Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (CEQA and CEQA-PLUS)

for the

EASTSIDE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY EXPANSION
and
BRINE PIPELINE PROJECT

Lead Agency:

CITY OF CHINO
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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Chino, CA 91710

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December 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Tables

Appendices

Appendix A Air Quality /Greenhouse Gas Analysis for the Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline

Appendix B.1 Biological Resources Assessment for Eastside Water Treatment Facility and Brineline Project

Appendix B.2 Focused Survey for the Burrowing Owl for Eastside Water Treatment Facility and Brineline Project

Appendix B.3 Focused Survey for the Least Bell's Vireo for Eastside Water Treatment Facility and Brineline Project

Appendix B.4 Chino Brineline Project Jurisdictional Delineation

Appendix C Cultural Resource Investivation in Support of the Eastside Water Treatment Facility and Brine Pipeline Project

Appendix D Geotechnical Investigation Report, Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Offsite Pipeline

Acronyms

AB 52	Assembly Bill 52
ALUCP	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
AQ	Air Quality
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
BGS	Below ground surface
BMP	Best Management Practices
BRA	*Biological Resources Assessment*
BSA	Biological Study Area
CDA	Chino Desalter Authority
CDFW	California Department of Fish & Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGP	Construction General Permit
CH_4	Methane
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
CO_2E	Carbon dioxide equivalent
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substance Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EWTF	Eastside Water Treatment Facility
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
GAC	Granular activated charcoal
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GP	General Plan
gpm	Gallons per minute
GWP	Global warming potential
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IEBL	Inland Empire Brine Line
IEUA	Inland Empire Utilities Agency
IS	Initial Study
IX	Ion exchange
LST	Localized significance threshold
MCL	Maximum contaminant limit
MG	Million gallon
MM	Mitigation measure
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MOPO	Maintenance of plant operations
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MRZ-3	Mineral Resource Zone Three
$MTCO_2E$/year	Metric tonnes per year of carbon dioxide equivalents
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
N_2O	Nitrous oxide
NO_2	Nitrogen dioxide
NO_X	Oxides of nitrogen

NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PM-10	Particulate matter 2.5 to 10 microns in diameter
OES	Office of Emergency Services
OFD	Ontario Fire Department
OPD	Ontario Police Department
PM-2.5	Particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter
QSD	Qualified SWPPP Developer
QSP	Qualified SWPPP Practitioner
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RPW	Relative permanent water
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAWPA	Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCCIC	South Central Coastal Information Center
SCE	Southern California Edison
SLF	Sacred Lands File
SO_2	Sulfur dioxide
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
USACE	Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VMT	Vehicles miles traveled
VOC	Volatile organic compounds
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program

1 Introduction

This document has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 *et seq*.) and the State *CEQA Guidelines* (California Code of Regulations Sections 15000 *et seq*), and is consistent with the CEQA-Plus requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program for Environmental Review and Federal Coordination. The City of Chino will serve as the lead agency for CEQA purposes. The City of Ontario and the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) are responsible agencies.

Section 15063(c) of the State *CEQA Guidelines* lists the following purposes of an Initial Study:

1. *Provide the Lead Agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an EIR [Environmental Impact Report] or a Negative Declaration;*
2. *Enable an applicant or Lead Agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is prepared, thereby enabling the project to qualify for a Negative Declaration;*
3. *Assist in the preparation of an EIR, if one is required;*
4. *Facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of a project;*
5. *Provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in a Negative Declaration that a project will not have a significant effect on the environment;*
6. *Eliminate unnecessary EIRs; and*
7. *Determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used with the project.*

According to Section 15070 (Decision to Prepare a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration) of Article 6 (Negative Declaration Process) of the State *CEQA Guidelines*:

> *A public agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed negative or mitigated negative declaration for a project subject to CEQA when:*
>
> *a) The initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, or*
>
> *b) The initial study identified potentially significant effects, but:*
>
> *1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to by the applicant before a proposed mitigated negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and*
>
> *2) There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.*

The purpose of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is to assess impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project described below.

This IS/MND is organized as follows:

1. Introduction, which provides the context for review along with applicable citation pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, discusses the purpose and need for the project

2. Project Description and Setting, which identifies the location of the proposed Project and describes the environmental setting.

3. Environmental Checklist Form, which as suggested in Section 15063(d)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines provides an environmental impact assessment consisting of the City's environmental checklist and accompanying analysis for responding to the checklist questions. The Form is used to evaluate whether or not there are any significant environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed Project.

4. CEQA-Plus Federal Cross-Cutters Analysis (CEQA-Plus), addresses the requirements of CEQA-Plus and provides project analysis per the SWRCB Clean Water SRF Program Evaluation for Environmental Review and Federal Coordination. The SWRCB acts as the "federal clearinghouse" for review of the document by federal agencies due to federal dollars being assigned to the project though the Environmental Protection Agency-funded SRF program.

5. References, which includes a list of reference sources, the location of reference material used in the preparation of this IS/MND, and identifies those responsible for preparation of the IS/MND and other parties contacted during the preparation of the IS/MND.

Environmental Process

The environmental process being undertaken for the proposed Project began with the project's proposal and environmental research. Pursuant to Section 15073 of the State *CEQA Guidelines*, the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Draft IS/MND will be circulated for a 30-day comment period between December 26, 2019 and January 27, 2020 to the State Clearinghouse, responsible agencies, and interested parties for review and comment. Comments received from the public review period for this project and The City's responses to each comment will be included in the Response to Comments document for consideration by the Chino City Council.

Incorporation by Reference[1]

Pertinent documents relating to this IS/MND have been cited and incorporated, in accordance with Sections 15148 and 15150 of the State *CEQA Guidelines*, to eliminate the need for inclusion of large planning documents within the IS/MND. Of particular relevance are those previous studies that present information regarding descriptions of the environmental setting, future development-related growth, and cumulative impacts. The following documents are hereby identified as being incorporated by reference:

- *City of Chino General Plan 2025*, adopted July 6, 2010
- *The Ontario Plan*, adopted January 27, 2010
- *Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion Project, Final Preliminary Design Report,* May 20, 2019

[1] Refer to section 4 – References, for the location of the documents incorporated by reference.

2 Project Description and Setting

Background, Purpose, and Need

The City of Chino (City) is located in San Bernardino County, California (**Figure 1 – Vicinity Map**). Water service within the City is provided primarily by the City of Chino Water Utility, Monte Vista Water District and City of Chino Hills. (Chino GP EIR, p. 4.14-6.) The Chino Water Utility provides potable water service to approximately 74,000 people within the City and unincorporated territory of San Bernardino County. Approximately one-half of the City's water supply is from groundwater from the Chino Basin, which is produced by groundwater wells owned and operated by the City. In addition to the groundwater wells, the City operates four water treatment facilities. One of these, the Eastside Water Treatment Facility (EWTF) treats water from Wells 13, 18, and 19 for nitrate and 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP), that are detected at concentrations above the State of California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW) Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL). (Hazen, p. 1-1.)

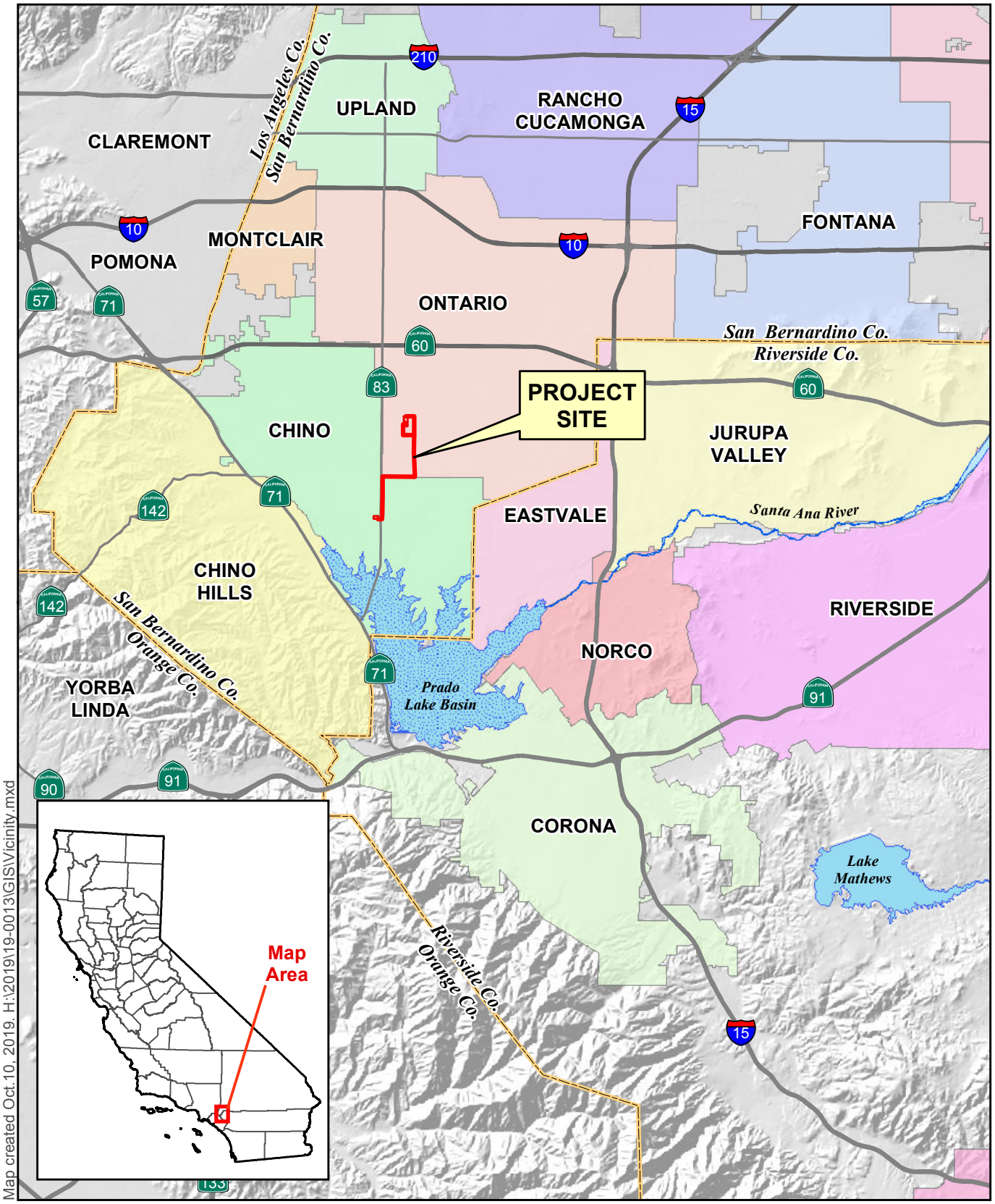
The EWTF treatment process includes Granular Activated Carbon (GAC), Ion Exchange (IX), and chlorine dosing. The existing EWTF site, including major equipment and facilities is shown on **Figure 2 – Eastside Water Treatment Facility Site Overview**. As described in further detail in subsequent paragraphs, the proposed Project consists of two main components, the expansion of the treatment capacity at the EWTF from 3,500 gallons per minute (gpm) to 7,000 gpm, and the construction of dual brine pipelines to convey the brine waste resulting from the treatment process from the EWTF to a Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) lateral owned and operated by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA). (Hazen, p. 1-1.)

Expanding the treatment capacity at the EWTF will allow the City to maximize use of available groundwater supply, to serve anticipated/planned new development in Chino. The use of locally treated groundwater is preferable over alternative sources to increase water supply reliability and reduce reliance on expensive purchased imported surface water. The potential sources of additional water include: reequipping existing wells for higher production rates; connecting Well 16, a highly impaired source, to the treatment plant; equipping Well 17 (located onsite at EWTF); and/or construction of additional wells in a new well field. (Hazen, p. 1-1.) It is important to note that the use of any of these additional water sources is not a part of the Project evaluated in this initial study.

Project Location and Description

Eastside Water Treatment Facility

The EWTF site, which is owned by Chino, encompasses approximately 13.5 acres located at 7537 Schaefer Avenue, Ontario. The EWTF site is approximately 1,000 feet west of S. Bon View Avenue in the southwest portion of the City of Ontario, San Bernardino County. (Refer to **Figure 3 – Project Location**.)



