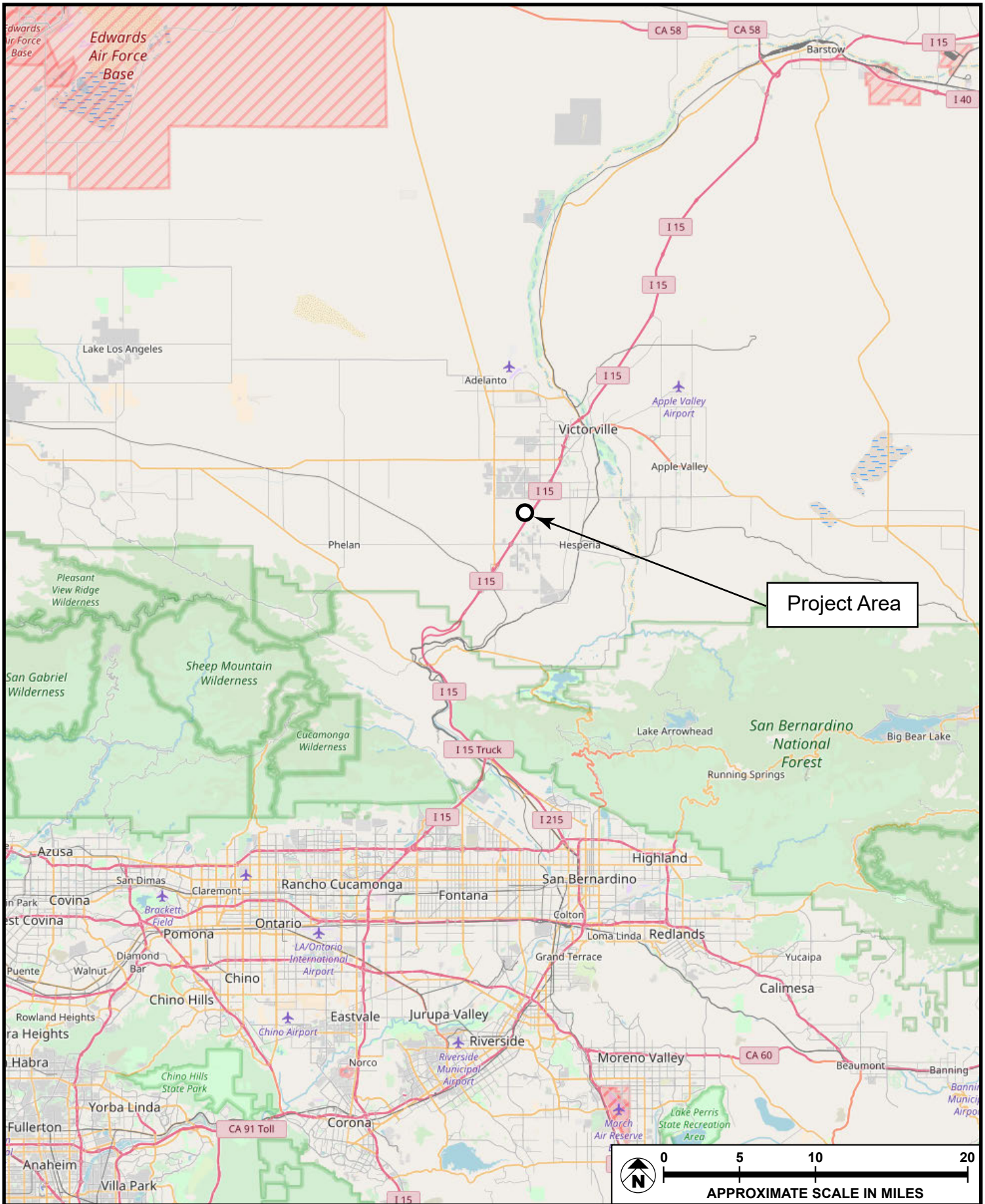
Construction

For all proposed pipeline construction, the pipeline would be constructed using traditional cut-and-cover methods over the entire length. The proposed pipeline would be installed with an excavator that would typically excavate a 5-foot-wide by 5-foot-deep trench and temporarily store the removed soils along the trench. Some locations near the Oro Grande Wash would reach a depth of 15 feet below ground surface. Work crews would place the pipe in the trench, which would be backfilled by a loader or backhoe, and then compacted to match the existing grade. The temporary disturbance zone associated with pipe installation would be about 10 feet wide. Approximately 6,100 cubic yards of soil would be disturbed along the transmission pipeline alignment. The road would be restored to preconstruction conditions after pipe installation and trench backfill.

Construction would last approximately 1.5 months, with approximately 150 linear feet of pipeline constructed each day.

Work would likely be coordinated with the City of Victorville Engineering Department to ensure adequate traffic control measures along Amethyst Road, and with the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works, Flood Control District when work occurs within the Oro Grande Wash. Work within the City would be coordinated with the City of Victorville Public Works Department. Pipeline construction would occur between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Pipeline installation operations would include two backhoes, one dump truck, two excavators, one crane, one welder, and one compaction machine.

During construction of the proposed Project, construction equipment would need to be stored at the end of each day within the City's existing water facility or a potential temporary staging area near the northwest corner of Amethyst Road and Mesa Street.

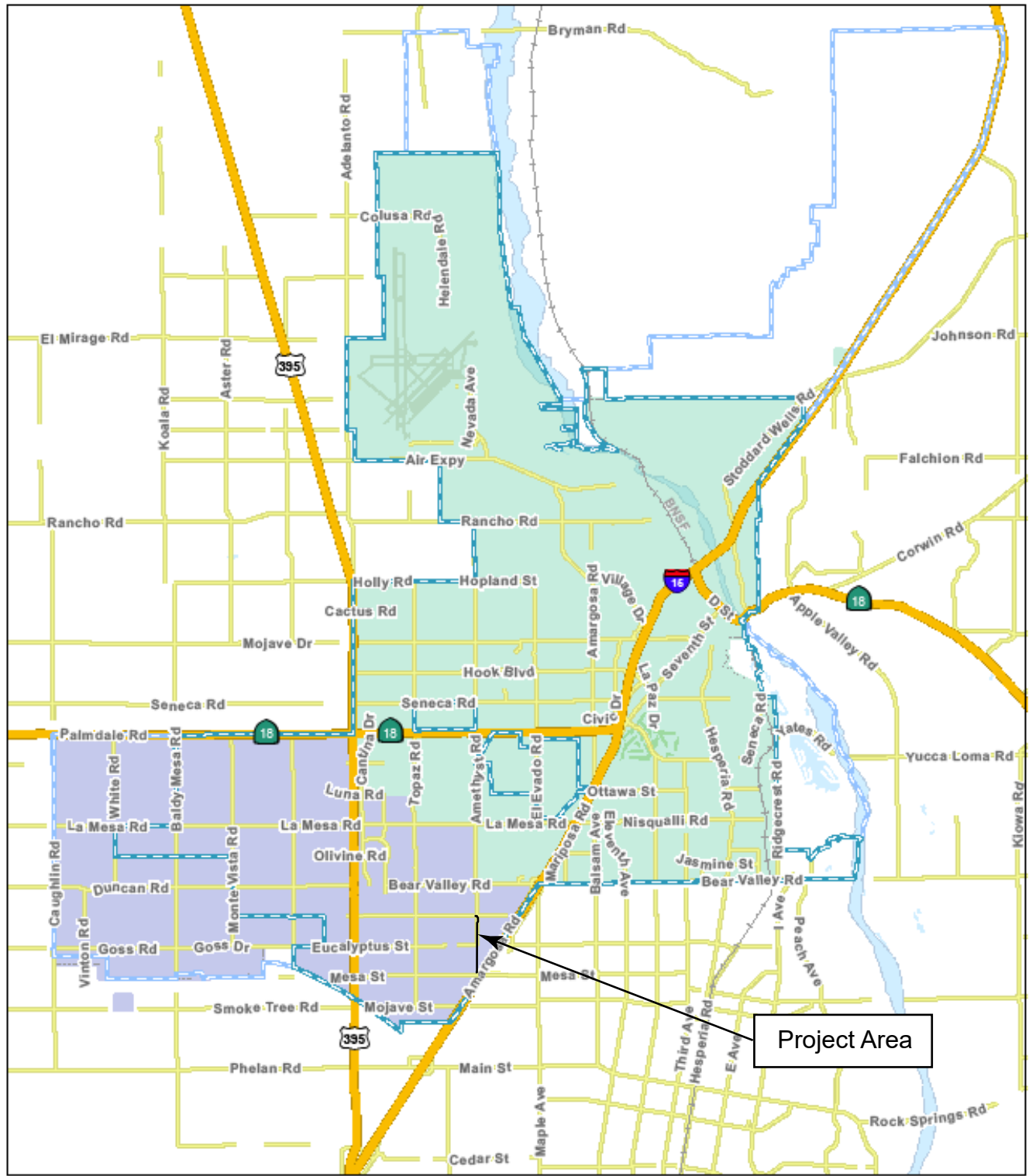


SOURCE: Open Street Map.org - 2018

FIGURE 2.0-1

Victorville Water District





Victorville, CA



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

Victorville Water District Map
 City of Victorville
 Updated: 2012-02-02
 Contact: Brandon Cales, GISP - IT

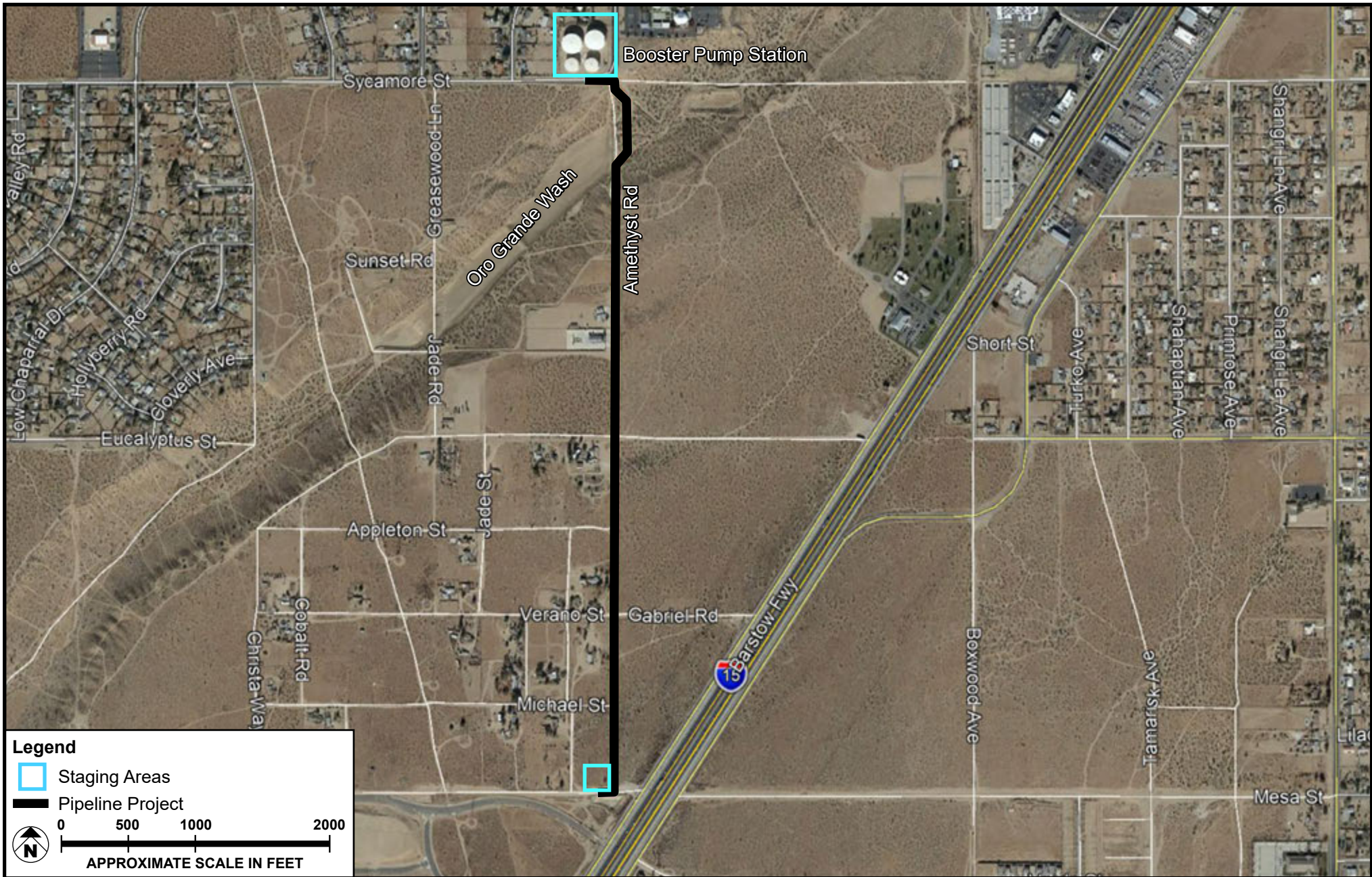
Disclaimer: This map is to be used as a visual reference only. Sources available upon request.