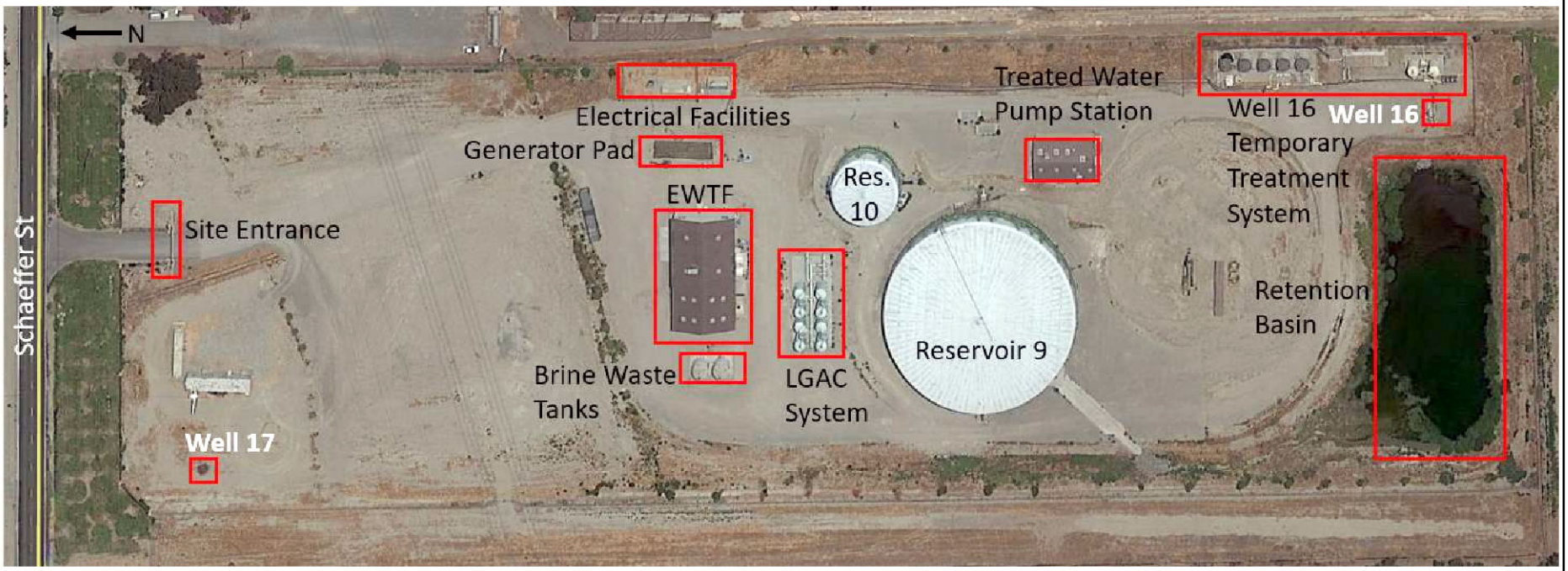
Map created Oct.10, 2019. H:\2019\19-0013\GIS\Vicinity.mxd

0 2 4 6 Miles

Figure 1 – Vicinity Map

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion
and Brine Pipeline Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



H:\2019\19-0013\GIS\Site_Overview.mxd; Map revised 10 Oct 2019

Source: Hazen and Sawyer, PDR, May 2019.

Not to Scale

Figure 2 - Eastside Water Treatment Facility Site Overview

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

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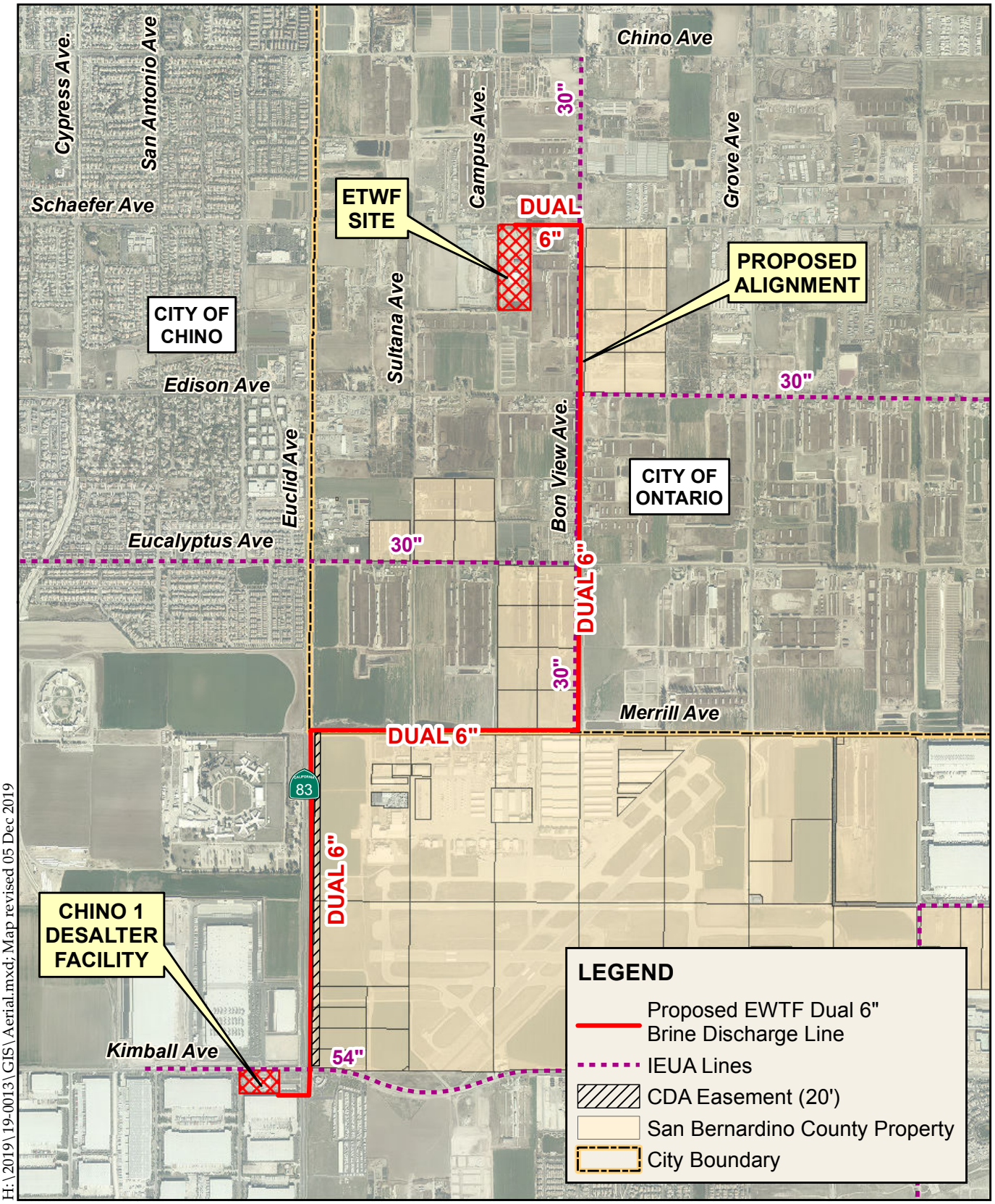

H:\2019\19-0013\GIS\Aerial.mxd; Map revised 05 Dec 2019

Sources: City of Chino, 2018 San Bernardino Co., 2019 (streets) and 2018 (imagery)

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Figure 3 - Project Location

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

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In order to expand the treatment capacity at the EWTF, the Project proposes a treatment process that is a direct expansion of the existing facilities. This includes cartridge filter pretreatment to prevent solids loading on the GAC, eight (8) additional GAC vessels configured in a lead-lag setup[2] for removal of 1,2,3-TCP, cartridge filters on the GAC effluent to protect the IX system from media carryover, and a Calgon ISEP™ Ion Exchange (IX) system for removal of nitrate.

The treated water from the ISEP™ IX system will combine with the existing treated water and then be dosed with chlorine before entering the treated water storage tank with adequate detention time to achieve 4 log virus inactivation.[3] (Hazen, pp. 3-6–3-7.)

All demolition and construction associated with implementation of the EWTF expansion will take place at the EWTF site. As shown on **Figure 4 – EWTF Access, Staging, and Demolition Plan**, an existing generator pad, concrete waste vault, highlines, and concrete pads will be demolished. As shown on **Figure 5 – EWTF Site Plan**, a new generator pad will be constructed, and the existing generator connection box relocated; a new ISEP™ building will be constructed north of the existing treatment plant; and new GAC vessels will be installed west of the existing GAC system. In addition to the new GAC vessels, two existing GAC vessels located near the southeast corner of the EWTF site will be relocated to this portion of the site. Existing brine waste tanks located under the treatment plant canopy will be repurposed for the ISEP™ process, since once the Project is complete, they will no longer be needed to store brine waste. Instead of trucking brine waste offsite, brine waste will be conveyed from the EWTF site via the proposed Brine Pipeline to the Inland Empire Brine Line (IEBL). New cartridge filters will be installed in east of the existing GAC vessels.

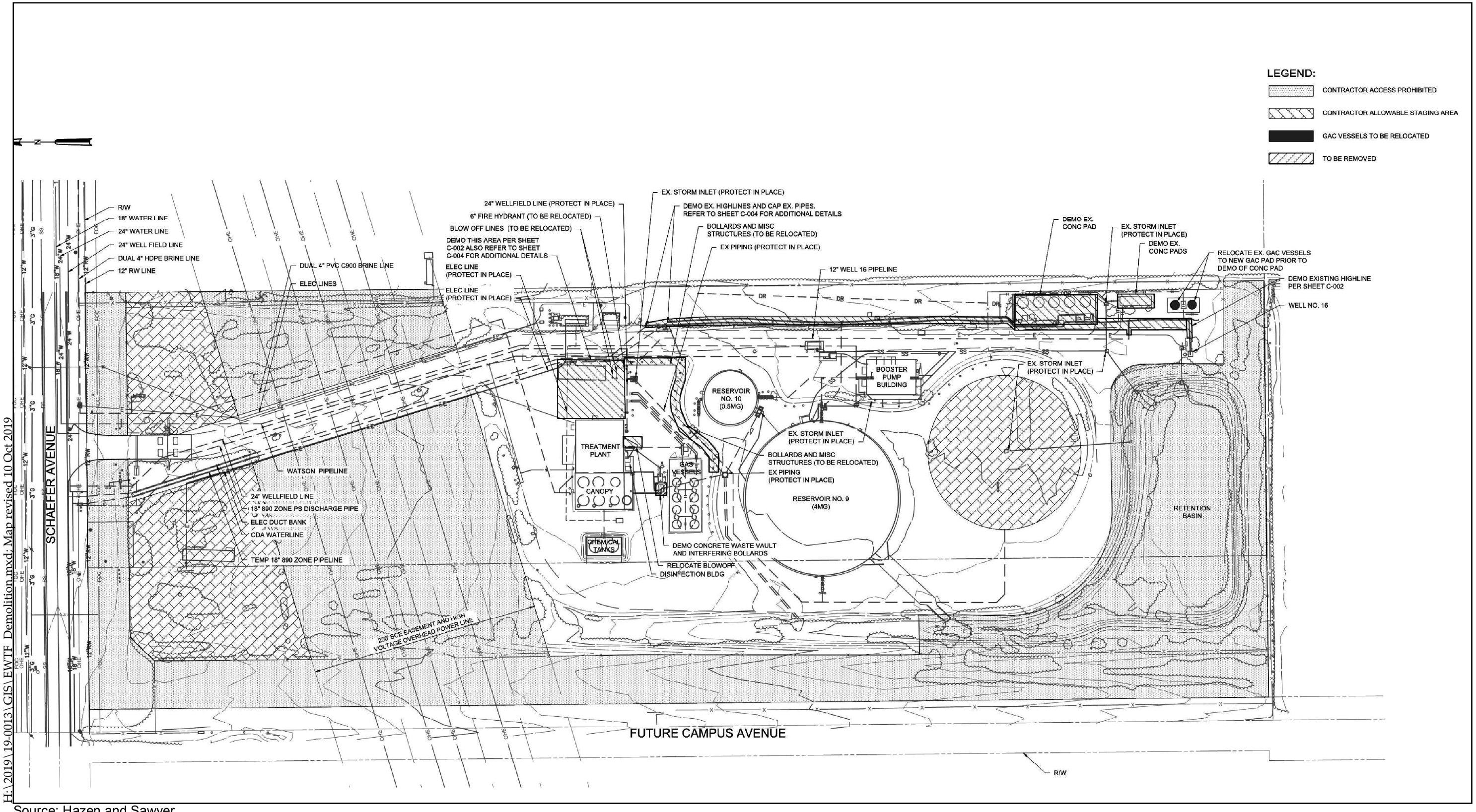
Currently, GAC backwash generated at the EWTF is disposed of through a temporary vendor supplied truck filtration system to the site's existing retention basin and IX brine waste is temporarily stored at the EWTF site in brine waste tanks prior to being hauled offsite for disposal. The brine waste is typically hauled offsite a few times per week. In order to eliminate trucking brine waste offsite for disposal, the City proposes to construct a brine line from the EWTF to the Chino I Desalter Treatment Facility for ultimate conveyance to the IEBL.

Demolition and construction associated with the EWTF component is anticipated to take approximately 18 months.

[2] The lead-lag configuration involves passing water through two vessels in series.

[3] 4 log virus inactivation 99.99% inactivation of viruses

H:\2019\19-0013\GIS\EWTF_Demolition.mxd; Map revised 10 Oct 2019



Source: Hazen and Sawyer, April 2019.

Not to Scale

Figure 4 - EWTF Access, Staging, and Demolition Plan

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

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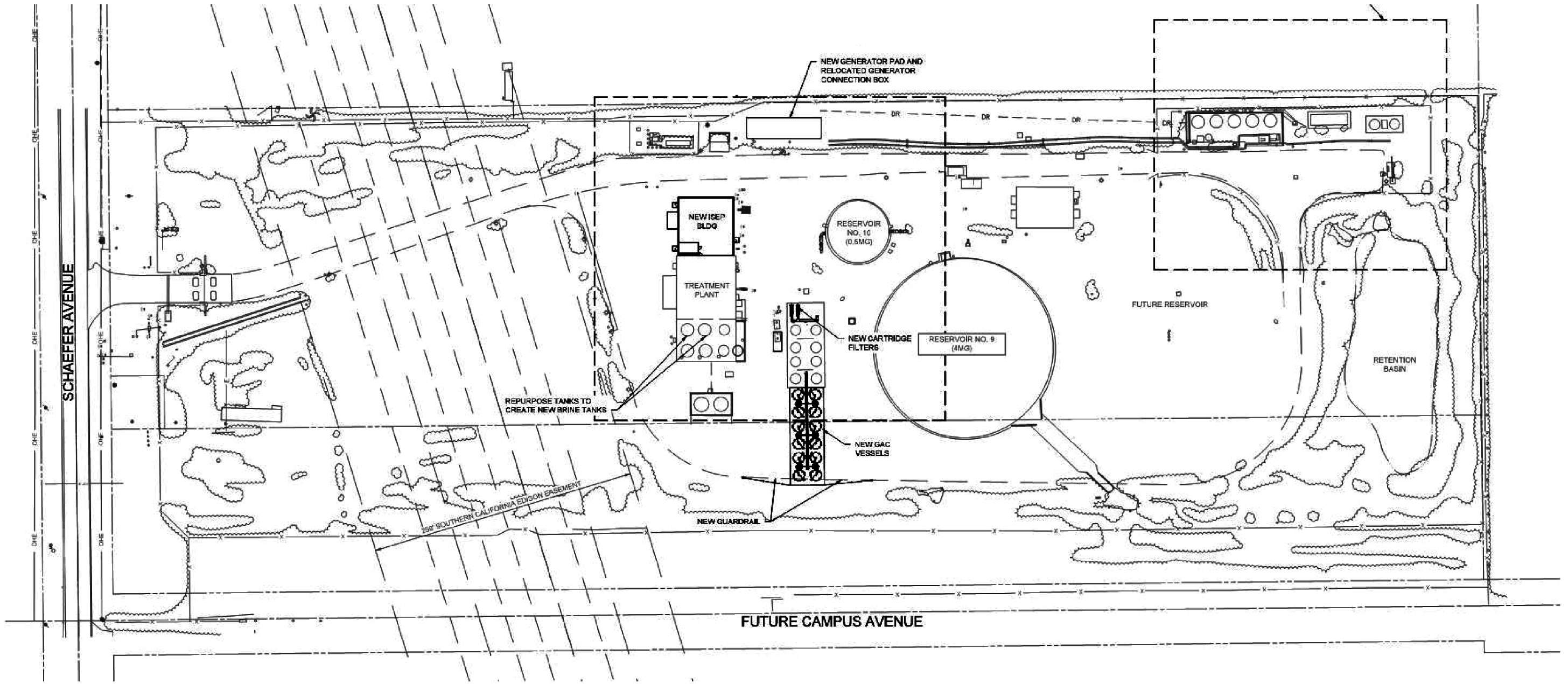

H:\2019\19-0013\GIS\EWTF_Site_Plan.mxd: Map revised 10 Oct 2019

Source: Hazen and Sawyer, April 2019.

Not to Scale

Figure 5 - EWTF Site Layout Plan

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

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Brine Pipeline

The Brine Pipeline[4] component will consist of dual 6-inch diameter PVC (polyvinyl chloride) pipelines that will convey brine waste from the EWTF to the Chino I Desalter Treatment Facility at 6905 Kimball Avenue, Chino, CA. The dual pipelines will be arranged in a duty-duty configuration in order to separate brine and softener waste to avoid pipeline precipitation that may occur if the wastes are comingled. Precipitation is not anticipated when these wastes are introduced into the IEBL due to dilution with other sources.

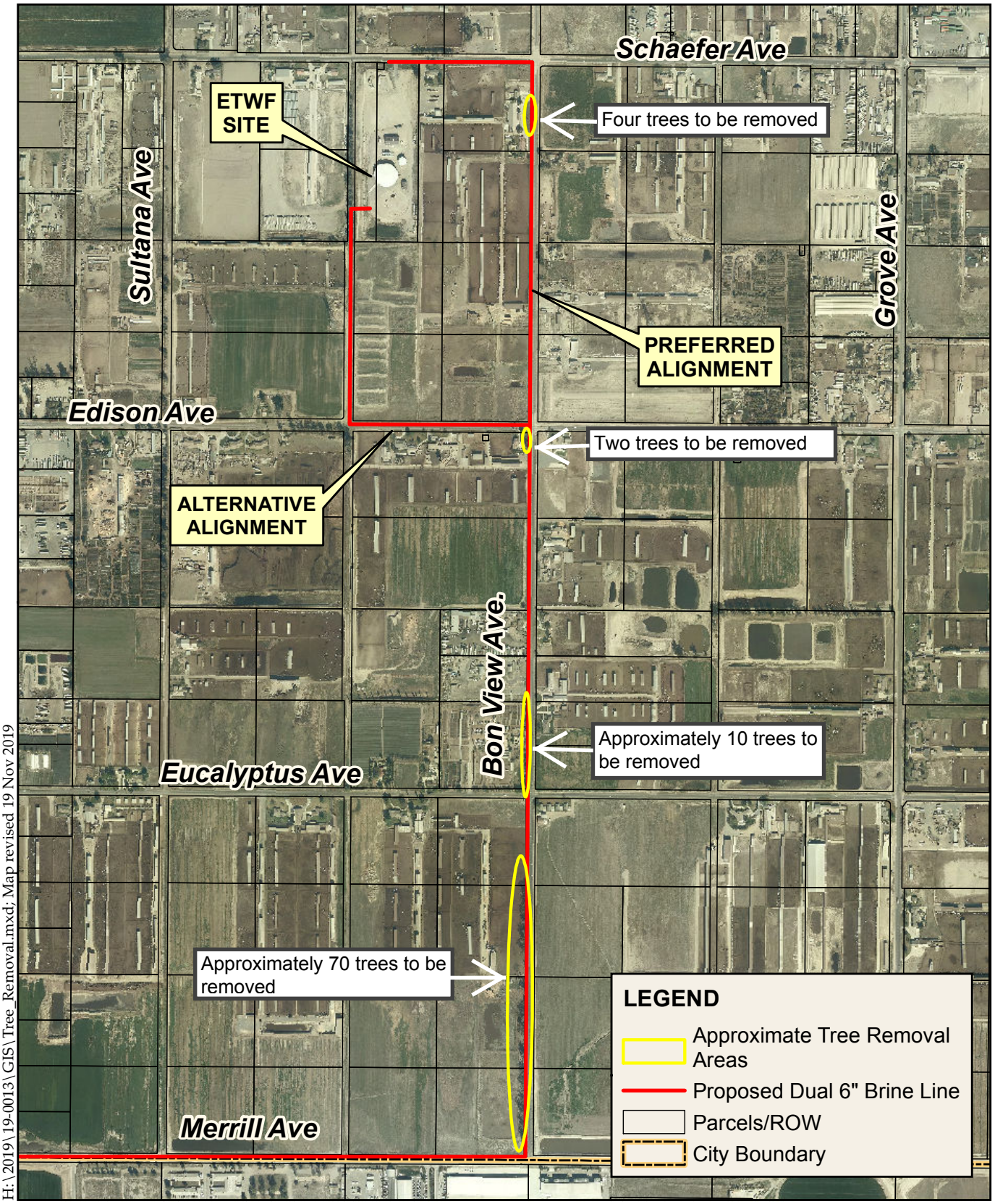
Two alternative alignments are being evaluated for the Brine Pipeline, the Preferred Alternative and an Alternative Alignment. As shown on **Figure 3 – Project Location**, the Preferred Alternative will exit the EWTF (in the City of Ontario) at Schaefer Avenue go east to Bon View Avenue; proceed south in Bon View Avenue to Merrill Avenue; proceed west in Merrill Avenue (in the City of Chino) to Euclid Avenue (California 83), go south in Euclid Avenue to Kimball Avenue, then west in Kimball Avenue to the Chino I Desalter Treatment Facility where it will connect to the IEBL. The Preferred Alignment will extend approximately 3.5 miles (approximately 1.7 miles in the City of Ontario and 1.8 miles in the City of Chino).

The Alternative Alignment will exit the EWTF (in the City of Ontario) from the southeast corner, proceed south in a City of Ontario easement in the northerly extension of Campus Avenue to Edison Avenue, then east in Edison Avenue to Bon View Avenue. From the intersection of Bonview Avenue/Eucalyptus Avenue the Alternative Alignment is identical to the Preferred Alternative to the Chino I Desalter. (Refer to **Figure 3**.) The Alternative Alignment, from the EWTF to the Chino I Desalter, will extend approximately 3.5 miles (approximately 1.7 miles in Ontario and 1.8 miles in Chino).

The Brine Pipeline will be designed and constructed in accordance with the applicable standards of the jurisdiction in which it is located, that is the portion of the pipeline located in Chino will conform to Chino standards, the portion located in Ontario will conform to Ontario standards, and the portion to be constructed within Euclid Avenue (which is Caltrans rights-of-way), will conform to Caltrans standards. The dual pipelines will be constructed adjacent to each other with an approximately six-inch separation between the pipelines. The portion of the Bine Pipeline constructed within Euclid Avenue where it crosses Kimball Avenue will be encased in a 12-inch diameter steel casing.

The Brine Pipeline will be constructed using an open trench method, except where the it crosses under a drainage culvert at Merrill Street before going south at Euclid Avenue. Vertical trenching will be used at this location so that the pipelines will be constructed under the drainage culvert. Construction of the Brine Pipeline will entail the removal of approximately 86 trees in four separate locations within the western ROW of Bon View Avenue between Edison Avenue and Merrill Avenue. **Figure 6 – General Location of Trees to be Removed** show the approximate location and number of trees to be removed.

[4] The term Brine Pipeline as used throughout this document refers to the dual pipelines and associated appurtenances and appurtenant structures.



H:\2019\19-0013\GIS\Tree_Removal.mxd; Map revised 19 Nov 2019

Sources: San Bernardino Co., 2019 (parcels/ROW) and 2018 (imagery)

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Figure 6 - General Location of Trees to be Removed

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

Construction of the Brine Pipeline will also entail the relocation of several segments of an existing 2-inch diameter gas line in Bon View Avenue, a 12-inch diameter water pipeline owned by the City of Chino where Euclid Avenue crosses Kimball Avenue, and a fence located along a portion of the west side of Bon View Avenue. Electrical power lines are proposed to be protected in place.