-  City Boundary Line
-  Sphere of Influence Line
-  WWD - ID1
-  WWD - ID2



SOURCE: Victorville Water District - 2012

FIGURE 2.0-2



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2018

FIGURE 2.0-3

Project Site Location and Alignment

2.4 OTHER PUBLIC AGENCY–REQUIRED APPROVALS

The proposed Project would occur in the public roadway right-of-way. An encroachment permit from the City of Victorville Department of Public Works would also be required. Other permits that would be required for the proposed Project—which would be the contractor’s responsibility—are a General Construction Storm Water Permit from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and a Trenching and Excavation Permit from the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

The following approvals and actions are required:

- Adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Lake and Streambed Alternation Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Waste Discharge Certification from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Clean Water Act 404/401 Permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

4.1 SUMMARY

Pursuant to the state CEQA Guidelines,¹ an Initial Study is a preliminary environmental analysis that is used by the lead agency as a basis for determining whether an EIR, an MND, or an ND is required for a project. The State CEQA Guidelines require that an IS contain a project description; a location map; a description of the environmental setting; an identification of environmental effects by checklist or other similar form; an explanation of environmental effects; a discussion of mitigation for potentially significant environmental effects; an evaluation of the project’s consistency with existing, applicable land use controls; and the names of persons who prepared the study. In addition, the IS includes additional environmental requirements in compliance with federal environmental laws.

4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture and Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology/Soils
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology/Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities/Service Systems
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance				

¹ California Code of Regulations, tit. 14, sec. 15063.

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and is eligible for a Categorical Exemption.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.

Brian Gungler
Signature

8-11-18
Date

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This section provides an evaluation of the various topics considered for environmental review.

1. A brief explanation for the determination of significance is provided for all impact determinations except “No Impact” determinations that are adequately supported by the information sources the Lead Agency (Victorville Water District) cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” determination is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to the proposed project (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” determination should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. Explanations take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the Lead Agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist indicates whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant.
4. “Mitigated Negative Declaration: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less than Significant Impact.” The Lead Agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering of a program EIR or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration. In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document, and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or

outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

5.1 AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
AESTHETICS – Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. No Impact.

As proposed, the 24-inch underground transmission pipeline would originate at the MWA’s existing pipeline infrastructure near the intersection of Mesa Street and Amethyst Road, extend for approximately 1 mile generally along Amethyst Road, and then connect to an existing 24-inch transmission pipeline within the intersection of Sycamore Street and Amethyst Road, as shown in **Figure 2.0-3: Project Site Location and Alignment**. The northern portion of the water transmission pipeline would cross the Oro Grande Wash, a dry streambed that has the potential to flow seasonally, south of Sycamore Street. At the Sycamore Street and Amethyst Road intersection, the proposed Project would connect to the City’s existing water facility located at the Zone 3090 tank farm site (11734 Amethyst Road).

Scenic resources typically include natural open spaces, topographic formations, and landscapes that contribute to a high level of visual quality. They also can include ridgelines, parks, trails, nature preserves, sculpture gardens, and similar features.

The proposed Project lies entirely within the City of Victorville. The Victorville General Plan (VGP) identifies linked visual open space throughout the developed community as an important scenic asset.¹ The

1 Victorville General Plan, “Resource Element” (2008), pp. R1–R2.

proposed Project would traverse a portion of Oro Grande Wash, which is not considered a corridor of aesthetic value by the VGP or identified as Open Space.

The proposed Project is not near any designated wild or scenic rivers pursuant to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.² The nearest surrounding mountains are more than 10 miles away at the beginning of the Cajon Pass between the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains.³ As a result, the proposed Project would not block or obstruct views of the surrounding mountainsides.

Based on the above, the proposed Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. No significant impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. No Impact.

The nearest eligible scenic highway is California State Route (SR) 138, or Pearblossom Highway, which runs east–west and is listed as “Eligible State Scenic Highway—Not Officially Designated” the length of the route from its junction with SR 2 to its junction with SR 175.

The proposed Project would be located more than 12 miles from SR 138, and operation of the proposed Project would not be visible from SR 138. As such, it would not impact trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within a State scenic highway.⁴

No significant impacts to scenic resources within a State scenic highway would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

The construction of the proposed pipeline would be short term in nature, and the construction equipment would be stored at the staging area overnight. The temporary use of the construction staging area would also be short term in nature and would not block or obstruct views of the surroundings. Trenching and construction activities would last for approximately 1.5 months and, as such, would be temporary and short term in nature. Storage of construction equipment at the staging area would be secured by existing fencing. The proposed pipeline would be installed with an excavator that would excavate a 5-foot-wide by 5-foot-deep trench, with some locations near Oro Grande Wash up to 15 feet below ground surface,

2 National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, <https://www.rivers.gov>, accessed January 2018.

3 *Google Maps*, accessed January 2018.

4 Department of Transportation, “California Scenic Highway Mapping System,” http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm, accessed January 2018.

and temporarily store the removed soils along the trench. The trenching and pipeline connection activities have the potential to temporarily disturb a zone of about 10 feet in width.

The proposed 24-inch polyvinyl chloride or ductile iron water pipeline would originate at the MWA's existing pipeline infrastructure near the Mesa Street and Amethyst Road intersection and terminate near the intersection of Sycamore Street and Amethyst Road. The water line would be located below ground, generally within the public roadway rights-of-way, and would not be visible. The surrounding environment, in accordance with Victorville Municipal Code (VMC) Section 9.12.060, "Refilling excavation or removal of obstruction,"⁵ would be restored to a condition equivalent to the previous condition prior to excavation, including the replacement of any removed vegetation.

Impacts to the existing visual characteristic would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

d. No Impact.

Glare is generated during the day from reflective surfaces. Light pollution occurs when nighttime views of the stars and sky are diminished by an over-abundance of light coming from the ground.

Construction activities would take place during daylight hours, typically between 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM. No nighttime lighting would be generated during construction of the proposed Project. Potential glare generated during construction activities would be consistent with existing vehicle traffic traveling along nearby roadways. The proposed pipeline would generally be located within existing roadway rights-of-way and would not generate glare during operation.

There would be no permanent light or glare upon completion of the proposed Project from the pipeline as it would be located below grade.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5 City of Victorville, Municipal Code, Chapter 9.12, Excavation Permits, Section 9.12.060.

5.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to nonforest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to nonforest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. No Impact.

The land that would be used for the proposed Project is generally along roadway rights-of-way, including Amethyst Road and Sycamore Street. These are existing roadways and not used for agricultural operations.

The construction staging area is either a developed tank farm site or near the northwest corner of Mesa Street and Amethyst Road.

Projects are subject to the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or

with assistance from a federal agency.⁶ The proposed Project does not contain farmland within its boundaries and, as such, is not subject to the FPPA.

According to the California Department of Conservation “California Important Farmland Finder” map, the proposed staging area(s) and pipeline alignment are mostly designated as “Grazing Land,” with the connection point at the booster station designated as “Urban and Built-Up Land.”⁷ The Project Site is not designated as Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. No Impact.

As identified in **Figure 2.0-3: Project Site Location and Alignment**, none of the areas where the pipeline alignment is proposed are zoned for agricultural uses.

The Project Site is zoned for commercial, industrial, and single-family residential uses. The VMC allows for utility lines to be located in these areas; therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with the existing zoning designations.⁸ No lands zoned for agricultural use or Williamson Act contracts are located along the proposed Project route.⁹

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. No Impact.

The Project area is not currently zoned as or located near land zoned for forest, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. The zoning designations surrounding the Project Site include General Commercial (C-2T), Industrial Park (IPDT), and Single-Family Residential (R-1T).¹⁰ Therefore, the proposed

6 US Department of Agriculture (USDA), “Farmland Protection Policy Act,” http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?cid=nrcs143_008275, accessed January 2018.

7 California Department of Conservation (DOC), Division of Land Resource Protection, “California Important Farmland Finder” (April 2016), <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/>, accessed January 2018.

8 City of Victorville Municipal Code (VMC), tit. 17, ch. 17.64, sec. 17.64.020.

9 DOC, Division of Land Resource Protection, “State of California Williamson Act Contract Land Statewide Map” (2012), ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/wa/2012%20Statewide%20Map/WA_2012_11x17.pdf, accessed January 2018.

10 *City of Victorville General Plan*, “General Plan Land Use Policy and Zoning Map” (updated August 2013).

Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

d. No Impact.

The Project Site is not located within a forest area. None of the proposed construction activities would result in the loss of forestland or in the conversion of forestland to nonforest use.¹¹

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

e. No Impact.

The Project Site is not designated as either farmland or forestland, and does not involve farming or forestry operations. Furthermore, no agriculture or forestry operations are near the Project Site.

According to the National Forest Locator Map, the closest National Forest is the Angeles National Forest to the southwest of the Project Site outside of City limits. Therefore, the proposed Project is not located within any designated National Forests.¹²

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

11 City of Victorville General Plan, "General Plan Land Use Policy and Zoning Map."

12 US National Forest, *Locator Map* (2015), <http://www.fs.fed.us/locatormap/>, accessed January 2018.

5.3 AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) is the regional agency that provides air quality guidance, with jurisdiction over 20,000 square miles over San Bernardino County’s High Desert and Riverside County’s Palo Verde Valley. The MDAQMD is also responsible for issuing stationary source air permits; developing emissions inventories and local air quality plans; and maintaining air quality monitoring stations. They are also the agency that ensures that projects are implemented to meet the federal and State emission standards identified in both Clean Air Acts.

The proposed pipeline would be located belowground, and existing transportation access would continue upon completion. This water supply would not directly or indirectly induce population growth within the City because the proposed Project would provide for the conveyance of Regional Recharge and Recovery (R3) water from the MWA’s existing pipeline infrastructure to the Victorville Water District’s (VWD’s) existing water facility at Sycamore Street and Amethyst Road, consistent with the City’s Comprehensive Water Master Plan.

The estimated emissions generated by the proposed Project (see **Section 5.3(b)**) would not exceed applicable emissions thresholds, and as such, would not conflict with the MDAQMD plans or the federal or State Clean Air Acts.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

The Project Site is located in the City of Victorville within the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

The Mojave Desert Air Basin is designated by the USEPA as nonattainment for ozone (O₃) and respirable particulate matter (PM₁₀) under both the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) and California AAQS and for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) under the California AAQS.¹³ MDAQMD cooperates with all State and federal government agencies to develop rules and regulations; establishes permitting requirements; inspects emissions sources; and enforces measures through programs or fines when necessary.

The MDAQMD established maximum mass daily thresholds of criteria air pollutants and ozone precursors to prevent air quality violations during construction and operation of development projects under CEQA.¹⁴

Maximum daily emissions of air pollutants that would be generated during construction and operation of the proposed Project were compared to the applicable thresholds to determine the likelihood of potential air quality impacts. The proposed Project would not conflict with control strategies intended to reduce emissions from construction equipment and proposed Project operation as discussed below.

Construction Emissions

The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) was used to prepare estimates of the proposed Project's construction emissions (refer to **Appendix A: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Modeling Data**). The analysis assumes that approximately 5,500 linear feet of proposed pipeline within an approximately 10-foot-wide trench would be completed in approximately 1.5 months, with approximately 150 linear feet of pipeline constructed each working day.

13 California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), "Air Quality Standards and Area Designations" (December 2015), <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm>.

14 Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD), *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Federal Conformity Guidelines* (August 2016), <http://mdaqmd.ca.gov/home/showdocument?id=192>.

The construction equipment inventory for the proposed Project is anticipated to include four to eight pieces of equipment (eight assumed for CalEEMod), including the use of two back hoes, one dump truck, two excavators, two compaction machines, and one crane. All construction equipment was assumed to meet California Air Resources Board (CARB) Tier 2 fleet requirements, and fugitive dust control techniques compliant with MDAQMD Rule 403 were applied to construction activities (e.g., watering of storage piles and disturbed surfaces, maintaining vehicle speeds under 15 miles per hour).