Construction of the Brine Pipeline component is anticipated to take approximately 12 months.

Environmental Setting

Eastside Water Treatment Facility

The EWTF site surface consists primarily of native dirt with light gravel on drive areas (developed/disturbed). A strand of willows and a few other riparian associated plant species have grown around an unmaintained detention basin on the southern portion of the ETWF site (refer to **Figures 7a through 7d – Vegetation Map**, specifically Figure 7a). However, these species are located on the portion of the EWTF site identified on **Figure 4 – EWTF Access, Staging, and Demolition Plan** as being within the "Contractor Access Prohibited" area. As discussed in Section 3, Environmental Checklist Form, under threshold 4, Biological Resources, there is also suitable habitat to support burrowing owl and least Bell's vireo on the EWTF site. (Wood-B, Figure 2a; Wood-C, p. 6.)

The site generally slopes down from north to south at a rate of around 1.2 percent with the low point at the southern basin. The City does not have any designated parking areas as the site is large and there is enough space for vehicles to park as needed around the existing facilities. (Hazen, p. 3-25.)

As shown on **Figure 2 – Eastside Water Treatment Facility Site Overview**, the EWTF site contains a four (4) million-gallon (MG) reservoir (Reservoir 9) and a 0.5 MG reservoir (Reservoir 10), treatment and booster station buildings, an approximately 1.5 – 2.0 MG retention basin. Under current operations, this basin is used for Well 16 pump-to-waste, site drainage lines, reservoir draining, pressure relief discharge, and site runoff. The restroom facility located in the existing treatment building drains to a dedicated 1,000-gallon underground waste storage tank. The restroom waste is trucked off-site, because there is no municipal sewer connection at the EWTF. A separate 1,000-gallon underground waste storage tank handles the drains from the treatment building, including the chemical storage area. As previously mentioned, IX brine waste is temporarily stored at the EWTF in brine waste tanks and hauled off-site for disposal a few times per week. Other equipment at the EWTF includes a well pump, booster station, and emergency generator. (Hazen, pp. 1-2, 3-24.)

Fencing around the EWTF site consists of ornamental wrought iron fencing along the northern boundary with chain link fencing surrounding the remainder of the site. The EWTF facility is accessed from Schaefer Avenue via a 26-foot wide double sliding gate with keypad activation. (Hazen, p. 3-24) No prehistoric or historic resources have previously been identified at the EWTF site. (PaleoWest, p. 25.)

H:\2019\19-0013\GIS\Vegetation_TCBB_1.mxd; Map revised 10 Oct 2019

Source: Wood Environment and Infrastructure, Inc., June 2019.

Not to Scale

Figure 6a - Vegetation Map

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

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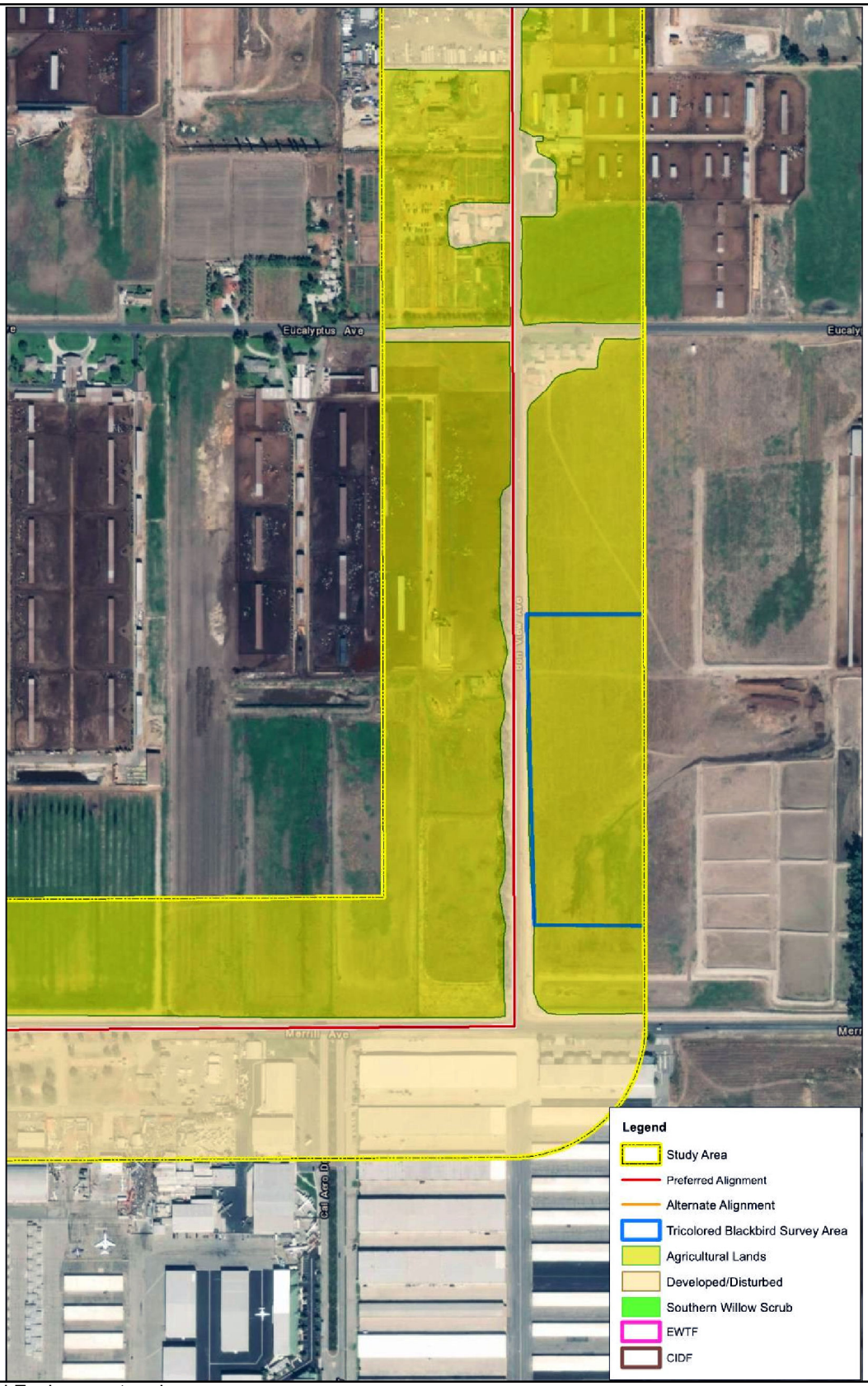

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Source: Wood Environment and Infrastructure, Inc., June 2019.

Not to Scale

Figure 6b - Vegetation Map

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

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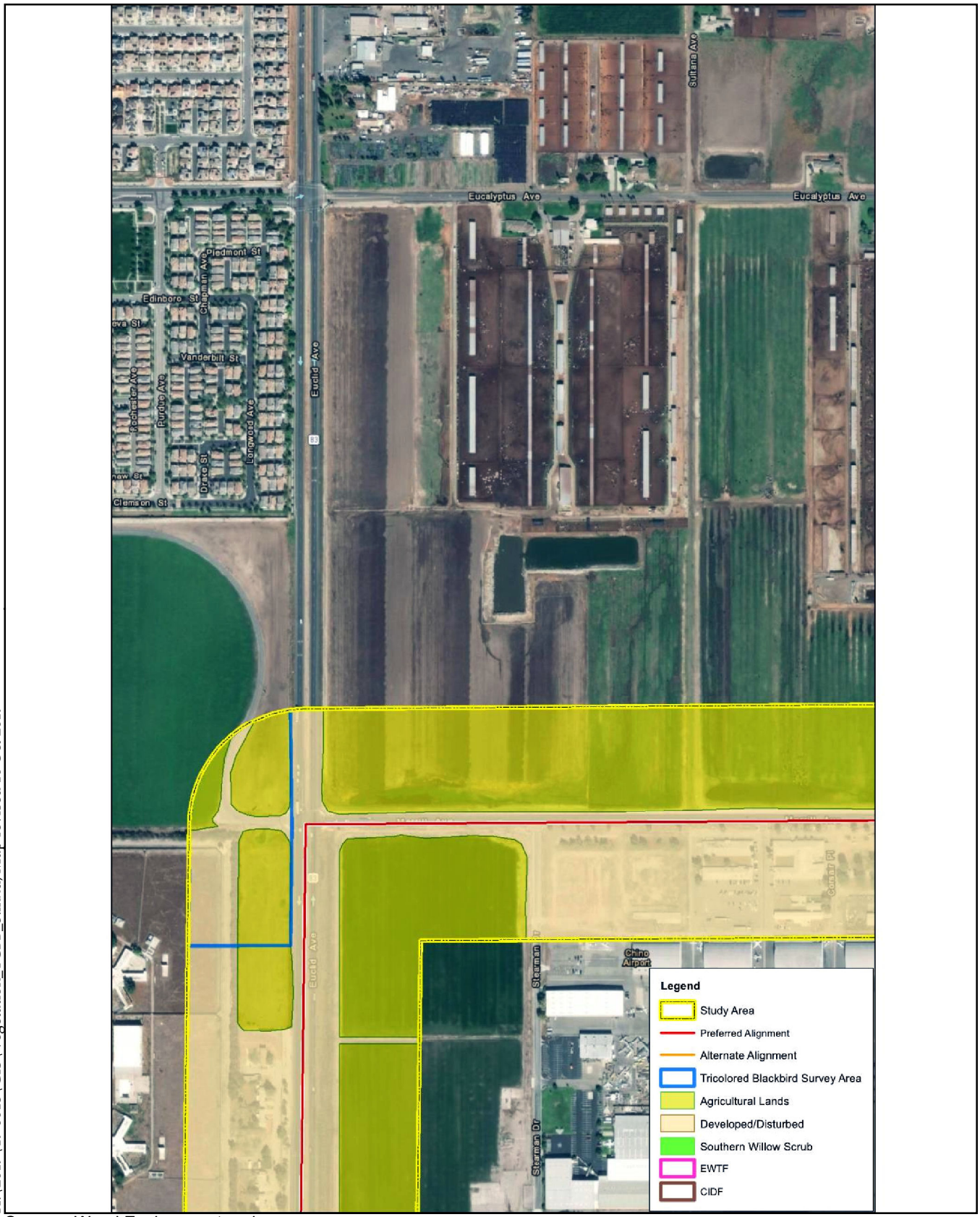

H:\2019\19-0013\GIS\Vegetation_TCBB_3.mxd; Map revised 10 Oct 2019

Source: Wood Environment and Infrastructure, Inc., June 2019.

Not to Scale

Figure 6c - Vegetation Map

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

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Source: Wood Environment and Infrastructure, Inc., June 2019.

Not to Scale

Figure 6d - Vegetation Map

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

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There is a 250-foot wide Southern California Edison (SCE) easement traversing the northern end of the EWTF site in a northeasterly/southwesterly direction (refer to **Figure 5**). The easement contains overhead transmission power lines; however, there are no transmission towers on the EWTF site. A future 23-foot wide SCE entrance road is proposed on the western boundary of the EWTF site; however, this future entrance road will not be affected by the proposed EWTF expansion.