The maximum daily emissions during proposed Project construction are presented in **Table 5.3-1: Maximum Daily Construction Emissions for Priority Pollutants (pounds/day)**. Maximum daily emissions of air pollutants that would result from construction activities were estimated to be 2.1 pounds per day of reactive organic compounds (ROG), 38.9 pounds per day of nitrous oxides (NOx), 34.1 pounds per day of carbon monoxide (CO), less than 0.1 pounds per day of sulfur dioxide (SO2), 6.5 pounds per day of PM10, and 3.6 pounds per day of PM2.5.

As shown in **Table 5.3-1**, maximum daily estimated emissions would be below the MDAQMD threshold for all modeled air pollutants. Accordingly, emissions of air pollutants during proposed Project construction would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing air quality violation.

Impacts would be less than significant.

**Table 5.3-1
Maximum Daily Construction Emissions for Priority Pollutants (pounds/day)**

	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10	PM2.5
Maximum	2.1	38.9	34.1	0.1	6.5	3.6
MDAQMD Threshold	137	137	548	137	82	65
Exceeds Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Air Emissions Model Results—Summer are presented in Appendix A.

Notes: MDAQMD, CEQA and Federal Conformity Guidelines, August 2016, <http://mdaqmd.ca.gov/home/showdocument?id=192>.

CO = carbon monoxide; NOx = nitrogen oxides; PM10 = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM2.5 = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns; ROG = reactive organic gases; SO2 = sulfur dioxides.

Operational Emissions

Operational emissions would be generated by routine maintenance vehicle trips to the pipeline. The analysis of daily operational emissions has been prepared using the data, methodologies, and current motor vehicle emission factors in the CalEEMod model (refer to **Appendix A**).

The proposed Project would be required to comply with MDAQMD Rule 1115¹⁵ to limit VOC content of architectural coatings and MDAQMD Rule 402,¹⁶ which prohibits the discharge from a facility of air pollutants that cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to the public or that damage business or property.

Table 5.3-2: Maximum Operational Emissions for Priority Pollutants (pounds/day), provides the maximum daily operational emissions. As shown, the proposed Project would not exceed the MDAQMD operational emission thresholds.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Table 5.3-2
Maximum Operational Emissions for Priority Pollutants (pounds/day)

Source	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10	PM2.5
Maximum	1.5	0.7	0.8	<0.1	0.1	0.1
MDAQMD Threshold	137	137	548	137	82	65
Exceeds Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Air Emissions Model Results—Summer are presented in Appendix A.

Notes: MDAQMD, CEQA and Federal Conformity Guidelines, August 2016, <http://mdaqmd.ca.gov/home/showdocument?id=192>

CO = carbon monoxide; NOx = nitrogen oxides; PM10 = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM2.5 = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns; ROG = reactive organic gases; SO2 = sulfur dioxides.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

Projects that do not exceed the project-level emission thresholds would not contribute to cumulatively significant air quality impacts. As shown in **Table 5.3-1** and **Table 5.3-2**, all emissions associated with the proposed Project would not exceed the federal and/or State threshold values for priority pollutants and would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant. Accordingly, the proposed Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable net increase in ozone, PM10, or PM2.5.

Impacts would be less than significant.

15 MDAQMD, *Rule 1115: Metal Parts & Products Coating Operations* (adopted March 2, 1992; last amended January 22, 2018), <http://mdaqmd.ca.gov/home/showdocument?id=4706>.

16 MDAQMD, *Rule 402: Nuisance* (adopted May 7, 1976; readopted July 25, 1977), <http://mdaqmd.ca.gov/home/showdocument?id=290>.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

Sensitive receptors are defined as schools, residential homes, hospitals, resident care facilities, daycare centers, or other facilities that may house individuals with health conditions which would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality.

Construction activities associated with the proposed pipeline would generally occur along Amethyst Road and Sycamore Street. Numerous residences and churches are situated along Amethyst Road and Sycamore Street within 100 feet of the proposed pipeline route. Included among these is the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, which contains a children's ministry and is located approximately 65 feet immediately west of the pipeline alignment on Amethyst Road.

Approximately 150-foot segments of the pipeline alignment would be completed each day, and thus the proximity of construction equipment would not remain near a single residence for more than 1 week at a time. Maximum daily emissions are projected to be less than the applicable MDAQMD daily thresholds, as indicated in **Table 5.3-1** and **Table 5.3-2**. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

e. Less than Significant Impact.

According to the CARB's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook*,¹⁷ odors are the most common sources of air pollution complaints. As with other types of air pollution, a number of factors need to be considered when determining potential effects on land use. Land uses that are more likely to produce odors include agriculture, chemical plants, composting operations, dairies, fiberglass molding, landfills, refineries, rendering plants, rail yards, and wastewater treatment plants.

Construction activities associated with the proposed Project would generate odors from heavy-duty equipment exhaust, including diesel and gasoline. Odors associated with diesel and gasoline fumes are transitory in nature and would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. The impacts from these odors would be short term and would cease upon the completion of the pipeline.

¹⁷ California Air Resources Board (CARB), *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* (2005), 32.

Furthermore, the construction of the water pipeline would occur less than 1 week when near a sensitive receptor.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

Special-status species include those listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA); species otherwise given certain designations by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); and plant species listed as rare by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

A biological assessment for the proposed Project was completed to determine the presence or absence of any sensitive biological resource (see **Appendix B.1: Biological Resources Technical Report**). As part of the biological assessment, database searches were conducted prior to the survey of the Project area, including the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). A reconnaissance survey was conducted in November 2017 and May 2018 that covered the proposed pipeline alignment plus a 75-foot buffer on both sides (Survey Area).

A review of the CNDDDB indicated that 26 special-status plant species have been documented within the Survey Area, but no species have been recorded in the Survey Area itself. Eight special-status plants were determined to have a low or moderate potential to occur in the Survey Area based on habitat conditions and environmental requirements. None were identified during either survey.

The Project Site is largely located in low-density residential and developed urban areas dominated by ornamental and ruderal vegetation communities, with some sections of native species interspersed. In addition to disturbed/ruderal and developed cover types, the two vegetation communities mapped included Creosote Bush Scrub (*Larrea tridentata* Shrubland Alliance), found primarily in the central and northern portions of the pipeline alignment, and Nevada Joint Fir Scrub (*Ephedra nevadensis* Shrubland Alliance), found primarily in the central and southern portions of the pipeline alignment. These vegetation communities were largely located on either side of Amethyst Road, a dirt road. Additional dominant species observed were the nonnative grasses cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*).

The following special-status plant species were identified as having suitable habitat in proximity to the Project Site: pinyon rockcress (*Boechera dispar*); white-bracted spineflower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*); desert cymopterus (*Cymopterus deserticola*); Mojave monkeyflower (*Diplacus mohavensis*); Booth's evening-primrose (*Eremothera boothii* ssp. *boothii*); sagebrush loeflingia (*Loeflingia squarrosa* var. *artemisiarum*); short-joint beavertail (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *brachyclada*); and the beaver dam breadroot (*Pediomelum castoreum*).

A review of database information indicated that 35 special-status wildlife species have been reported in the area; of these, 13 species were considered to have the potential to occur in the Survey Area. One species was confirmed to occur within the Survey Area.

The following wildlife species were observed during the survey: western side-blotched lizard (*Uta sansburiana*); Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*); Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*); loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), a special-status species; common raven (*Corvus corax*); western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*); black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*); white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia*

leucophrys); house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*); black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*); and the desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*).

Based on considerations of local records and habitat conditions, the following special-status wildlife species were identified as containing suitable habitat in proximity to the Project Site: Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*); desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*); coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*); golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) (foraging only); burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*); Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (foraging only); loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*); Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) (foraging only); Pallid San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax pallidus*); Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) (foraging only); desert kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis arsipus*); American badger (*Taxidea taxus*); and the Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*).

The majority of the rights-of-way along the proposed alignment is developed and disturbed/ruderal land.

Joshua trees and cactus species are regulated by the California Desert Native Plant Act (CDNPA). The following species were observed in the Survey Area and are subject to regulations under CDNPA: Joshua trees, creosote rings (10 feet or greater in diameter), and members of Cactaceae (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *basilaris* and *Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*). The Survey Area contains Joshua trees and cactus species. Consistent with Chapter 13.33 of the VMC, no Joshua trees would be removed without written consent from the Director of Parks and Recreation or their designee.

The Project Site is within range of the desert tortoise; while neither it nor sign thereof was observed in the Survey Area, protocol surveys are recommended in areas with suitable habitat for desert tortoise. If desert tortoise or its sign is observed during the preconstruction survey, then US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CDFW be contacted prior to construction initiation. Alternatively, coordination with USFWS and CDFW may result in the determination that protocol surveys are not required in the area.

Special-status birds that may occur in the Survey Area while foraging but do not have the potential to nest at the site include golden eagle and Swainson's hawk. Birds that do not have the potential to nest in the Survey Area are not anticipated to be directly impacted by the proposed Project.

Suitable bird nesting habitat is present along the proposed pipeline route. Nesting birds are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MTBA) and the California Fish and Game Code, and could be impacted by proposed Project activities when construction occurs near nesting areas during the nesting season (February through August). Due to the proximity of proposed Project construction activities in relation to the identified species above, the proposed Project would have the potential for a significant impact on bird species during construction.

As previously discussed, potentially suitable habitat exists for 8 special-status plant species and 13 special-status wildlife species, with one special status species observed in the area. Due to the proximity of the proposed Project construction activities in relation to the identified species above, the proposed Project would have the potential for a significant impact on plant and wildlife species. Mitigation Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-8** would be implemented to reduce potentially significant impacts on plant and wildlife species. It should also be noted that the City of Victorville lies within the Bureau of Land Management's West Mojave Plan area.

If construction activities occur outside of the breeding season (February through August), then potential impacts on sensitive bird species would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures shall be implemented.

BIO-1: Preconstruction surveys for the presence of special-status plant species, including Joshua trees and cactus species, shall be conducted by a qualified biologist with species specific experience [pinyon rockcress (*Boechnera dispar*); white-bracted spineflower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*); desert cymopterus (*Cymopterus deserticola*); Mojave monkeyflower (*Diplacus mohavensis*); Booth's evening-primrose (*Eremothera boothii* ssp. *boothii*); sagebrush loeflingia (*Loeflingia squarrosa* var. *artemisiarum*); short-joint beavertail (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *brachyclada*); and the beaver dam breadroot (*Pediomelum castoreum*)] no more than 30 days prior to commencement of construction activities.

Surveys need not be conducted for all areas of suitable habitat at one time; they may be phased so that surveys occur within 30 days prior to that portion of the site being disturbed. If no potential for the special-status plant species identified above are present, no further mitigation is required.

If any of the special-status plant species are identified during the surveys, the qualified biologist shall comply with the regulations and protocols specific to the species through consultation with the City of Victorville, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

BIO-2: If construction or vegetation removal is proposed between February 1 and September 15, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey no more than 5 days prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities for breeding and nesting birds within 500 feet of the construction limits.

If an active nest is located on the Project Site or within the buffer area, the biologist shall map the location of active nests or breeding territories that could be affected by the proposed Project.

A 500-foot buffer shall be delineated around any active nest of any raptor species, and a 0.5-mile buffer around an active nest of any active Swainson's hawk nests. Buffer distances may be reduced at the qualified biologist's discretion, depending on the species' tolerance to human presence and the location of the nest. For example, a reduced buffer may be appropriate for a nest located near a high-use road. Buffers shall be delineated in the field with high-visibility fencing, such as orange-mesh snow drift fencing, and shall persist and be maintained until the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site for survival, as determined by a qualified biologist. If an active Swainson's hawk nest occurs within the 0.5-mile buffer, the City shall initiate consultation with the CDFW to avoid direct and indirect impacts on the Swainson hawk.

The monitoring biologist shall inspect the integrity of the fence on a weekly basis if fences are required. Any gaps in the fence shall be corrected within 24 hours following communication from the monitoring biologist.

BIO-3: A survey of the Project Site to determine the presence of burrowing owls shall be conducted 30 days prior to construction-related activities to determine if active burrows are present in vacant areas within 550 yards (approximately 1,650 feet) of the Project Site. Burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted following the CDFW staff report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (dated March 7, 2012). A report of the survey results shall be submitted to the City of Victorville.