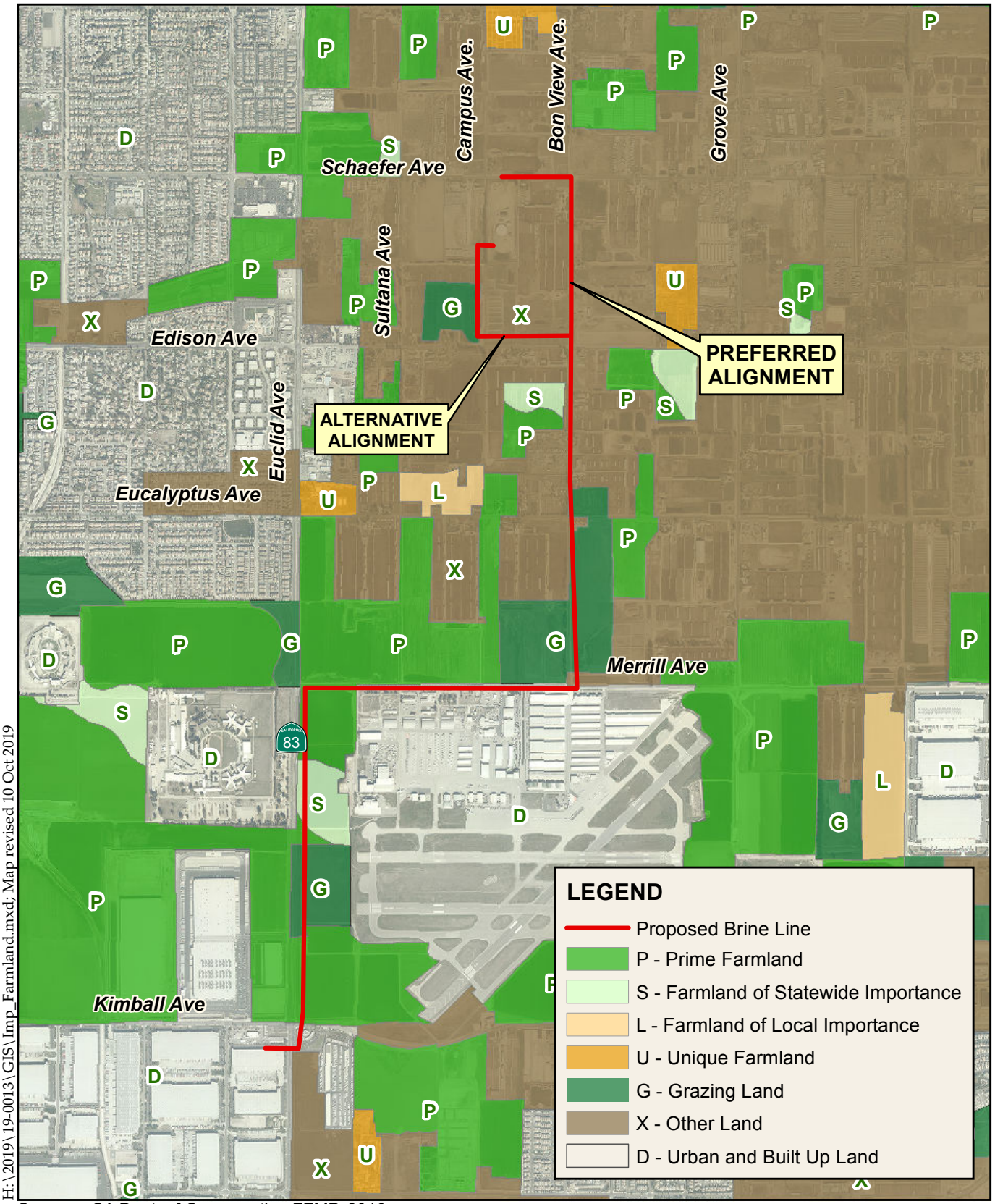
Brine Pipeline

The Preferred Alignment of the Brine Pipeline follows approximately 3.5 miles of paved road rights-of-way in Schaefer Avenue, Bon View Avenue, Merrill Avenue, Euclid Avenue, and Kimball Avenue that are adjacent to vacant lots, existing agricultural lands and residential, industrial, and commercial uses. Vegetation along the Preferred Alignment consists of agricultural lands, dominated by dairies, and developed/disturbed lands. (Refer to **Figures 6a through 6d – Vegetation Map**.) Plant species are dominated by non-native weedy species, although a few native species are also present. There are also several trees located along the Preferred Alignment. As discussed in Section 3, Environmental Checklist Form, under threshold 4, Biological Resources, there is suitable habitat along the Preferred Alignment to support burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, and the western yellow bat. The elevations of the Preferred Alignment elevation slopes down from 755 feet at the EWTF to 590 feet at the Chino I Desalter located at 6905 Kimball Avenue, Chino, CA.

The proposed Alternative Alignment is identical to the Preferred Alternative except for an approximately 1,455-foot segment located within the northerly extension of unpaved Campus Avenue between the southern portion of the EWTF site and Edison Avenue, and an approximately 1,355-foot segment in the Edison Avenue right-of-way between the intersections of Campus Avenue/Edison Avenue and Edison Avenue/Bon View Avenue. Vegetation along the Alternative Alignment consists of agricultural lands (**Figure 7a**). As discussed in Section 3, Environmental Checklist Form, under threshold 4, Biological Resources, there is suitable habitat along the Alternative Alignment to support burrowing owl.

Portions of the Preferred Alignment of the Brine Pipeline pass through areas designated by the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Grazing Land as shown on **Figure 8 – Important Farmland**.

No prehistoric or historic resources have previously been identified within the Preferred or Alternative Alignments of the Brine Pipeline. (PaleoWest, p. 25.)



H:\2019\19-0013\GIS\Imp_Farmland.mxd; Map revised 10 Oct 2019

Sources: CA Dept. of Conservation FFMP, 2016;
San Bernardino Co,, 2019 (streets) and 2018 (imagery)

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Figure 7 - Important Farmland

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion
and Brine Pipeline Project

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3 Environmental Checklist Form

INITIAL STUDY / ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM
CITY OF CHINO

1. **Project Title:** Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

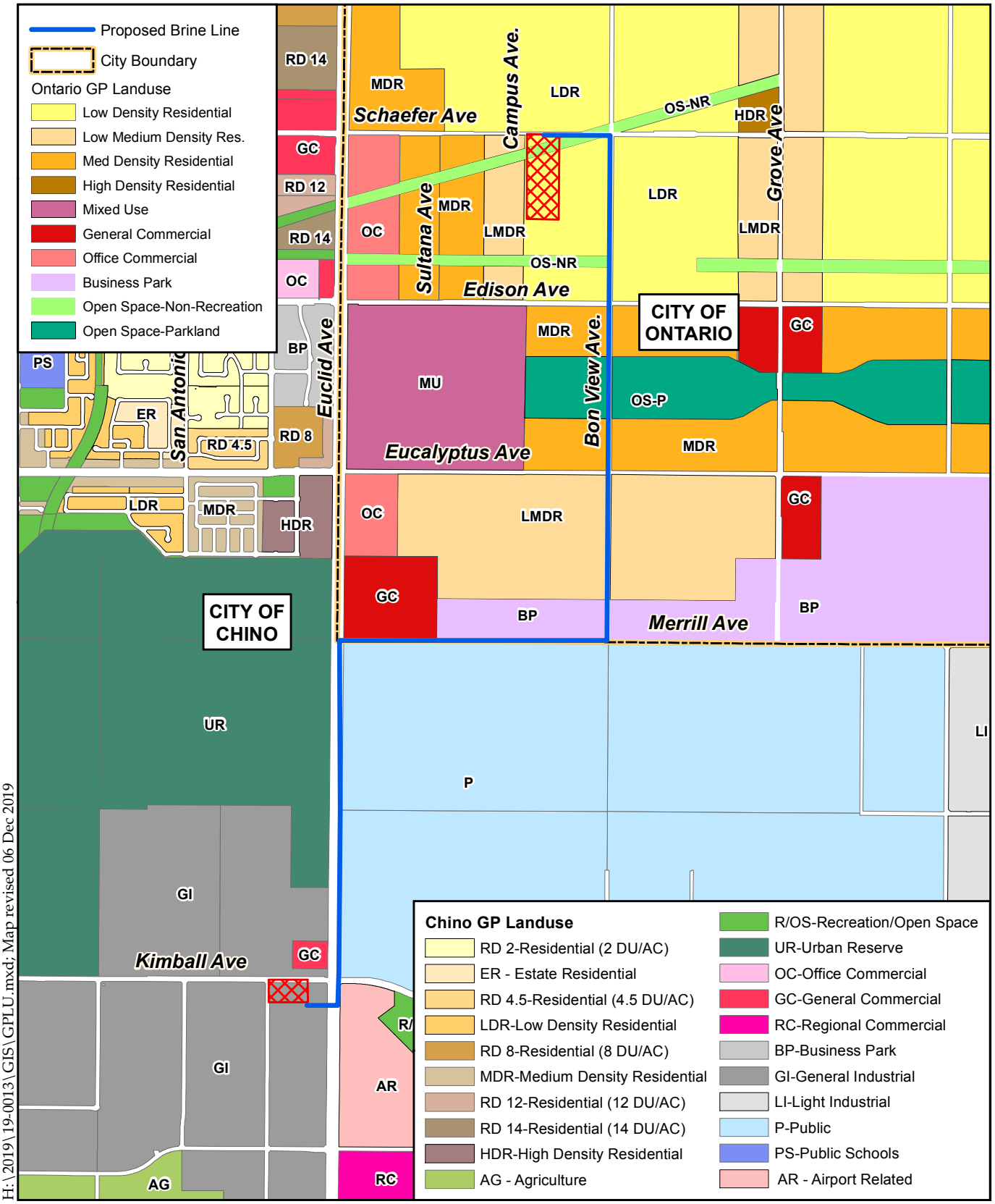
2. **Lead Agency:** City of Chino Public Works Department
   13220 Central Avenue
   Chino, CA 91710

3. **Contact Person:** Amanda Coker, Prinicpal Engineer
   Phone Number: (909) 334-3265

4. **Project Location:** The EWTF is located at 7537 Schaefer Avenue, Ontario. The Brine Pipeline will be installed within the existing rights-of-way of Schaefer Avenue, Bon View Avenue in Ontario and in the rights-of-way of Merrill Avenue, Euclid Avenue, and Kimball Avenue in Chino. (Refer to Figure 3 – Project Location.)

5. **Project Applicant/Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**
   City of Chino Public Works Department
   13220 Central Avenue
   Chino, CA 91710
   Attn.: Amanda Coker, Principal Engineer

6. **General Plan Designation:** The EWTF and most of the Brine Pipeline is located within the City of Ontario. The Ontario Plan land use designation for the EWTF site is Low Density Residential and Open Space – Non Recreation. The Ontario Plan land use designations for the portion of the Preferred Alignment of the Brine Pipeline in Ontario are: Low Density Residential, Open Space – Non Recreation, Medium Density Residential, Open Space – Parkland, Rural Residential, Business Park, and General Commercial. The Ontario Plan land use designations for the Alternative Alignment (between Schaefer Avenue and Edison Avenue) are: Low Density Residential, Open Space – Non Recreation, and Medium Density Residential. The Chino General Plan land use designations for the portion of the Brine Pipeline in Chino is Urban Reserve (UR) and Public (P). (Refer to **Figure 9 – General Plan Land Use**.)



H:\2019\19-0013\GIS\GPLU.mxd; Map revised 06 Dec 2019

Sources: City of Ontario, 2019; City of Chino, 2019; San Bernardino Co., 2019 (streets)

Figure 9 - General Plan Land Use

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

7. **Zoning:** City of Ontario zoning for the EWTF site, the portion of the Preferred Alignment for the Brine Pipeline within Ontario, and the Alternative Alignment (between Schaefer Avenue and Edison Avenue) is Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay. City of Chino zoning for the portion of the Brine Pipeline within Chino is Open Space Recreational (OS-1), General Industrial (M-2), Commercial General (CG), and Airport Development (AD); all of which are in the Airport Overlay District. (Refer to **Figure 10 – Zoning**.)

8. **Description of Project:** (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

   As discussed in detail in Section 2 of the Initial Study, the Project consists of the construction and operation of an expansion of the EWTF and construction and operation of an approximately 3.5 mile dual 6-inch diameter brine pipeline to convey brine waste from the EWTF to a SAWPA lateral owned and operated by IEUA at the Chino I Desalter Facility.

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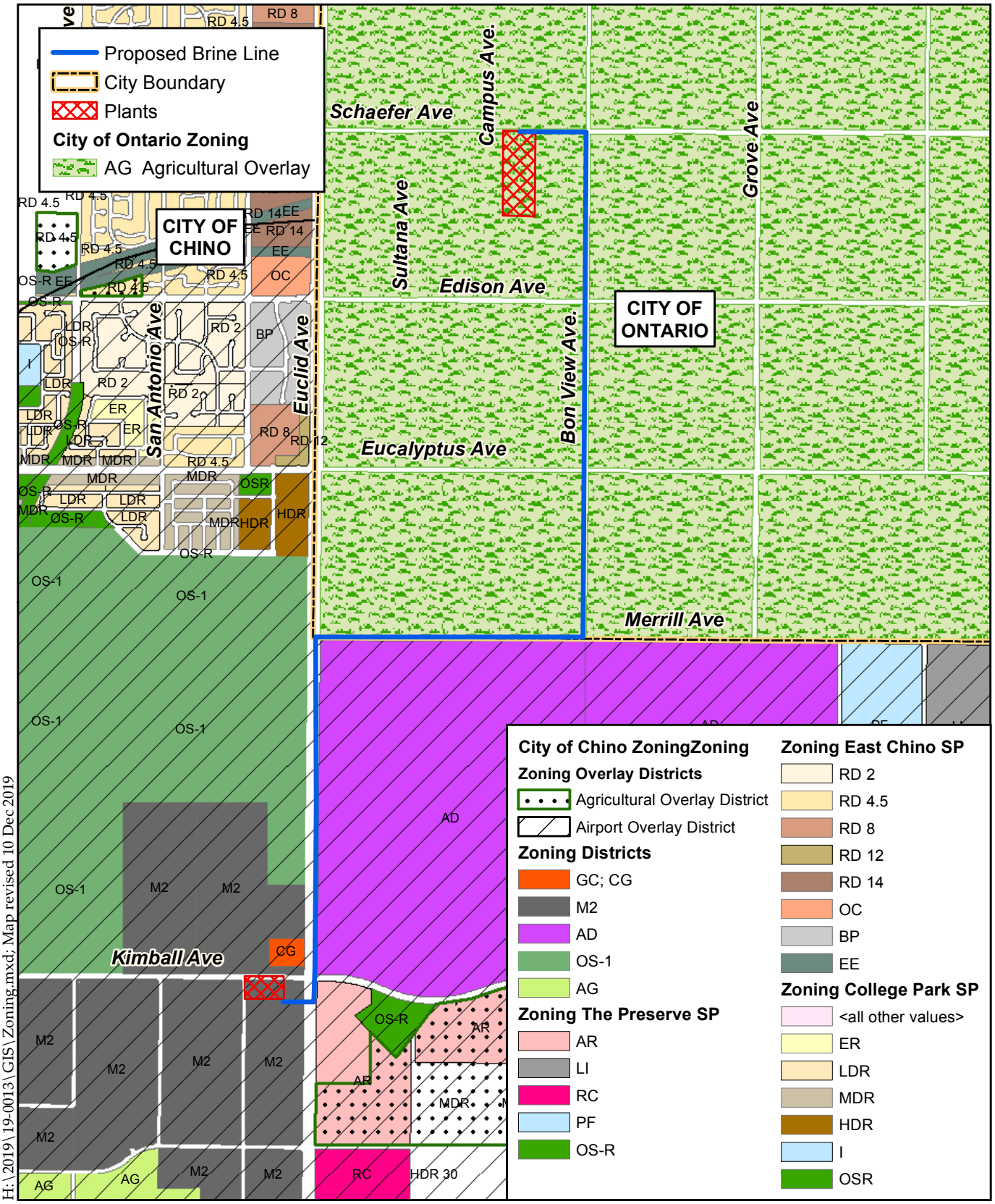

Sources: City of Ontario, 2019; City of Chino, 2019; San Bernardino Co., 2019 (streets)

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

Figure 10 - Zoning

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:

EWTF Site (Ontario)

	Existing Land Use(s)	General Plan Designation(s)	Zoning Designation
Project Site	EWTF	Low Density Residential and Open Space – Non Recreation	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
North	Residential and — agricultural (dairy)	Low Density Residential	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
East	Agricultural (dairy)	Low Density Residential	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
South	Vacant	Low Density Residential	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
West	Residential with trailer storage	Medium Density Residential	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay

Brine Pipeline – Preferred Alignment (portion in Ontario)

	Existing Land Use(s)	General Plan Designation(s)	Zoning Designation(s)
Pipeline Alignment	Vacant	Low Density Residential, Open Space – Non Recreation, Medium Density Residential, Open Space – Parkland, Rural Residential, and Business Park	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
North	Residential and agricultural (dairy)	Low Density Residential	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
East	Vacant, agricultural (mainly dairies), industrial, residential	Low Density Residential, Open Space – Non Recreation, Medium Density Residential, Open Space – Parkland, Rural Residential, and Business Park	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
South	Vacant	Industrial	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
West	Vacant, agricultural (mainly dairies), industrial, residential	Low Density Residential, Open Space – Non Recreation, Medium Density Residential, Open Space – Parkland, Rural Residential, and Business Park	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay

Brine Pipeline – Preferred Alignment (portion in Chino)

	Existing Land Use	General Plan Designation	Zoning Designation
Pipeline Alignment	Vacant, street right-of-way	Urban Reserve, General Industrial, General Commercial, Public	N/A, alignment is proposed to be in the Euclid Avenue right-of-way, within the Airport Overlay District
North	Vacant, agricultural	Urban Reserve	Open Space Recreational, within the Airport Overlay District
East	Chino Airport	Public	Airport Development, within the Airport Overlay District
South	SAWPA facility, industrial	General Industrial, Airport Related	General Industrial, and Airport Related (the Preserve Specific Plan), all within the Airport Overlay District
West	Vacant, agricultural, industrial, residential	Urban Reserve, General Industrial ,General Commercial	Open Space Recreational, General Industrial, and General Commercial, all within the Airport Overlay District

Brine Pipeline – Alternative Alignment (portion in Campus Avenue between Schaefer and Edison, Ontario)

	Existing Land Use	General Plan Designation	Zoning Designation
Project Site	Vacant	Low Density Residential, Open Space Non-Recreation	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
North	Residential and agricultural (dairy)	Low Density Residential	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
East	Eastside Water Treatment Facility, vacant	Low-Medium Density Open Space Non-Recreation. Medium Density Residential	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
South	Agriculture, industrial	Mixed Use – NMC West, Medium Density Residential	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay
West	Residential with trailer storage	Low-Medium Density Residential, Open Space Non-Recreation. Medium Density Residential	Specific Plan with an AG (Agricultural) overlay

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financial approval, or participation agreement.):

Agency	Permit
State	
State Water Resources Control Board	• Clean Water State Revolving Fund • NPDES General Construction Permit • Amendment to the Department of Drinking Water Operating Permit • Updates to California Water Boards Policy Memorandum 97-005
Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA)	• Project Permit for trenching or excavation work
Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	• Encroachment permit to construct the Brine Pipeline within Caltrans right-of-way (Euclid Avenue)
Regional and Local	
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority	• Wastewater Discharge Permit (per Ordinance No. 8)
Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA)	• Wastewater Discharge Permit (per Ordinance No. 96)
City of Ontario	• Encroachment permit to construct the Brine Pipeline within Ontario right-of-way

Sources: Hazen, WEBB-B

In addition to the above permits, Project implementation will also require coordination with the CDA and County of San Bernardino Chino Airport Remedial Action Plan. (WEBB-B, p. 7-1.)

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significant impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

The City of Chino provided "Notification of Tribal Consultation Opportunity" letters dated November 27 and December 4, 2019 pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) to Tribes that have previously requested such a notice. Letters were sent from the City to the following five Tribes.

- Gabrielino Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation,
- Gabrielino/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians,
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians,
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.

Tribal consultation will continue and be concluded prior to adoption of the MND. Refer to the discussion under threshold 18, Tribal Cultural Resources for additional information.

12. Other Environmental Reviews Incorporated by Reference in this Review:

a. Chino General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report, Updated May 21, 2010
b. Chino General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report
c. The Ontario Plan Final Environmental Impact Report (SCH 2008101140), July 2009
d. The Ontario Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (SCH 2008101140), April 2009

The locations at which these documents are available are identified in Section 5, References.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation which reflects the independent judgment of the City of Chino, it is recommended that:

The City of Chino finds that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. ☐

The City of Chino finds 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. ☒

The City of Chino finds that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. ☐

The City of Chino finds 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. ☐

The City of Chino finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. ☐

Signature _____ Date 12-19-19

Printed Name & Title Amanda Coker, Principal Engineer For City of Chino

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

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

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

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

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

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

   a. **Earlier Analysis Used.** Identify and state where they are available for review.

   b. **Impacts Adequately Addressed.** Identify which effects from the above checklist were with in 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 measure which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

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

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

8) The explanation of each issue should identify:

   a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

   b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

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

Sources: Chino GP DEIR, TOP DEIR, Hazen

1.a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

As stated in the Chino General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), "some parts of Chino have views toward the San Gabriel Mountains to the north and Chino Hills to the south. These views orient visitors to Chino's location in the Chino Valley and contribute to the City's unique sense of place." (Chino GP DEIR, p. 4.1-5)

As indicated in The Ontario Plan Draft EIR, the dominant scenic resource in the City of Ontario is the San Gabriel Mountains with peak elevations of up to 7,000 feet above the valley floor. (TOP DEIR, pp. 5.1-1, 5.1-8.)

EWTF Expansion

The proposed improvements at the EWTF will remove some existing above-ground structures, relocate existing structures, and add new structures in roughly the same locations. (Refer to **Figure 4 – EWTF Access, Staging, and Demolition Plan** and **Figure 5 – EWTF Site Payout Plan**.) The structure heights and character of the new ISEP™ building and GAC vessels will be similar to what is present the existing facility. The use of a crane during construction may result in a partial temporary obstruction of views from the EWTF site. Because pre-construction views of surrounding mountains and hills will not be substantially altered and will continue to be visible after construction is complete, impacts to scenic vistas are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed Brine Pipeline will be installed underground within and adjacent to existing paved roadways. Views may be temporarily obstructed during construction. These roadways have not been listed as scenic resources. Above-ground features attributed to the pipeline will be limited to manholes located at-grade. Therefore, impacts to scenic vistas will be **less than significant**.

1.b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

There are no designated state scenic highways in Chino or Ontario. (Chino GP DEIR, p. 4.1-5; TOP DEIR, p. 5.1-6.)

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF is not located within or adjacent to a state scenic highway. The improvements at the EWTF do not include damage to trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings. **No impacts** will occur in this regard.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed pipeline will not be installed within or adjacent to a state scenic highway and **no impacts** to state scenic highways will result.

1.c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly-accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

EWTF Expansion

The proposed improvements at the EWTF will be consistent with the existing character of the facility and will not substantially degrade the visual character of the site. Impacts to public views of the EWTF are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

Installation of the proposed Brine Pipeline, which will be a below ground feature, will result in the removal of approximately 80 trees along the west side of Bon View Avenue between Merrill Avenue and Edison Avenue. The trees are believed to be windbreaks that were grown for the purpose of protecting crops on the land from wind damage. As stated in The Ontario General Plan Draft EIR, “Windrows [sic] of trees are the tallest vegetation in the agricultural fields and are prevalent along internal roadways in the areas designated as agricultural industry and cultivated fields.” (TOP DEIR, p. 5.1-5.) Nonetheless, the windrows are not identified as a scenic resource. The trees that would be removed as part of this Project are within the ROW of Bon View Avenue and would ultimately be removed at the time Bon View Avenue is fully improved consistent with the Circulation Element of The Ontario Plan. Regarding potential

impacts to the existing visual character or quality of public view of the site and its surroundings, The Ontario Plan Draft EIR concluded these types of impacts would be less than significant through compliance with The Ontario Plan policies and Ontario's Municipal Code. For these reasons, impacts regarding substantially degrading the visual character or quality of the views along either the Preferred Alignment of Alternative Alignment of the Brine Pipeline are **less than significant**.

1.d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

EWTF Expansion

The new above-ground structures will have an appearance that is consistent with the existing structures, which do not create substantial glare during the day. Temporary construction-related nighttime lighting may be used at the EWTF that would increase the amount of light coming from the facility, which may affect nighttime views in the area. However, any construction lighting will be directed downward onto the EWTF site and not onto adjacent properties. After construction of the improvements, general lighting will be provided for illumination throughout the new facilities. Additional lights will be installed at strategically located areas around the site to provide sufficient lighting for security and safety. All fixtures will be specified as LED technology for extended life and energy efficiency. Exterior light fixtures will be equipped with photo cells for dusk to dawn operation. (Hazen, p. 3-17.) The use of lighting sufficient for security and safety purposes at a facility that already has security and safety lighting is not expected to create a new source of substantial light; therefore, impacts are **less than significant.**

Brine Pipeline

Temporary nighttime lighting may be used for security purposes during the construction phase if equipment is stored somewhere outside of the EWTF facility. However, any security lighting will be directed downward and not onto adjacent properties. The proposed Brine Pipeline will be buried underground and will not create a new source of light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Because any temporary lighting will be directed downward and not onto adjacent properties, such lighting will not substantially affect views, and impacts are **less than significant**.