No activity shall occur within 50 meters (approximately 160 feet) of occupied burrowing owl burrows during the nonbreeding season, and within 75 meters (approximately 250 feet) during the nesting season (February 1 and August 31).

If an active burrow is located during the breeding season, the burrow shall be treated as a nest site, and temporary fencing shall be installed at a distance of 550 yards from the active burrow to prevent disturbance to the burrow during construction activities to avoid destruction of the burrow by chaining, disking, or any other direct disturbance. This is the maximum buffer distance recommended in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation prepared by the CDFW (March 7, 2012) when activities will result in a high level of disturbance. The fencing used shall be a visual screen except in those circumstances for which the biological monitor determines a visual screen is not appropriate because of the

location of the burrow and the nature of the surrounding uses or activities. A biological monitor shall be present to supervise the erection and removal of the temporary fencing.

BIO-4: All trash shall be contained in covered containers each day. Containers shall be removed from the Project area and properly disposed of and/or recycled at an appropriate disposal facility. Special attention should be given to leaving no micro trash (screws, nuts, bolts, pop-tops, washers, etc.) on site.

BIO-5: Prior to site disturbance, the Victorville Water District (VWD) shall conduct surveys for potential special-status species along the Project Site for Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) (foraging only), pallid San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax pallidus*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) (foraging only), and the Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*); and shall report the results to the CDFW and USFWS. In the event that individuals of these special-status species are found prior to construction, VWD shall implement standard impact avoidance and minimization measures prior to construction. For Mohave ground squirrel and desert tortoise, these may include trapping and removal of the species per CDFW and USFWS procedures, unless CDFW determines, as part of any consultations or permit agreements, that the available data supporting an absence determination is sufficient.

BIO-6: Preconstruction surveys for the presence of desert kit fox or American badger dens shall be conducted by a qualified biologist with species-specific experience no more than 30 days prior to commencement of construction activities.

Surveys need not be conducted for all areas of suitable habitat at one time; they may be phased so that surveys occur within 30 days prior to that portion of the site being disturbed. If no potential desert kit fox or American badger dens are present, no further mitigation is required.

Should potential dens of desert kit fox or American badger be identified during the surveys, a qualified biologist will follow standard monitoring procedures to determine the occupancy status, species, and type (potential, active, natal) of burrow.

If potential dens are observed, the following buffer distances shall be established prior to construction activities:

- Desert kit fox or American badger potential den: 30 feet
- Desert kit fox active den: 100 feet
- Desert kit fox natal den: 500 feet

If avoidance of the potential dens is not possible, the following measures shall be implemented to avoid potential adverse effects to desert kit fox:

- A qualified biologist shall determine if potential dens are inactive. If so, the biologist shall excavate and collapse these dens with a shovel to prevent foxes from reusing them during construction.

A qualified biologist determines that potential dens may be active. If so, then an on-site passive relocation program shall be implemented. This program shall consist of excluding foxes from occupied burrows by installation of one-way doors at burrow entrances, monitoring of the burrow for 1 week to confirm usage has been discontinued, and excavation and collapse of the burrow to prevent reoccupation. After the qualified biologist determines that badgers and foxes have stopped using active dens within the Project boundary, the dens shall be excavated and collapsed with a shovel to prevent re-use during construction.

BIO-7: Not less than 30 days prior to any construction activities, the District's Project manager or their designee, and the Project landscape architect shall provide a Revegetation and Restoration Plan, as approved by the Project biologist, to CDFW for review and written approval. The Revegetation and Restoration Plan shall include a plant palette of species to be used in the revegetation, success criteria, monitoring and reporting over a 3-year period, and corrective actions to be taken in order to meet the proposed success criteria. The Revegetation and Restoration Plan shall also focus on the restoration of the stream geomorphology and flow regimes within the Project area allowing it to retreat back to its natural path. The Revegetation and Restoration Plan shall ensure no net loss of habitat or wildlife resource values. All planting shall commence within 1 year of completion of construction and shall include the collection and dispersion of local seeds from within the watershed, if possible.

BIO-8: Prior to any construction activities on the Project Site, the District's Project manager or their designee, shall implement a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) to educate on-site workers about sensitive environmental issues associated with the Project. The program shall be administered to all on-site personnel, including the District's

personnel, contractors, and all subcontractors, prior to the employee's commencing work on the site. The WEAP shall include, but not be limited to, protected species that have potential to occur within the Project Site; including the Mojave desert tortoise, burrowing owl, Mojave ground squirrel, desert kit fox, as well as nesting birds, plants, and other wildlife species.

BIO-9: During site clearing, vegetation removal, and grading, the District shall have a qualified biological monitor present on site to ensure that all measures required under the Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSA) to be issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are followed. The biological monitor shall also observe and protect wildlife species to the extent practicable.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

Riparian habitats occur along watercourses and water bodies and typically include flood plains and streambanks.¹⁸ The presence of water influences the unique soil and vegetation characteristics that are representative of these areas. These habitats preserve water quality by filtering sediment and some pollutants from runoff before it enters the water body; protect stream banks from erosion; provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife; and preserve open space and aesthetic values.

A preliminary jurisdictional delineation for the Project Site was conducted (see **Appendix B.2: Preliminary Jurisdictional Delineation**). No areas that meet the federal or State definition of jurisdictional wetlands were identified within the Project Site. Five features were identified as potentially meeting the characteristics of federal, State, or regionally regulated jurisdictional water features near the proposed pipeline alignment. Based on the criteria for defining riparian habitat, none of the features identified contained vegetation associated with riparian habitat. As such, the proposed Project would not result in significant direct or indirect impacts to riparian habitat.

The proposed Project would locate a water pipeline beneath the ground surface and would not have an impact on riparian areas during operation.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

18 USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, "Riparian Areas Environmental Uniqueness, Functions, and Values," RCA Issue Brief #11 (August 1996), https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/technical/?cid=nrcs143_014199#what, accessed January 2018.

c. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act authorizes the State of California to certify that federal permits and licenses do not violate the State's water quality standards. Executive Order 11990, amended in Executive Order 12608, aids in the protection of wetlands existing or under evaluation by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).¹⁹

The National Wetlands Mapper does not indicate any seasonally wet areas, federally protected streams or wetlands, or other water bodies on or adjacent to the Project Site.²⁰ A preliminary jurisdictional delineation (see **Appendix B.2**) was conducted to determine potential USACE, CDFW, and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jurisdictional authority over wetland and hydrological features in the Survey Area. As determined in the preliminary jurisdictional delineation, 14 potential jurisdictional features were identified within the Survey Area. None of the potential features meet the federal or State definition of jurisdictional wetlands. Five of the potential features were identified to have USACE, CDFW- and/or RWQCB-regulated jurisdictional water features. Approximately 0.1 acres were mapped as potentially USACE jurisdictional water features, approximately 0.31 acres were mapped as potentially CDFW jurisdictional water features, and 0.18 acres were mapped as potentially RWQCB water features. There is potential for the proposed Project to impact USACE, CDFW- and RWQCB-regulated jurisdictional water features, primarily those associated with the alignment of the proposed pipeline. It should be noted that the proposed Project would not impact Feature 2 during construction and operation, and as such, would result in fewer potential impacts to CDFW and RWQCB jurisdictional water features. Approximately 0.25 acres mapped as potentially CDFW jurisdictional water features and approximately 0.12 acres mapped as potentially RWQCB water features would be potentially impacted during construction of the proposed Project.

In the event impacts cannot be avoided to USACE jurisdictional features, coverage under the Nationwide Permit to USACE would be required by the District. In the event that impacts cannot be avoided to CDFW jurisdictional features, Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration (LSA) to the CDFW would be required by the District. In the event that impacts cannot be avoided to RWQCB jurisdictional features, Waste Discharge Requirements from the Lahontan RWQCB for discharges of dredged or fill material to waters of the State would be required by the District. The proposed Project would be subject to any additional avoidance measures contained within the Nationwide Permit, LSA, and WDR. As such, Mitigation

19 Federal Emergency Management Agency, "Executive Order 11990—Protection of Wetlands," <https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1837-25045-3965/eo11990.pdf>, accessed January 2018.

20 US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory, *Wetlands Mapper* (2017), <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>, accessed January 2018.

Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-9** and any additional avoidance measures contained within the Nationwide Permit, LSA, and WDR would mitigate potential impacts and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-9** shall be implemented.

d. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The proposed Project is located in an urban developed area of the City of Victorville. Construction of the proposed Project would last approximately one and a half months. All activities would occur within existing roadway rights-of-way. The Survey Area contains Joshua trees and cactus species, which should be avoided when possible. Consistent with Chapter 13.33 of the VMC, no Joshua trees would be removed without written consent from the Director of Parks and Recreation or their designee. Upon the completion of construction, the pipeline would be located belowground and would not interfere with the movement of wildlife.

There are no known of wildlife corridors within or adjacent to the Project Site. Migratory birds may utilize the Project Site and adjoining area for breeding, nesting, and foraging, or at a minimum, as transient rest sites during migration flights. Desert kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis arsipus*) likely use the area and surrounding lands in search of prey opportunities, water resources, and cover when moving across the valley floor, and Mitigation Measure **BIO-6** would ensure desert kit fox would not be significantly impacted. However, as no linkages exist, the proposed Project would not be an impingement. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

The proposed Project would not impact marine fisheries as identified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act governing marine fisheries management in US federal waters.²¹

The proposed Project could have the potential to disturb native nesting bird species during nesting season; however, implementation of Mitigation Measures **BIO-2**, **BIO-3**, **BIO-5**, **BIO-8**, and **BIO-9** would reduce impacts during construction on wildlife species.

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measures **BIO-2**, **BIO-3**, **BIO-5**, **BIO-6**, **BIO-8**, and **BIO-9** shall be implemented.

21 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act," <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/magnuson-stevens-fishery-conservation-and-management-act>, accessed January 2018.

e. Less than Significant Impact.

The City of Victorville's Joshua Tree Preservation Ordinance requires the preservation of all living Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) within the City to preserve the unique natural desert environment and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community. Additionally, the ordinance makes it unlawful for any person to cut, damage, destroy, dig up, or harvest any Joshua tree without the prior written consent of the Director of Parks and Recreation or their designee.²²

The biological assessment, found in **Appendix B.1**, identified the presence of Joshua trees within the Survey Area. Any Joshua tree or cactus species would be avoided when possible. However, in the event that a Joshua tree or cactus species would need to be removed during construction, then the District would need written consent from the Director of Parks and Recreation or their designee, consistent with Chapter 13.33 of the VMC. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would not conflict with the City's Tree Preservation Ordinance. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

f. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The Project Site lies within the boundaries of the West Mojave Plan, a multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan that includes 3.2 million acres of public land and 3.0 million acres of private land in portions of San Bernardino, Inyo, Kern, and Los Angeles Counties. The proposed Project would be constructed within existing public rights-of-way, adjacent to potential habitat suitable for special-status species identified within the West Mojave Plan. Implementation of Mitigation Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-9** would ensure that species, and habitat for species identified in the West Mojave Plan, including the burrowing owl, desert tortoise, and Mohave ground squirrel, are protected through the City's conservation strategies similar to those proposed by the West Mojave Plan. Accordingly, the potential adverse impacts relative to conflicts with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-9** shall be implemented.

²² City of Victorville, Municipal Code, tit. 13, ch. 13.33, Preservation and Removal of Joshua Trees.

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

In December 2017, Applied EarthWorks (Æ) was retained to perform a cultural resources assessment of the proposed pipeline alignment (see **Appendix C: Cultural Resources Report**), which constitutes the proposed Project’s area of potential effect (APE). This investigation is part of the environmental review process required under CEQA for the proposed Project.²³

A “historical resource” under CEQA, as defined by California Public Resources Code (PRC) Part 5020.1(j) is any object, building, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that is historically or archaeologically significant, or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California. Guidelines for CEQA further define a “historical resource” as any resource listed in or determined eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), included in a local register of historical resources, or determined to be historically significant by the Lead Agency. Additionally, a resource would be automatically listed in the CRHR if it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or formally determined eligible by an agency for listing in the NRHP. Generally, a cultural resource is considered “historically significant” if it meets the requirements for listing on the CRHR under any one of the following criteria:

²³ National Park Service, National Historic Preservation Act of 1974, https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/fhpl_archhistpres.pdf. Accessed January 2018.

- Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage (Criterion A)
- Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B)
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values (Criterion C)
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D)

A records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center at California State University, Fullerton was conducted to identify historic and archeological resources within the Project area and within a 1-mile radius of the Project area (Study Area).