Aesthetics Mitigation Measures

Aesthetic impacts are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
2. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES:				
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information complied by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in the Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)) timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Sources: FMMP, Ontario Status of Williamson Act Contracts November 2018

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

EWTF Expansion

According to the state Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), the EWTF is located within "Other" land (Category X) which is not designated "Farmland." (Refer to **Figure 8 – Important Farmland**.) Therefore, **no impact** to Farmland will occur.

Brine Pipeline

Both the Preferred and Alternative Alignments will be located within, along the edge of, and adjacent to, existing paved roads and completely within existing road rights-of-way (ROW). Some segments of the road ROWs are adjacent to areas of designated Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. Prime Farmland is designated along the north side of Merrill Avenue from Euclid Avenue east for approximately 0.6 mile, and on the east side of Euclid Avenue in three separate segments totaling approximately 0.65 mile between Kimball Avenue and Merrill Avenue. Farmland of Statewide Importance is designated on the east side of Euclid Avenue for approximately 0.25 mile. The alignment will also be adjacent to "Grazing" Land (Category "G") which is not considered Farmland for CEQA purposes.

Construction of the Brine Pipeline will occur within existing rights-of-way in the disturbed road shoulder in the south side of Merrill Avenue and the east side of Euclid Avenue; however, because the alignment does not cross into Farmland, and once complete, the pipeline will be buried underground so as to not prohibit Farmland activities to occur in the future, impacts to Farmland are **less than significant**.

2.b. Would the Project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF is located within property that is zoned for agricultural use. The proposed Project will result in a system upgrade of an already operating treatment facility located within an agricultural zone, which is not a change in use, and would not create a conflict with the zoning designation. The EWTF is not located within Williamson Act Contract land; however, the adjacent properties to the east, south, and west are within Williamson Act Contract land. The proposed system improvements will not conflict with the neighboring activities. Therefore, impacts are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The alignment is fully within existing road ROW that is adjacent to agriculturally-zoned properties. Although the pipeline will be constructed adjacent to Williamson Act Contracted land that is located along the south side of Schaefer Avenue, both sides of Campus Avenue and Edison Avenue, and segments of the east and west sides of Bon View Avenue, cancellation of a Williamson Act contract is not required. Because the pipeline is adjacent to agricultural properties, will not require the cancellation of a Williamson Act contract, will be buried underground, and the portion within Bon View Avenue will be under a future sidewalk

when that street is fully improved per The Ontario Plan Circulation Element, impacts regarding conflicts with agricultural zoning and Williamson Act Contracts are **less than significant.**

2.c. Would the Project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)) timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

The Project is not located in an area zoned for forest land or timberland. No impact will occur in this regard.

2.d. Would the Project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

The Project is not located in an area containing forest land. **No impact** will occur in this regard.

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

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF property is currently used for non-agricultural purposes and the proposed improvements to this facility will not result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. No other changes in the existing environment from that which have been described in the Project Description are proposed. As stated in Response 2.d, there is no forest land at the EWTF. Therefore, impacts are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed Brine Pipeline will be constructed underground within, along the edge of, and adjacent to existing paved roads. No other changes in the existing environment than that which has been described in the Project Description are proposed. The installation of the pipeline will not result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses. As stated in Response 2.d, there is no forest land within the Project area. Therefore, impacts are **less than significant**.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources Mitigation Measures

Impacts to agricultural and forestry resources are less than significant; therefore. no mitigation is required.

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

Sources: AQMP, CARB-A, Hazen, SCAQMD-A, SCAQMD-B, WEBB-A

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

The City Chino and the City of Ontario are located within the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) prepares the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the Basin. The AQMP sets forth a comprehensive program that will lead the Basin into compliance with all federal and state air quality standards. The AQMP's control measures and related emission reduction estimates are based upon emissions projections for a future development scenario derived from land use, population, and employment characteristics defined in consultation with local governments. Accordingly, if a project demonstrates compliance with local land use plans and/or population projections, then the AQMP would have taken into account such uses when it was developed.

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF component involves the expansion of existing treatment facilities that are in the City of Ontario. The expansion of these facilities on the existing site do not conflict with The Ontario Plan's land use designation and zoning. Additionally, the EWTF Expansion does not conflict with the Chino General Plan, as it is out of the City boundary.

Brine Pipeline

The Brine Pipeline improvements will not conflict with any land use plan of the jurisdictions (cities of Chino and Ontario) along the alignment by virtue of its underground nature and location in proximity to roadways. Since the Brine Pipeline will not in and of itself result in any

changes to the existing land use patterns in the Project area, the proposed Project does not conflict with any land use plans. Additionally, the Brine Pipeline will serve the existing and anticipated growth in the City of Chino, consistent with the Chino General Plan.

Since the proposed Project consists of public utility improvements that in and of itself will not result in any changes to the existing land use patterns in the Project area, nor will they induce unplanned population growth, the Project does not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP. Therefore, **no impacts** will occur.

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

The portion of the Basin within which the proposed Project area is located is designated as a non-attainment area for ozone and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM-2.5) under both state and federal standards, and for particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM-10) under state standards (CARB-A.) The SCAQMD considers the thresholds for project-specific impacts and cumulative impacts to be the same (SCAQMD-A.) Therefore, projects that exceed project-specific significance thresholds are considered by SCAQMD to be cumulatively considerable. Based on SCAQMD's regulatory jurisdiction over regional air quality, it is reasonable to rely on its thresholds to determine whether there is a cumulative air quality impact.

The proposed EWTF site expansion construction activities overlap with the construction activities for the installation of the Brine Pipeline, therefore the following analysis for both Project components are evaluated together.

Air quality impacts can be described in a short- and long-term perspective. Short-term impacts occur during site grading and Project construction and consist of fugitive dust and other particulate matter, as well as exhaust emissions generated by construction-related vehicles. Long-term air quality impacts occur once the Project is in operation. The Project consists of an expansion at the EWTF site and Brine Pipeline. Operational emissions from the EWTF site upgrades consist primarily of new equipment for the EWTF that will be electric. EWTF worker commuting would be about the same as existing conditions. Thus, there would be no quantifiable change in mobile source emissions and only short-term impacts were evaluated for the EWTF site. Operational emissions related to the Brine Pipelines would be primarily from the infrequent visits by vehicles driven by maintenance personnel and are considered negligible; therefore, only short-term impacts were evaluated for the Brine Pipeline. The Project's impacts summarized herein were evaluated in the Air Quality/Greenhouse Analysis (AQ/GHG Analysis) prepared for the Project (WEBB-A) and provided in Appendix A.

The estimated construction period for the proposed Project is approximately on 13 months. Both Project component's schedule are identified below in **Table A – EWTF Site Construction Schedule** and **Table B – Brine Pipeline Construction Schedule**.

Table A – EWTF Site Construction Schedule

Construction Activity	Start Date	End Date	Total Working Days
Grading	March 6, 2020	July 30, 2020	105 days
Soil Hauling[1]	March 13, 2020	March 13, 2020	1 day
Facilities Construction	June 6, 2020	July 16, 2021	290 days
Architectural Coatings	April 1, 2021	April 14, 2021	10 days

Note:[1] This Soil Hauling activity is included to accurately capture emissions related to imported soil hauling a total of 4 truckloads that will occur on a single day during site grading.

Table B – Brine Pipeline Construction Schedule

Construction Activity	Start Date	End Date	Total Working Days
Grading	March 6, 2020	August 27 2020	125 days
Paving	March 6, 2020	August 27, 2020	125 days

The equipment to be used for each Project components and activity is shown in **Table C – EWTF Site Construction Equipment List** and **Table D– Brine Pipeline Construction Equipment List** and is based on engineering estimates.

Table C – EWTF Site Construction Equipment List

Construction Activity	Off-Road Equipment	Unit Amount
Grading	Excavators	1
	Concrete/Industrial Saws	1
	Rubber Tired Dozers	1
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	2
Soil Hauling[1]	None Required	--
Facilities Construction	Cranes	1
	Forklifts	2
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	2
	Welders	2
Architectural Coatings	Air Compressors	1

Note: [1] This Soil Hauling activity is included to accurately capture emissions related to imported soil hauling that will occur during site grading. No additional off-road equipment is required.

EWTF Expansion – Specific Assumptions

- To evaluate the EWTF Expansion component compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403 for fugitive dust control, the mitigation option of watering the EWTF site three times daily which achieves a control efficiency of 61 percent for PM-10 and PM-2.5 emissions, was utilized.

- Four (4) one-way vendor trips were added to the grading activities to account for water truck trips and/or material delivery trips.
- Approximately 60 cubic yards of soil will be imported during grading activities. Truck capacity is assumed to be 16 cubic yards, resulting in approximately eight (8) one-way hauling trips (four total truckloads). Soil hauling activity is conservatively assumed to occur in one day. The import site is currently unknown. Therefore, the CalEEMod default was utilized which assumes a hauling trip length of 20 miles per one-way trip.
- Architectural coatings for the 2,900 square-foot ISEP™ building was modeled using CalEEMod default assumptions (CalEEMod User's Guide, Appendix A, pp. 16-17).
- The disturbance area for the proposed expansion activities at the EWTF site is approximately 1.6 acres.

Table D – Brine Pipeline Construction Equipment List

Construction Activity	Off-Road Equipment	Unit Amount
Grading	Excavators	2
	Generator Sets (Fusing Machine)[1]	1
	Rubber Tired Dozers	1
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	2
Paving	Pavers	1
	Paving Equipment	1
	Rollers	1

Note: [1] CalEEMod did not contain a fusing machine in its equipment list. The generator set was used as the fusing machine's conservative proxy since the fusing machine is assumed to have an 18-horsepower engine, and the generator set has an 84-horsepower engine.

Brine Pipeline – Specific Assumptions

- To evaluate construction of the Brine Pipeline component for compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403 for fugitive dust control, the mitigation option of watering the construction site three times daily which achieves a control efficiency of 61 percent for PM-10 and PM-2.5 emissions was utilized.
- Four (4) one-way vendor trips were added per day per day to the grading activities to account for water truck trips, material delivery trips, and soil import/export, and/or concrete mixing trucks trips.
- The Brine Pipeline will be constructed in Schaefer Avenue or in Campus Drive to Edison Avenue, along Bon View Avenue, Merrill Avenue, Euclid Avenue, and Kimball Avenue to its ultimate connections at an existing brine line connection point at the CDA I Desalter near the intersection of Euclid Avenue/Kimball Avenue. Estimated construction progress is approximately 150 feet per day.
- The construction of the Brine Pipeline will disturb approximately 8.6 acres, which assumes the disturbance area is 20 feet wide for the length of Preferred Alignment

(18,650 linear feet); the longest of the two alignments. The trench width is approximately 3.5 feet wide. The majority of the Brine Pipeline will be constructed within unpaved road shoulder. Asphalt restoration is anticipated at street intersections and along Merrill Avenue. Conservatively, 2.9 acres of asphalt paving was assumed.

The results of this analysis for each Project component are summarized below. Construction emissions associated with construction at the EWTF site emissions results are shown in **Table E** and construction emissions associated with construction of the Brine Pipeline are shown in **Table F** Since the construction schedule of each Project component indicates the possibility that multiple activities from each Project component will overlap, the maximum daily emissions from these overlapping construction schedules are provided in **Table G**.

Table E – EWTF Site Unmitigated Estimated Maximum Daily Construction Emissions

Activity	Peak Daily Emissions (lb/day)					
	VOC	NO_X	CO	SO_2	PM-10	PM-2.5
SCAQMD Daily Construction Thresholds	**75**	**100**	**550**	**150**	**150**	**55**
Grading-2020	2.25	**21.72**	**16.31**	**0.03**	**3.66**	**2.40**
Soil Hauling 2020	0.05	1.98	0.33	0.01	0.56	0.09
Facilities Construction-2020	1.97	**15.95**	**13.51**	**0.03**	**1.21**	**0.87**
Facilities Construction-2021	**1.76**	14.58	13.09	0.03	1.09	0.76
Architectural Coatings-2021	**4.95**	2.06	2.67	0.00	0.19	0.14
Maximum[1]	**6.71**	**37.67**	**29.82**	**0.06**	**4.87**	**3.27**
Exceeds Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Note: [1] Maximum emissions are the greater of either the sum of grading and soil hauling or grading and facilities construction in 2020, or the sum of facilities construction and architectural coatings in 2021 since these activities overlap. Maximum emissions are shown in bold.