The search located relevant reports of 33 previous cultural resource investigations within the Study Area between 1976 and 2016. Five of these studies specifically involved a portion of the Project area. Approximately 70 percent of the Project area has been surveyed previously as a result of these studies, which resulted in the identification and documentation of 18 cultural resources within the Study Area. However, none of the 18 previously documented cultural resources are located within the current Project area.

During the field survey, two newly identified cultural resources—mid-twentieth-century refuse scatter (Æ-3763-1H) and a prehistoric isolated mano (Æ-3763-1I)—were encountered. Further analysis by Æ determined that the site does not reveal any new information about Victorville, its residents, or the larger region and is not considered significant under Criteria A and B. The site does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic value; or represent a significant and distinguishable property. Refuse scatters of this type and vintage are frequently found along the sides of roads and highways in the rural and semirural desert areas of Southern California, and there is nothing unique or unusual about this particular deposit. Thus, the site is not significant under CRHR Criterion C. Furthermore, the site is unlikely to yield information important to the study of local, State, or national history, and thus is not considered significant under Criterion D. Accordingly, the refuse scatter is not eligible for listing on the CRHR. An evaluation of the isolated artifact indicates that the resource does not meet any criteria for listing on the CRHR and, therefore, is not eligible for listing on the CRHR.

No other previously unrecorded archaeological or historic resources were observed within the APE during site reconnaissance. No other features or objects greater than 50 years of age were identified within the APE during the investigation. Additionally, the field survey of the Project APE resulted in the identification of no additional historic resources. Therefore, no adverse impact to historic resources would occur.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

Previous studies within the Project Area have resulted in the identification and documentation of 18 cultural resources within the Study Area. However, none of the 18 previously documented cultural resources are located within the current Project area. Further, no archaeological resources were identified within the APE during the pedestrian survey (**Appendix C**).

The construction of the proposed pipeline would occur within existing roadway rights-of-way within artificial fill. As noted above, two prehistoric or historic cultural resources were identified within the Survey Area. Therefore, if ground disturbance associated with the proposed Project extends into intact native soils there is the potential for buried archaeological resources to be affected by implementation of the proposed Project. Given the presence of other archaeological resources in the area, impacts would be potentially significant.

Implementation of Mitigation Measures **CUL-1** and **CUL-2**, which require identification and treatment of undiscovered archaeological resources, would reduce impacts to archaeological resources to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures shall be implemented.

CUL-1: Prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities, the VWD project manager or their designee shall ensure that a qualified archaeologist has conducted cultural resources sensitivity training for all construction workers involved in moving soil or working near soil disturbance.

CUL-2: During Project-related construction and excavation activities, should subsurface archaeological resources be discovered, all activity in the vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall stop, and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the significance of the find according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.

If any find is determined to be significant, the archaeologist shall determine, in consultation with VWD and any local Native American groups (e.g., San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and/or Serrano Nation of Mission Indians) expressing interest for prehistoric resources, appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation.

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), preservation in place shall be the preferred means to avoid impacts to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources.

Methods of avoidance may include but shall not be limited to rerouting or redesign, cancellation, or identification of protection measures, such as capping or fencing. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, the qualified archaeologist shall develop additional treatment measures, such as data recovery or other appropriate measures, in consultation with VWD and any local Native American group representatives expressing interest in prehistoric archaeological resources.

If an archaeological site does not qualify as a historical resource but meets the criteria for a unique archaeological resource as defined in Section 21083.2, then the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2.

c. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

Amethyst Road, Sycamore Road, and the adjacent commercial, industrial, and residential uses have been disturbed and graded for development.

The trenching activities related to the construction of the proposed Project would generally occur in already-disturbed roadway rights-of-way and would generally not exceed six feet below grade, except near the Oro Grande Wash. As such, the potential to affect a unique paleontological resource or geologic feature is considered low.

Based on the low probability of discovery of potential paleontological resources, construction could potentially encounter unknown resources.

Impacts on paleontological resources from construction could occur. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure **CUL-3** would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measure shall be implemented.

CUL-3: If potential paleontological resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities for the pipeline, work in that location shall be temporarily halted and/or diverted to another location, and a qualified paleontologist shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If the paleontologist determines that the resources discovered is significant, they shall identify appropriate measures to remove the resources and

implement such a plan before work can continue in that location. After the find has been properly mitigated, work in the area may resume.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

The majority of ground disturbance resulting from the proposed Project would generally occur within the existing roadway rights-of-way. As such, the potential to encounter human remains is low because this area has been disturbed by past roadway construction.

Moreover, in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code and the Public Resources Code,²⁴ should human remains be discovered during trenching activities, trenching activities would immediately stop within a 100-foot buffer of the find, and the County Coroner would be contacted. The Coroner would have 2 working days to examine human remains after being notified by the responsible person. If the remains were found to be Native American, the Coroner would have 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage commission (NAHC). The NAHC would immediately notify the tribal representative it believes to be the most likely descendent of the deceased Native American. The most likely descendent would have 48 hours to make recommendations to the owner or their representative for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the human remains and grave goods. Should the descendent not make recommendations within 48 hours, the owner would reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from further disturbance; or should the owner not accept the descendant's recommendations, the owner or the descendent may request mediation by the NAHC.

Therefore, potential impacts to human remains would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

24 California Health and Safety Code, sec. 7050.5 and 5097.98.

5.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the project:				
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a.i. Less than Significant Impact.

A geotechnical exploration for the proposed Project was completed to support the design of the proposed Project (see **Appendix D: Geotechnical Exploration**). The Victorville Planning Area (VPA), a region encompassing the City's limits and sphere of influence, contains five known active or potentially active earthquake fault systems.²⁵

²⁵ City of Victorville General Plan, "Safety Element," p. S-2.

The San Andreas Fault Zone is located approximately 24 miles south of the VPA and is considered most likely to produce a major earthquake. Additional faults in the regional vicinity include the Helendale Fault, located approximately 9 miles northeast of the VPA; the San Jacinto Fault, located approximately 26 miles south of the VPA and parallel to the San Andreas Fault; the North Frontal fault zone of the San Bernardino Mountains, located approximately 5.5 miles southeast of the VPA along the base of the Ord Mountains; and the Landers Fault, located approximately 50 miles southeast of the VPA.²⁶

The development of the proposed Project would involve trenching a water pipeline below ground and would not expose people to risks from earthquakes because there are no proposed habitable structures intended for human occupancy. Implementation of appropriate engineering design measures as required by the latest *Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (Greenbook)*²⁷ and the California Building Code (CBC)²⁸ would minimize potential structural failures caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards. Compliance with the requirements of the Greenbook and CBC for structural safety during a seismic event would reduce hazards from fault rupture.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

a.ii. Less than Significant Impact.

The VPA is also subject to ground shaking and potential damage in the event of earthquakes. As noted previously, the most likely source of strong ground shaking within the region would be a major earthquake along the San Andreas Fault Zone or from the San Jacinto or Helendale Faults.

Because the Project Site is located in a seismically active area, occasional seismic ground shaking is likely to occur within the lifetime of the proposed Project. Potential adverse effects on the proposed Project from strong seismic ground shaking include fracture or rupture in the pipeline causing limited water flow.

Implementation of appropriate engineering design measures as required by the latest Greenbook and the CBC would minimize potential structural failures caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards. The proposed Project would be required to adhere to the provisions of the latest Greenbook and CBC.

26 Southern California Earthquake Data Center, "Faults of Southern California: Mojave Region" (2018), <http://scedc.caltech.edu/significant/mojave.html>. Accessed January 2018.

27 William Mahoney, ed., *2015 Greenbook: Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction* (BNi Publications Inc., 2015).

28 California Building Standards Code 2016 (California Code of Regulations, Title 24), <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx>, accessed February 2018.

Compliance with the requirements of the Greenbook and CBC for structural safety during a seismic event would reduce hazards from strong seismic ground shaking. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

a.iii. Less than Significant Impact.

Liquefaction refers to water-saturated, sandy, or unstable soils that lose their cohesiveness when subjected to intense shaking. Liquefaction usually occurs during or shortly after a large earthquake. The movement of saturated soils during seismic events from ground shaking can result in soil instability and cause unreinforced structures to fail.²⁹

The Project Site is not located within an identified liquefaction zone.³⁰ Additionally, groundwater was not encountered during borings drilled to a depth of 21.5 feet below ground surface (see **Appendix D**). The proposed pipeline would generally be located within existing rights-of-way and beneath Sycamore Street and Amethyst Road. The pipeline would be covered and surrounded by certified base and fill. The design and construction of the proposed pipeline required to adhere to the Greenbook and CBC, which contain provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from liquefaction and other seismic-related ground failures.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

a.iv. Less than Significant Impact.

Landslides are the downslope movement of geologic materials that occur when the underlying geological support on a hillside can no longer maintain the load of material above it, causing a slope failure. The term “landslide” also commonly refers to a falling, sliding, or flowing mass of soil, rocks, water, and debris that may include mudslides and debris flows. The risks associated with landslides occur when buildings or structures are placed on slopes.

The Project Site is not located within an area susceptible to landslides.³¹ However, the proposed pipeline would be buried beneath Sycamore Street and Amethyst Road and would be designed and constructed

29 City of Victorville General Plan, “Safety Element” (2008), S-3.

30 DOC, California Geological Survey (CGS), “Zones of Required Investigation,” map, <http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/>, accessed January 2018.

31 DOC, CGS, “Hesperia Quadrangle: Preliminary Reconnaissance Map of Major Landslides, San Gabriel Mountains, Los Angeles County, California,” <http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/>, accessed January 2018.

to adhere to the Greenbook and CBC, which contain provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from seismically induced landslides.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

Erosion is the movement of rock fragments and soil from one place to another. Precipitation, running water, waves, and wind are all agents of erosion. Significant erosion typically occurs on steep slopes where stormwater and high winds can carry topsoil down hillsides.

The proposed pipeline would generally be located within the roadway rights-of-way. Because this would not occur within open space areas, there would be no loss of topsoil or soil erosion. No impact would occur during operation of the proposed Project.

Construction of the proposed Project would result in the removal of soils from beneath Sycamore Street and Amethyst Road. Any topsoil removed from the pipeline trench would be stockpiled on site and replaced after the pipeline is installed.

Standard best management practices (BMPs) as required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity from Small Linear Underground Projects (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ, amended by 2010-0014-DWQ & 2012-0006-DWQ)³² would require covering of exposed material to minimize erosion impacts.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

Where the pipeline would be installed beneath the paved road, the asphalt surface would be saw cut, and a backhoe would be used to excavate a trench for the pipe. The road would be restored to preconstruction conditions after installing the pipe and backfilling the trench.

32 California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities*, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2012/wqo2012_0006_dwq.pdf, accessed February 15, 2018.

The proposed Project would not result in substantial hazards from unstable or expansive soils and would be required to adhere to the Greenbook and CBC, which contain provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from liquefaction and other unstable geologic features.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

Expansive soils contain significant amounts of clay particles that have the ability to give up water (shrink) or take on water (swell). When these soils swell, the change in volume can exert pressures that are placed on them, and structural distress and damage to buildings could occur.

The soil identified within the Project Site largely consists of old alluvium, clayey sand, and sandy silt.³³ This soil composition is known to have a moderate to high infiltration rate. Given that these soils drain water moderately well to well, the potential for them to be designated as expansive would be low to moderate.

The proposed Project would be required to adhere to the Greenbook and CBC, which contain provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from soil expansion.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

e. No Impact.

Development of the proposed Project would not require the installation of a septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal system.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

33 Civiltec Engineering Inc., *Geotechnical Exploration City of Victorville Amethyst Road Pressurized Water Pipeline* (February 2018).

5.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

The principal greenhouse gases (GHGs) are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and water vapor (H₂O). CO₂ is the reference gas for climate change because it is the predominant GHG emitted. To account for the varying warming potential of different GHGs, GHG emissions are often quantified and reported as CO₂ equivalents (CO₂e).

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, also known as Assembly Bill (AB) 32, focuses on reducing GHG emissions in California and requires the CARB—the State agency charged with regulating Statewide air quality—to adopt rules and regulations that would achieve GHG emissions equivalent to Statewide levels in 1990 by 2020.

The Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (Senate Bill 375) supports the State’s climate action goals to reduce GHG emissions through coordinated transportation and land use planning, with the goal of more sustainable communities. To fulfill its commitments as an metropolitan planning organization (MPO) under the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act, San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG)³⁴ compiled the 2014 Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (Regional Plan) to create an inventory of GHG emissions and evaluate reduction measures that could be voluntarily adopted by the 21 Partnerships Cities of San Bernardino County, including the City of

34 It should be noted that the San Bernardino County Associated Governments was split into the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and the San Bernardino Council of Governments as of January 1, 2017.

Victorville, where the Project Site is located.³⁵ The City of Victorville used the technical information from the Regional Plan in the development of the Climate Action Plan, adopted in 2016 as a culmination of regional and local efforts.³⁶ The Climate Action Plan demonstrates how the City will reduce GHGs in compliance with AB 32 and remain consistent with regional targets set by the CARB.

There are no federal, State, or local adopted thresholds of significance for addressing an infrastructure project's GHG emissions. However, MDAQMD does have significant thresholds for GHGs, with an annual threshold of 100,000 tons (or 548,000 pounds per day) of CO₂e. Section 15064.4 of the CEQA Guidelines Amendments serves to assist lead agencies in determining the significance of the impacts of GHGs. As required in Section 15604.4 of the CEQA Guidelines, this analysis includes an impact determination based on the following: (1) an estimate of the amount of GHG emissions resulting from a proposed project; (2) a qualitative analysis or performance-based standards; (3) a quantification of the extent to which the proposed project increases GHG emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting; and (4) the extent to which the proposed project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a Statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions.

As discussed in **Section 5.3: Air Quality**, Threshold B, CalEEMod was utilized to prepare estimates of GHG emissions that would be generated by the construction of the proposed Project. Results of emissions modeling determined that construction of the proposed Project would result in approximately 2.1 MTCO₂e (see **Appendix A**) per year averaged over a 30-year period. Operational emissions of GHGs would be limited to the maintenance of the pipeline extension and energy costs, and were calculated to be approximately 289.9³⁷ MTCO₂e per year following the completion of construction. The GHG emissions that would result from proposed Project implementation are substantially below the recommended MDAQMD screening threshold of 100,000 MTCO₂e per year.

The proposed Project would reduce energy costs by using less imported water and more locally sourced water, consistent with local and Statewide goals and policies, including the City's Climate Action Plan and SANBAG's 2014 Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, aimed at reducing the generation of GHGs.

Impacts would be less than significant.

35 San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, *Final San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan*, <http://www.gosbcta.com/plans-projects/plans/greenhouse-gas/SBC-RegionalGreenHouseGasReduction-Final.pdf>, accessed January 2018.

36 City of Victorville, *Victorville Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2015 Planning Commission Draft*, <http://www.victorvilleca.gov/uploadedFiles/CityDepartments/Development/CAP%20PC%20Draft.pdf>, accessed January 2018.

37 Construction emissions of 2.1 MTCO₂e per year + Operation emissions of 106.3 MTCO₂e per year.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would not generate emissions above any screening thresholds. As discussed above under Threshold(a), the proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation for the purposes of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact	
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:					
a.	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c.	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d.	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to <i>Government Code</i> Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e.	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f.	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g.	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h.	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

Hazardous materials include any substance or combination of substances that may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in death or serious injury, or pose substantial hazards to human health and safety, and/or the environment.³⁸

The proposed pipeline would carry and deliver water that has been chlorinated as part of the disinfection process. The water would comply with Title 17 and Title 22 regulations of the California Water Code,³⁹ which protects drinking water supplies through control of cross-connections with potential containments and establishes the quality and/or treatment processes required for drinking water supplies. No aspect of the proposed Project would involve the use of hazardous materials, and the proposed Project would not create a hazard-related to exposure to hazardous materials.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

The water conveyed in the proposed pipeline would comply with Title 17 and Title 22 regulations, and the design of the proposed pipeline would be consistent with the Greenbook and CBC standards.

In the event of a release of water from a burst pipeline resulting from a seismic event, concentrations of chlorine within the distribution system would not be high enough to be considered hazardous.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

The Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses is located approximately 0.01 miles immediately west of the pipeline alignment on Amethyst Road, and the Gate Church of the High Desert is located approximately 0.09 miles northeast of the Project on Amethyst Road; both institutions contain children's ministries. KinderCare of Victorville is located approximately 0.44 miles northwest at the corner of Bear Valley Road

38 *City of Victorville General Plan, "Safety Element" (2008), p. S-9.*

39 California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), California Regulations Related to Drinking Water, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/documents/lawbook/dwregulations-2016-09-23.pdf, accessed February 15, 2018.

and Amethyst Road, with low-density residential uses in between. Hollyvale Elementary School is located approximately 0.5 miles west along Sycamore Street. La Petite Academy of Victorville is located approximately 0.7 miles northwest and the Options for Youth Charter School is located 0.8 miles northwest, both on Bear Valley Road. Maple Elementary School is located approximately 1 mile southwest on Maple Avenue, across Interstate 15 (I-15).

The construction phase of the proposed pipeline could potentially expose the children's ministries of the religious institutions to short-term hazardous emissions from diesel machinery during construction. There would also be a potential for the handling of hazardous materials, such as oils, grease, or fuels, utilized during the construction of the proposed pipeline.

Compliance with applicable regulations for the handling of hazardous materials would reduce the potentiality of release. No hazardous emissions or handling of hazardous materials would be conducted during the operational phase of the proposed pipeline.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

A geographical search for hazardous materials sites, as defined in Government Code Section 65962.5, utilizing the online environmental database GeoTracker, produced one location of potential hazardous material within 1 mile of the Project Site.⁴⁰

Within 1 mile of the proposed Project, there is one closed Cleanup Program Site for a Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST). The Project Site is not located directly in an area with current hazardous materials sites and, therefore, would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

⁴⁰ SWRCB, *GeoTracker*, <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>, accessed January 2018.

e. No Impact.

The closest airport to the Project Site is the Hesperia Airport, located approximately 5.5 miles to the southeast at 7070 Summit Valley Road in Hesperia.

The proposed pipeline would not be located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport. No safety hazard impacts would occur to people residing or working in the area of the proposed Project.

The pipeline would be subsurface and would not obstruct any airport operations. Therefore, no safety hazards resulting from airport proximity would occur.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

f. No Impact.

The Project Site would not be located near a private airstrip; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a safety hazard for those working within the Project Site.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

g. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The proposed Project would generally be constructed within the existing rights-of-way for Amethyst Road, an unpaved dirt road, and Sycamore Road, a paved two-lane road.

The City of Victorville does not have any roadways designated as disaster routes.

While the proposed Project would not cause permanent alterations to vehicular circulation routes and patterns and/or impede public access or travel on public rights-of-way, construction would require closure of one lane of the roadway at a time, potentially impeding emergency access. However, all roadways have adequate vehicle capacity for one lane to be closed and for traffic to continue around construction.

The proposed pipeline would be located below ground. When installed, these components would not interfere with traffic flow or otherwise hamper emergency response or evacuation plans. Periodic maintenance of components would be performed by vehicles traveling on surface roads to the pipeline.

The size and number of maintenance vehicles present at these components would not interfere with traffic flow.

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of Mitigation Measure **TRAF-1**, identified in **Section 5.16: Transportation and Traffic**, to reduce potential construction impacts to emergency access during an emergency.

h. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The Project Site is not located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).⁴¹ However, construction activities (e.g., the use of welding torches or other tools) within these areas may increase fire danger.

The use of flames/sparks in brushy areas during construction activities could increase the risk of wildfire. As such, impacts would be potentially significant.

Operation of the proposed Project would not exacerbate the potential for wildfires. There are no ignitable materials or processes that would have the potential to create a fire. Therefore, impacts related to exposing people or structures to adverse effects from wildfires would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measure shall be implemented.

HAZ-1: During construction activities, the Construction Contractor shall require fire-fighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, to be on-site at all times to the satisfaction of the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

41 California Department of Fire (CAL FIRE), *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA*, http://frap.fire.ca.gov/webdata/maps/san_bernardino_sw/fhszl_map.62.pdf, accessed January 2018.

5.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act protects public drinking water supplies throughout the nation. Under the Act, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) sets standards for drinking water quality and, with its partners, implements various technical and financial programs to ensure drinking water safety.⁴² State water quality in surface and groundwater bodies is regulated by the State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) and RWQCBs. The Lahontan RWQCB is responsible for implementation of State and federal water quality protection guidelines near the Project Site.⁴³

Construction of the pipeline would include excavation activities that would have the potential to generate sediment-laden runoff during rain events. Stormwater runoff from construction sites is regulated by the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity from Small Linear Underground Projects (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ, amended by 2010-0014-DWQ & 2012-0006-DWQ) issued by the SWQCB.⁴⁴ According to the fact sheet for Order 2012-0006-DWQ, construction activities associated with small linear underground projects that result in land disturbances greater than 1 acre (referred to as linear utility projects [LUPs]), are not like traditional construction projects. Small LUPs have a lower potential to impact receiving waters because these projects are typically short in duration and are constructed within or around hard-paved surfaces that result in minimal disturbed land areas being exposed at the close of the construction day.⁴⁵ The VWD, or its contractor, would be required to file all permit-related compliance documents with the SWQCB prior to the commencement of construction activities.

The proposed Project would be required to comply with all applicable federal, State, and local regulations, including the California Water Code, California Code of Regulations Title 22⁴⁶ and Title 17,⁴⁷ and the California Department of Public Health Guidelines.

42 EPA, Safe Drinking Water Act, <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa>, accessed January 2018.

43 SWRCB, "State and Regional Water Boards," http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml, accessed January 2018.

44 SWRCB, *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities*, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2012/wqo2012_0006_dwq.pdf, accessed February 15, 2018.

45 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ, as amended by 2012-0006-DWQ.

46 SWRCB, California Regulations Related to Drinking Water.

47 SWRCB, California Regulations Related to Drinking Water.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. No Impact.

The construction of the pipeline would occur under existing roadways would not result in an increase in the amount of impervious surface that would interfere with groundwater recharge. The proposed Project is also not located within the boundaries of a sole source aquifer as designated by the USEPA.⁴⁸ As described in **Section 5.6: Geology and Soils**, the soils of the Project Area are moderately well to well drained.

The proposed Project was developed to import water from the MWA to ultimately store the imported water in the local groundwater aquifer, thus improving groundwater reliability for the VWD. The proposed Project would provide for the conveyance of R3 water from the MWA's existing pipeline infrastructure along the southern portion of Amethyst Road to VWD's existing water facility at Sycamore Street and Amethyst Road.⁴⁹ The proposed Project would promote beneficial recharge of the local groundwater basin.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

The construction of the proposed pipeline would occur within the existing roadways. Storm water runoff from the Project Site during construction could contain soils and sediments from these activities. Spills or leaks from heavy equipment and machinery, construction staging areas, or building sites can also enter runoff, which typically include petroleum products such as fuel, oil and grease, and heavy metals.

According to the requirements of the NPDES permit, appropriate BMPs would be applied during construction activities to minimize water quality impacts. The BMPs most often used during construction activities include surrounding the construction site with sand bags and/or silt fencing (to minimize

48 US Environmental Protection Agency, "Sole Source Aquifers, 2015," <http://www2.epa.gov/dwssa>, accessed January 2018.

49 Victorville Water District, *2015 Urban Water Management Plan [UWMP]*, http://www.victorvilleca.gov/uploadedFiles/VWD_2015_UWMP.pdf.

sediment-laden runoff entering the storm drain system or downstream waters) and timing the grading activities to avoid the rainy season.

Compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit⁵⁰ and implementation of erosion and treatment control BMPs would ensure that any impacts to downstream waters resulting from construction activities associated with the proposed Project would be less than significant. Operation of the water pipeline would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the Project Site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

With the use of appropriate BMPs (see Threshold c above), the proposed Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alternation of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or off site.

The design of the proposed Project would allow postconstruction water runoff to continue in existing directions. As such, the proposed Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alternation of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or off site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

e. Less than Significant Impact.

Large areas of impervious surfaces would not be created as a result of the proposed Project. Construction would be temporary, and implementation of BMPs during a rain event would minimize the amount of runoff entering the existing storm drain system. The roadways would be restored to existing conditions to ensure that the existing surface water runoff is not altered.

Impacts would be less than significant.

50 US Environmental Protection Agency, "EPA's 2017 Construction General Permit (CGP) and Related Documents," <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/epas-2017-construction-general-permit-cgp-and-related-documents>, accessed February 15, 2018.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

f. Less than Significant Impact.

As previously discussed, construction activities would include BMPs, such as hay bales, to minimize erosion and surface water runoff from the site. The amount of impervious surface on site at Project completion would be similar to that for existing conditions. The amount of runoff from the site would not be substantially changed to that of existing conditions because Project development would not increase the amount of runoff or contribute to the degradation of water quality.

The proposed Project would transport water for purposes of groundwater aquifer recharge. Therefore, no new pollutants that would degrade water quality would be added to the Project Site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of flood plains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative.⁵¹

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency on their Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), the proposed Project is not located in a 100-year or 500-year flood plain, although the Oro Grande Wash is identified in the City of Victorville General Plan “Safety Element” as having the potential for flooding in the event of a 100-year flood.⁵²

The proposed pipeline would be entirely belowground, including through the portion crossing the Oro Grande Wash. Accordingly, the proposed pipeline would not redirect flood flows.

The proposed Project would not construct any new homes and would not have any aboveground structures that would impede or redirect flood flows. The storage of construction equipment would not be within the 100-year floodplain. Due to the short-term, temporary construction of the proposed Project, potential impacts to the Project Site from flooding events would be low, confined to the potential for flooding in the event of a 100-year flood.

51 FEMA, “Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management,” <https://www.fema.gov/executive-order-11988-floodplain-management>, accessed January 2018.

52 City of Victorville General Plan, *Figure S-2. Flood Hazards Map*, “Safety Element” (2008), pp. S-5–S-6.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

i. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would be located belowground, generally within the rights-of-way. As a result, it would not expose people or structures to flooding.

The proposed Project would not involve the construction of any housing, or inhabitable structures. As such, it would not expose people or structures to flooding.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

j. No Impact.

Tsunamis are large-scale sea waves produced from tectonic activities along the ocean floor. Seiches are freestanding or oscillatory waves associated with large enclosed or semi-enclosed bodies of water.

Given that the Project Site is not located near either the ocean or any large enclosed or semi-enclosed bodies of water, the proposed Project would not be located within designated tsunami or seiche zones.

Debris and mudflows are typically a hazard experienced in the floodplains of streams that drain very steep hillsides within the watershed. These types of hazards are not expected to impact the Project because the Project Site would not place people or structures at risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5.10 LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. No Impact.

The proposed pipeline would be located below ground and existing transportation access would continue upon completion. The construction staging area would be short term and temporary in nature. The proposed Project is considered a public infrastructure improvement project that would serve the existing community adjacent to the Project Site. Upon implementation, these water facilities would support and enhance local water supplies by providing imported water to recharge the groundwater aquifer and, thus, provide more reliable water for the City.

There are no facilities proposed by the proposed Project that could physically divide an established community.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. No Impact.

Per Section 53091 of the California Government Code, State law does not apply specific local zoning, building, or permit requirements to this type of project.⁵³

53 California Government Code sec. 53091(d).

Development of the proposed Project would provide enhanced water reliability supplies for the City in accordance with the 2015 Urban Wastewater Management Plan (UWMP) and the City's Water Master Plan and would not conflict with local zoning, land use designations, plans, policies, or regulations.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The Project Site lies within the boundaries of the West Mojave Plan. As discussed in **Section 5.4: Biological Resources**, Threshold f, implementation of Mitigation Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-6** would ensure that species and habitat for species identified in the West Mojave Plan, including the burrowing owl, desert tortoise, and Mohave ground squirrel, are protected through the City's conservation strategies similar to those proposed by the West Mojave Plan. Accordingly, the potential adverse impacts relative to conflicts with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-6** shall be implemented.

5.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. No Impact.

According to the City of Victorville General Plan, the Project area is located in an area containing known mineral occurrences of undetermined mineral resource significance. The pipeline travels through Mineral Resource Zone MRZ-3a, which is considered an area in need of further exploration for specific locality reclassification.⁵⁴ However, the proposed Project would generally be constructed within existing roadways and in previously disturbed areas.

Additionally, VPA is not within the overthrust belt and does not contain known marine source beds, two factors that contribute to the presence of petroleum. Consequently, it is highly unlikely that petroleum in commercial quantities exists in the Western Mojave Desert region. Mineral resources conditions would remain unchanged from how they currently exist.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

⁵⁴ City of Victorville General Plan, “Conservation Element” (2008), fig. RE-1, “Victorville Planning Area Mineral Land Classification Map.”

b. No Impact.

The proposed Project is located within a potentially important mineral resource production area. The proposed Project would generally be constructed within the public rights-of-way in existing roadways, and mineral resources conditions would remain unchanged from how they currently exist.

The proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of locally important mineral resource recover sites delineated in the Victorville General Plan.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5.12 NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
NOISE – Would the project:				
a. Result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

The noise element in the Victorville General Plan⁵⁵ includes guidelines to evaluate ambient noise and land use compatibility. For the average community, outdoor noise levels up to 65 A-weighted decibels (dBA) and indoor noise levels up to 45 dBA are considered acceptable.

The California Government Code exempts the development of water and wastewater infrastructure projects initiated by water agencies from County and City building and zoning ordinances.⁵⁶ The City of Victorville exempts the construction, operation, maintenance, and repairs of equipment, apparatus, or facilities of park and recreation projects, public works projects, or essential public works services and

55 City of Victorville General Plan, “Noise Element” (2008).

56 California Government Code, sec. 53091(d) and (e).

facilities from the VMC chapter governing noise control. Because the proposed Project is a public works project undertaken by the City of Victorville, it is exempt from the provisions of the noise ordinance.⁵⁷ The following analysis is provided for information purposes only.

Construction

During construction of the proposed Project, adjacent sensitive receptors would be exposed to temporary intermittent noise and ground-borne vibration from the use of construction equipment. Estimated noise levels associated with construction activities are presented in **Table 5.12-1: Typical Maximum Noise Levels for Construction Equipment**. The average noise level for an off-highway truck is 85 dBA at 50 feet from source.

**Table 5.12-1
Typical Maximum Noise Levels for Construction Equipment**

Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) 50 Feet
Cement and Mortar Mixers	85
Dumpers/Tenders	84
Excavators	85
Graders	85
Pavers	89
Plate Compactors	82
Rollers	74
Rubber Tired Dozers	85
Scrapers	89
Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	85

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Construction Noise Handbook, ch. 9.0, August 2006.

Note: Leq = equivalent sound level.

The nearest single-family residential use is located approximately 100 feet to the west of the pipeline alignment on Amethyst Road. Construction noise levels at this receptor would range from approximately 80 to 84 dBA, respectively. It should be noted that construction-related, short-term noise levels would be higher than the existing ambient noise levels in the study area.

As noted, construction noise levels for public works projects are exempt from noise control in the City. Accordingly, construction related noise impacts would be less than significant.

⁵⁷ VMC, tit. 13, ch. 13.01, Noise Control, sec. 13.01.060.

Operation

Sound associated with pipeline maintenance would result in short-term, random incidences that would not result in an increase of ambient noise levels within the surrounding area. In addition, pipeline work would be limited to daylight hours to avoid disturbing any sensitive receptors.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Project-Related Traffic Noise

As discussed in **Section 5.16: Transportation and Traffic**, the proposed Project would construct a water pipeline beneath Amethyst Road and Sycamore Street that would generate limited construction-related trips. The increase in construction-related trips would be minimal and would not substantially increase the ambient roadway noise levels.

Vehicle trips generated during operation of the proposed Project would result in two daily trips for ongoing routine maintenance activities. The increase in operation-related trips would result in a negligible increase in traffic volumes along the roadways. Therefore, overall traffic noise would remain similar to existing conditions.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

Construction activities could generate varying degrees of ground vibration, depending on the construction procedures, construction equipment used, and proximity to vibration-sensitive uses. Operation of construction equipment generates vibrations that spread through the ground and diminish in amplitude with distance from the source. Ground vibrations from construction activities rarely reach levels that could damage structures but can achieve the perceptible ranges in buildings close to a construction site.

The closest sensitive receptor to the proposed pipeline is a church approximately 100 feet west of the proposed pipeline alignment along Amethyst Road. It is assumed for the purpose of analysis that a loaded truck would generate the highest vibration levels at the sensitive receptor.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) threshold for architectural damage to nonengineered timber and masonry buildings is approximately 94 VdB (vibration decibels). Loaded trucks are capable of producing approximately 92 VdB at 15 feet. Vibration levels attenuate (decrease) 6 decibels every doubling of

distance. Vibration levels would be approximately 88 VdB at the closest residence, which is below the FTA vibration threshold.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

The construction phase of the proposed Project would be considered temporary and would not result in a substantial permanent increase in the ambient noise levels in the proposed Project's vicinity.

Operation of the proposed Project would occur belowground. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in the permanent increase in ambient noise levels.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would generate temporary elevated noise levels due to the construction phase of the proposed Project. Construction for public works projects are exempt from the City's Noise Ordinance. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

e. No Impact.

The closest airport to the Project Site is the Hesperia Airport, located approximately 5.5 miles to the southeast. Therefore, the proposed Project would not be located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport. The proposed Project would not expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

f. No Impact.

As noted, the proposed Project is located approximately 5.5 miles to the northwest of Hesperia Airport. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5.13 POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
POPULATION AND HOUSING – Would the project:				
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would construct a water pipeline, consistent with the City’s Water Master Plan, to import water to be used to increase storage in the local groundwater aquifer, thus improving groundwater reliability for the VWD and ultimately serving already-established users within the VWD.

As stated in the 2015 UWMP,⁵⁸ the population projections for future water demand are based on the City General Plan Land Use designations⁵⁹ within VWD service boundaries. Through 2040, the 2015 UWMP projects average annual population growth of 1.9 percent, with the 2040 total population served estimated to be 204,986.⁶⁰ The anticipated water supply and demand is then calculated based on the estimated increase in population. The proposed Project would contribute to achieving the goal of providing adequate groundwater supply to meet current and future anticipated demand within the VWD service area. As such, the proposed Project would meet current and future demands and not increase population. The proposed Project is considered a benefit to the existing population because it would improve groundwater reliability for the VWD service area.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

58 City of Victorville, 2015 UWMP.

59 City of Victorville, General Plan, “Land Use Element” (2008).

60 City of Victorville, 2015 UWMP.

b. No Impact.

The proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. No Impact.

The proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
PUBLIC SERVICES				
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a.–e. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would not result in any direct or indirect population growth requiring additional public facilities because the proposed Project would contribute to achieving the goal of providing adequate groundwater supply to meet current and future anticipated demand within the VWD service area.

The proposed Project would not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of a new or physically alter an existing government building. The proposed Project could be subject to vandalism and theft during construction and require support of local law enforcement; however, no new facilities would be required. The construction staging area would be located at the existing booster station in a secure water treatment facility, fenced to discourage vandalism and theft. In addition, the proposed pipeline would be located belowground upon completion of construction.

Should the Project Site require emergency or fire services, the San Bernardino County Fire Department, Victorville Division would be able to provide adequate response. Fire Station 313 is the closest station, located approximately 1.72 miles north of the Project Site at 13086 Amethyst Road. As noted in **Section 5.8: Hazards and Hazardous Materials**, Mitigation Measure **HAZ-1** would require that the construction contractor provide fire-fighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, to the satisfaction of the San Bernardino County Fire Department, Victorville Division. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase demand on the existing San Bernardino County Fire Department, Victorville Division services.

Indirect impacts to public services would be reduced to less than significant if the local government implements the policies of the General Plan (Policies 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, and 2.4.1) because it contains adequate measures to reduce or avoid potential impacts to public services, including the sheriff, fire department, schools, and libraries. These policies and practices include performance, equipment, and staffing standards.⁶¹ Specific mechanisms for implementing these policies would be determined in the course of Project specific environmental review, as required by CEQA.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

61 City of Victorville, *General Plan*, "Safety Element" (2008).

5.15 RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
RECREATION – Would the project:				
a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. No Impact.

Recreational resources in the VWD service area consist of State, County/regional, and local parks and designated regional and local recreational trails. The City of Victorville provides local and regional parks within City boundaries. The San Bernardino County Department of Parks and Recreation also provides local parks and recreation facilities for southwestern San Bernardino County residents and provides regional parks for all residents of the County. The Angeles National Forest is a regional recreation area under the control of the federal government.

The implementation of the proposed Project would not result in short-term growth in the Project area and, therefore, would not directly increase the use of recreational facilities.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. No Impact.

The implementation of the proposed Project would not result in growth in the Project area; therefore, the proposed Project would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The proposed Project would construct a water pipeline to import water from MWA to increase storage in the local groundwater aquifer, thus improving groundwater reliability for the VWD.

Therefore, there would be no construction or expansion of recreational resources such as public parks, trails, and other recreation areas as part of the proposed Project.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5.16 TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC – Would the project:				
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

Construction-related traffic would be generated during construction of the proposed Project, including construction worker vehicles traveling to and from the work site.

The proposed Project would utilize four to eight pieces of construction equipment at any given time, including backhoes (2), a dump truck, excavators (2), a crane, and compaction machines (2). The proposed Project is anticipated to generate 1.25 construction workers per piece of equipment. This would equate to approximately 10 workers arriving prior to 7:00 AM and leaving prior to afternoon peak-hour traffic

(4:00 PM), thereby minimizing trips during peak hours. Once construction activities are complete, traffic would revert to the current conditions.

Operation of the proposed Project would generate an additional two trips per week for maintenance-related activities. This increase in vehicle trips would not be substantial, nor would it conflict with the City's General Plan or circulation system.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

The Congestion Management Program (CMP) for San Bernardino County was last updated by the SANBAG in June 2016.⁶² The nearest CMP-designated roadway is the I-15 freeway. The proposed Project would generate an incremental increase in additional construction-related trips during off-peak hours and would not affect intersections along the I-15.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. No Impact.

The proposed Project is located approximately 5.5 miles to the northwest of Hesperia Airport. The proposed Project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns. Airplane takeoffs and landing are at a sufficient distance from the locations to not pose a safety risk.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

d. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The construction activities of the proposed pipeline would require excavations and trenching within existing roadway rights-of-way, which would require traffic to be temporarily rerouted around the construction site. Amethyst Road, between Sycamore Road and Mesa Street, would include temporary closure during construction on the proposed pipeline alignment.

62 San Bernardino Associated Governments, *2010 Congestion Management Program* (adopted October 28, 2010).

No changes are proposed as part of the proposed Project to the surrounding road system upon completion of construction activities. Clear and uninterrupted access to the pipeline for emergency response vehicles would continue to be provided.

Construction activities have the potential to temporarily increase roadway hazards. Mitigation Measure **TRAF-1** would reduce potential impacts.

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation has been identified:

TRAF-1: The contractor shall prepare a construction traffic control plan and submit to the City of Victorville for review and approval prior to the start of construction activities. Elements of the traffic control plan should include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Develop circulation and detour plans to minimize impacts to local street circulation. Use haul routes minimizing truck traffic on local roadways to the extent possible.
- To the extent feasible, and as needed to avoid adverse impacts on traffic flow, schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours.
- Install traffic control devices as specified in the California Department of Transportation's *Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones* where needed to maintain safe driving conditions. Use flaggers and/or signage to safely direct traffic through construction work zones.
- Coordinate with facility owners or administrators of sensitive land uses, such as police and fire stations, hospitals, and schools. Provide advance notification to the facility owner or operator of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities.

e. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The construction of the proposed Project could temporarily impact emergency access from construction activities within the roadways and could impact normal traffic flow and create roadway conditions that may delay emergency response times. A Traffic Control Plan will be prepared as identified in Mitigation Measure **TRAF-1**.

The operation of the proposed Project would not result in inadequate emergency access because the facilities would not alter roadway alignments.

Impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measure **TRAF-1** has been identified.

f. No Impact.

The proposed Project would not result in the increase of people, thereby eliminating the need for additional public transit services, nor would it result in straining the current system. Because the proposed Project would not result in any changes to the roadway system, current bus routes would remain the same.

No changes to any of the roadway systems along the pipeline are proposed with respect to the proposed Project upon completion of construction. The proposed Project would not involve the alteration of or conflict with any policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit or other pedestrian facilities.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5.17 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Tribal Cultural Resources – Would the project:				
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

i. Less than Significant Impact.

As previously discussed in **Section 5.5: Cultural Resources**, Threshold a, a Phase I Cultural Resource Survey (see **Appendix C**) was completed; during the field survey, one newly identified mid-twentieth-century refuse scatter (Æ-3763-1H) and one prehistoric isolated mano (Æ-3763-1I) were encountered. Further analysis by Æ concluded that the site does not reveal any new information about Victorville, its residents, or the larger region and is not considered significant under CRHR Criteria A and B. The site does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic value; or represent a significant and distinguishable property. Refuse scatters of this type and vintage are frequently found along the sides of roads and highways in the rural and semirural desert areas of Southern California, and there is nothing unique or unusual about this particular deposit. Thus, the site is not significant under CRHR Criterion C. Furthermore, the site is unlikely to yield information important to the study of local, State, or national history, and thus is not considered

significant under Criterion D. Accordingly, the refuse scatter is not eligible for listing on the CRHR. An evaluation of the isolated artifact indicates that the resource does not meet any criteria for listing on the CRHR and, therefore, is not eligible for listing on the CRHR.

No previously unrecorded archaeological or historic resources were observed within the APE during site reconnaissance. No other features or objects greater than 50 years of age were identified within the APE during the investigation. Additionally, the field survey of the Project APE resulted in the identification of no additional historic resources. Therefore, no adverse impact to historic resources would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

ii. Less Than Significant Impact.

AB 52 establishes a formal consultation process for California Native American tribes to identify potential significant impacts to tribal cultural resources (TCRs), as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as part of CEQA. The NAHC was contacted to conduct a Sacred Lands File search for the Project APE. The NAHC responded that the Sacred Lands File search did not identify the presence of Native American traditional cultural places or resources within the immediate Project vicinity.

Pursuant to AB 52, VWD provided notification to the following tribes on December 4, 2017: Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians–Kizh Nation, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. On December 11, 2017, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians requested a copy of the cultural resources report. The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians is not aware of any cultural resources or TCRs within the Project area. The Serrano Nation of Mission Indians requested to be notified if any cultural resources are identified during Project implementation. On February 5, 2018, VWD provided the cultural resource report (see **Appendix C**) to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the Serrano Nation of Mission Indians. On February 13, 2018, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians indicated that the area surrounding the Oro Grande Wash does not hold prehistoric cultural material due to the presence of young, sandy alluvial deposits, a soil type that is consistently redeposited by wind and water, leaving little to no in situ subsurface material.⁶³ The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians did request language be included as part of the proposed Project. Mitigation Measures **CUL-1** and **CUL-2** include the requested language. Accordingly, AB 52 consultation has been concluded.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

⁶³ Electronic communication between Jessica Mauck, Cultural Resources Analyst, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and Shah Nawaz, PE, City of Victorville Engineering Department, February 13, 2018.

5.18 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:				
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new and expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. No Impact.

The proposed Project would construct a water pipeline to import water from MWA to the City’s existing water facility located at the Zone 3090 tank farm site (11734 Amethyst Road) to increase groundwater storage. The proposed Project would not result in wastewater generation, industrial wastewater generation, or new point sources of wastewater, such as mining, animal feed lots, wastewater treatment facilities, etc., that would require an individual permit beyond the capabilities of the existing wastewater treatment facilities serving the City of Victorville.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would not result in the expansion of wastewater treatment facilities, and the development would not require the construction or expansion of existing water treatment facilities other than those proposed in the 2015 UWMP. No other additional facilities are required.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. No Impact.

The proposed Project would not produce substantial amounts of additional runoff to the existing stormwater drainage facilities. A substantial increase in impervious surfaces from implementation of the proposed Project would not occur because the roadway would be restored to existing conditions. The increase in impervious area would not impact the off-site storm drain system because runoff would be collected and percolated on site. Project development would not require the construction or expansion of stormwater drainage facilities.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

d. No Impact.

The proposed Project would construct a pipeline to import water from the MWA to store in the local groundwater aquifer. The proposed Project would provide a source of long-term groundwater supply for the area, as projected in the 2015 UWMP, and would not place additional demand on existing water supplies during operation.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

e. No Impact.

The proposed Project would not generate any potential wastewater. No direct impact to wastewater treatment capacity would occur.

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

f. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would generate small amounts of solid waste construction debris from the disposal of excess soils or other debris. No demolition activities are required. Construction debris generated by the proposed Project would be processed by the local Victorville Sanitary Landfill or Victor Valley Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). The Victorville Sanitary Landfill has a maximum permitted throughput of 3,000 tons per day and a permitted capacity of 83,200,000 cubic yards, with 81,510,000 cubic yards remaining as of May 2009. As such, construction debris generated by the Project is not expected to exceed the capacity of the facility.⁶⁴

To reduce potential impacts to solid waste facilities that could result from the disposal of construction debris, the proposed Project would comply with the VMC, Article 11—Green Building Code, requiring recycling of at least 50 percent of the waste generated during construction and preparation of a Construction Waste Management Plan, or equivalent.⁶⁵

Operation of the water pipeline would not generate solid waste. Project implementation would not require additional landfill capacity.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

g. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project is not required to comply with local building permits and ordinances regarding waste management practices. However, to reduce potential impacts to solid waste facilities that could result from the disposal of construction debris, the proposed Project would comply with the VMC, Article 11—Green Building Code, requiring recycling of at least 50 percent of the waste generated during construction and preparation of a Construction Waste Management Plan, or equivalent.⁶⁶

64 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, “Facility/Site Summary Details: Victorville Sanitary Landfill (36-AA-0045),” <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/36-AA-0045/Detail/>, accessed February 16, 2018.

65 VMC, tit. 16, ch. 5, Article 11, Green Building Code.

66 VMC, tit. 16, ch. 5, Article 11, Green Building Code.

The proposed Project would not affect the City's ability to continue to meet the required AB 939 waste diversion requirements.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5.19 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE – Does the project:				
a. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

Biological Resources

As described in **Section 5.4**, a survey of the Project Site identified 1 special-status wildlife species, loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), as well as potential habitat for 12 other sensitive wildlife species and 8 special-status plant species. Therefore, due to potential habitat for sensitive species, the proposed Project would have the potential to directly or indirectly impact sensitive species during the construction phase. Additionally, a survey of the Project Site identified potential USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB jurisdictional water features totaling 0.1 acres, 0.25 acres, and 0.12 acres, respectively. Therefore, due to the alignment of the proposed pipeline, the proposed Project would have the potential to impact special-status plant and wildlife species and USACE-, CDFW-, and RWQCB-regulated jurisdictional water features. The District will be required to go through the Nationwide Permit, LSA, and WDR process prior to initiation of construction, grading, and/or trenching activities associated with the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures have been identified: Mitigation Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-9** as identified in **Section 5.4**.

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Cultural Resources

As discussed in **Section 5.5**, two potential prehistoric isolates were located during the field survey; however, they were determined to be not eligible for register with the CRHR. However, previous cultural resource investigations near the Project vicinity have uncovered cultural resources. As such, the construction of the proposed Project could have the potential to unearth unknown archeological resources not previously identified.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures have been identified: Mitigation Measures **CUL-1** through **CUL-3** as identified in **Section 5.5**.

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

Development of the proposed Project would not result in impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. The proposed Project would be consistent with the 2015 UWMP, the VWD Water Master Plan, and the City of Victorville General Plan, and would help to support reliable groundwater aquifer resources for the VWD. Additionally, the issues relevant to the proposed Project are localized and confined to the immediate Project area.

No significant cumulatively considerable impacts are anticipated to result from the proposed Project.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

The implementation of the proposed Project would not directly impact human beings. The proposed Project would not adversely impact the surrounding economy of the City. It would bring temporary construction jobs to the local area.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

Energy

The proposed Project would require a nominal amount of additional electricity to function; this amount of electricity would not require the construction or expansion of energy supply infrastructure. The proposed Project would incorporate energy-efficient equipment to minimize energy impacts.

Impacts to local and regional energy supplies would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

6.0 REFERENCES

The following documents and information were used in the preparation of this Initial Study:

California Air Resources Board, *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* (2005). 32.

—*Final Supplement to the AB 32 Scoping Plan Functional Equivalent Document* (August 2011). Attachment D. 11.

—*First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan* (May 22, 2014).

California Department of Conservation. California Geological Survey. “Hesperia Quadrangle: Preliminary Reconnaissance Map of Major Landslides. San Gabriel Mountains. Los Angeles County. California.” <http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/>. Accessed January 2018.

“Zones of Required Investigation” Map.

<http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/>. Accessed January 2018.

—Division of Land Resource Protection. “California Important Farmland Finder” (April 2016). <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/>. Accessed January 2018.

“State of California Williamson Act Contract Land Statewide Map” (2012).

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