Table F – Brine Pipeline Unmitigated Estimated Maximum Daily Construction Emissions

Activity	Peak Daily Emissions (lb/day)					
	VOC	NO_X	CO	SO_2	PM-10	PM-2.5
SCAQMD Daily Construction Thresholds	**75**	**100**	**550**	**150**	**150**	**55**
Grading-2020	2.48	24.32	19.69	0.03	3.83	2.52
Paving 2020	0.78	7.06	7.69	0.01	0.47	0.37
Maximum[1]	**3.26**	**31.38**	**27.38**	**0.04**	**4.30**	**2.89**
Exceeds Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Note: [1] Maximum emissions are the sum of grading and paving since these activities overlap.

Table G – Project's Unmitigated Estimated Maximum Daily Construction Emissions

Activity	Peak Daily Emissions (lb/day)					
	VOC	NO_X	CO	SO_2	PM-10	PM-2.5
SCAQMD Daily Construction Thresholds	**75**	**100**	**550**	**150**	**150**	**55**
2020						
EWTF Site - Grading	**2.25**	**21.72**	**16.31**	**0.03**	**3.66**	**2.40**
EWTF Site – Soil Hauling	0.05	1.98	0.33	0.01	0.56	0.09
EWTF Site – Facilities Construction	**1.97**	**15.95**	**13.51**	**0.03**	**1.21**	**0.87**
Brine Pipeline - Grading	**2.48**	**24.32**	**19.69**	**0.03**	**3.83**	**2.52**
Brine Pipeline - Paving	**0.78**	**7.06**	**7.69**	**0.01**	**0.47**	**0.37**
Maximum[1]	**7.48**	**69.05**	**57.20**	**0.10**	**9.17**	**6.16**
Exceeds Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
2021						
EWTF Site - Facilities Construction	1.76	14.58	13.09	0.03	1.09	0.76
EWTF Site - Architectural Coatings	4.95	2.06	2.67	0.00	0.19	0.14
Maximum[2]	**6.71**	**16.64**	**15.76**	**0.03**	**1.28**	**0.90**
Exceeds Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Note: [1] Maximum emissions are either the greater of the sum of EWTF Site grading and soil hauling plus the Brine pipeline grading paving, or the sum of EWTF Site grading and facilities construction plus Brine pipeline grading and paving. Maximum emissions are shown in bold.
[2] Maximum emissions are the sum of EWTF Site facilities construction and architectural coating.

As shown in **Table G**, the maximum daily criteria pollutant emissions from construction of the proposed Project will be below the SCAQMD daily regional thresholds for all criteria pollutants. Impacts would be less than significant**.**

In addition, the short-term estimated emissions do not exceed SCAQMD's localized significance thresholds (LST) for the either Project component (refer to Tables 5 and 6 in the AQ/GHG Analysis in Appendix A). Therefore, short-term LST significant air quality impacts would be less than significant without mitigation required.

The long-term emissions from operation of both Project components, as described above, vary. The long-term emissions from operation of the Brine Pipeline, as discussed previously, are primarily in the form of mobile source emissions (i.e., maintenance vehicles), with no stationary sources of emissions present. Similarly, the new equipment for the EWTF site will be electric-powered and the existing diesel-powered emergency generator does not require modification. According to the LST methodology, LSTs only apply to the operational phase if a project includes stationary sources or attracts mobile sources that may spend long periods of

time idling at the site, such as warehouse/transfer facilities. The proposed Project does not include such uses. Therefore, no long-term LST analysis is needed.

Therefore, since the Project's short-term emissions do not exceed the SCAQMD established thresholds of significance, and the Project does not include stationary sources or on-site mobile equipment generating on-site emissions, the Project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in criteria pollutant emissions for which the Project region is non-attainment and thus impacts are considered **less than significant**.

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

People most likely to be affected by air pollution, as identified by the SCAQMD, may include children, the elderly, and people with cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases. SCAQMD defines a "sensitive receptor" as a land use or facility such as residences, schools, child care centers, athletic facilities, playgrounds, retirement homes, and convalescent homes where these persons are typically located. (SCAQMD-B.)

EWTF Expansion
The closest sensitive receptors to the EWTF site are the existing adjacent scattered residential properties on Schaffer Avenue. The construction emissions were found to be less than significant, as indicated above in Response 3b, above, and discussed in detail in Appendix A. Hence, the proposed improvements at the EWFT site will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and impacts are considered **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline
The closest sensitive receptors to the Brine Pipeline component are the existing adjacent scattered residential properties on Bon View Avenue, Edison Avenue, and Euclid Avenue. As noted above in Response 3b, the construction emission were found to be less significant, therefore the proposed Brine Pipeline improvements will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and impacts are considered **less than significant**.

Therefore, Project impacts are considered **less than significant**. No mitigation is required.

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

EWTF Expansion
The EWTF site expansion presents the potential for generation of objectionable odors in the form of diesel exhaust during construction in the immediate vicinity of the EWTF site. Odors generated during construction will be short-term, be limited to the EWTF site, and would cease to occur after construction is completed. Maintenance of the proposed EWTF will not generate any potential odors. The GAC has a high surface area and capacity to absorb, among other constituents, odor. (Hazen, p. 3-8.) No other emissions are anticipated to result from the EWTF

Expansion that could adversely affect substantial numbers of people. As such, impacts will be **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed Brine Pipeline component presents the potential for generation of objectionable odors in the form of diesel exhaust during construction in the immediate vicinity of the Brine Pipeline construction site. Odors generated during construction will be short-term, be limited to the Brine Pipeline construction site, and would cease to occur after construction is completed. Maintenance of the proposed pipelines would be infrequent and would be considered negligible. No other emissions are anticipated to result from the Brine Pipeline component that could adversely affect substantial numbers of people and impacts will be **less than significant**.

For the reasons set forth in the preceding paragraphs, Project impacts with regard to the generation of other emissions are **less than significant**.

Air Quality Mitigation Measures

Air quality impacts are less than significant; therefore. no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
4. 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally-protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife	☐	☐	☒	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Sources: WEBB-B, Wood-A, Wood-B, Wood-C, Wood-D, Chino Municipal Code, Ontario Municipal Code; Oakmont HCP, SCE HCP

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

A Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) was prepared for the Project by Wood Environment and Infrastructure (Wood-A, 2019) to review and assess the biological resources that have been reported from the vicinity of, or have the potential to occur, on and adjacent to the Project site. The BRA provides the conservation status of special status species, suitable habitat for these species, and the potential for each to occur on or near the site. The BRA consisted of a review of pertinent literature, consultation with biologists having experience on, or in close proximity to the site, and a reconnaissance level site survey to perform a general inventory of flora and fauna and determine habitat suitability for special status flora and fauna. Wood biologists conducted the habitat assessment site surveys of the Brine Pipeline alignment and the EWTF on March 29, 2019 and April 11, 2019, respectively (Wood-A, p. 11). The biological study area (BSA) for the BRA included the Project site (i.e., the EWTF Facility and Brine Pipeline alignment) plus a 500-foot buffer. (Refer to **Figures 6a through 6d – Vegetation Map**.)

A literature review was conducted by Wood to identify biological resources known from the vicinity (within an approximate five-mile radius) of the BSA. This included review of literature and searches of CDFW's California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB), the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California, Soil Survey data, vegetation mapping, National Wetlands Inventory, the Critical Habitat portal, and pertinent documents from the Wood library and project files. (Wood-A, p. 11.)

The literature review identified a total of 47 special status biological resources known from the five-mile radius of the BSA. These include 22 plants, four vegetation communities, one fish, two reptiles, 16 birds, and two mammals, which are discussed below. (Wood-A, p. 28.)

Plants - Of the 22 special status plant species known from the five-mile radius of the BSA, all but two, the San Bernardino aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum*) and Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*) are assumed to be absent due to lack of suitable habitat. San Bernardino aster is listed by CNPS with a 1B.2 ranking (*Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere, moderately threatened in California)*, and the Southern California black walnut is listed by CNPS with a 4.2 ranking (*Plants of limited distribution- a Watch List, moderately threatened in California)*. Neither of these species are state or federally listed as threatened or endangered. (Wood-A, Table 1)

Vegetation Communities - None of the four special status vegetation communities known from the five-mile radius of the BSA are present (Wood-A, p. 32). Therefore, no impacts to special status vegetation communities will occur.

Fish - No waterways capable of supporting the federally listed as threatened Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) are present in the BSA (Wood-A, p. 34). Therefore, no impacts to special status fish species will occur.

Reptiles –Two special status reptile species are known from the BSA; however, no habitat is present for them in the BSA. These are (Belding's) orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*) and coast (San Diego) horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) (Wood-A, p. 34). Therefore, no impacts to special status reptile species will occur.

Birds – Sixteen special status bird species were identified to be of potential occurrence in the five-mile radius of the BSA. There is no suitable nesting or foraging habitat for five of those species, and they are not expected to occur. Of the remaining 11 bird species, four would occur only in winter or as foragers, including the white faced ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) which was present foraging in the BSA during the habitat assessment. The other possible foragers are long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), and merlin (*Falco columbarius*). The state listed as threatened Swainson's hawk occurs only as a migrant, and the unlisted merlin and long-eared owl would be of potential occurrence only in winter.

Burrowing owl, least Bell's vireo, tricolored blackbird, yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), and Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) could potentially nest in the BSA. The tricolored blackbird was state listed as threatened in March of this year, and the least Bell's vireo is state and federally listed as endangered. Burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) are treated differently than most unlisted birds because they are uniquely vulnerable to ground disturbance. This is because they both roost and nest underground.

The MBTA and California Fish and Game Code protect virtually all native birds, both common and special status species. Although nesting birds and other wildlife could occur in close proximity to the project over a wide area, the majority of the project alignment is along busy

thoroughfares and an airport. Any wildlife present will already be accustomed to a certain level of noise and vibration (Wood-A, p. 38).

Mammals – Both of the special status mammal species known to have occurred in the BSA are bats, but only one, the western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*) is of potential occurrence in the BSA. It is not state or federally listed as threatened or endangered. The western yellow bat roosts in trees, especially palms.

Because special status plant and animal species have potential to occur within the Project area, a worker environmental awareness program (WEAP) prepared by a qualified biologist will be presented to field crews prior to any work to outline biological issues and the biological mitigation measures. Pursuant to mitigation measure **MM BIO 1**, all construction personnel assigned to the project must go through the WEAP training prior to starting any work within the project site. The WEAP will discuss other standard best management practices (BMPs) that should be implemented to avoid impacts to biological resources. These shall include trash management and Project speed limits.

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF is a mix of aboveground equipment and undeveloped/unpaved areas, including a retention basin at the southern end. Direct impacts are possible due to the presence of relatively undisturbed potential habitat in the undeveloped/unpaved areas within the EWTF, especially the basin at the south end. Keeping direct impacts confined to areas that have been previously disturbed/developed will minimize or eliminate direct impacts to protected biological resources. (Wood-A, p. 38.)

Suitable nesting habitat for common and special status bird species is present in the retention basin at the EWTF (Wood-A, Table 3). The retention basin contains a stand of red willows (*Salix laevigata*).and other riparian plant species that have grown around the basin (California bulrush (*Schoenoplectus californicus)* and cocklebur (*Xanthium sp.)* (Wood-A, p. 13.) Since the retention basin is located within the area identified on **Figure 4 – EWTF Access, Staging, and Demolition Plan** as contractor access prohibited; there will be no direct impacts to habitat or species in this portion of the EWTF site. Indirect impacts to nesting birds resulting from work at the EWTF site can be minimized or eliminated by conducting work outside of the local breeding season. Within the BSA, bird breeding activity is expected to occur between 1 February and 31 August. Work from about 1 September through 31 January would therefore be expected to avoid bird nesting activity. Therefore, if work at the EWTF must be done during the breeding season (1 February and 31 August) a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted in the week prior to vegetation removal/ground disturbance pursuant to mitigation measure **MM BIO 2.** While there is no established protocol for nest avoidance, when consulted, the CDFW generally recommends avoidance buffers of about 500 feet for raptors and threatened/endangered species, and 100 to 300 feet for other birds. If active nests are found, they should be avoided until young have fledged. This distance for avoidance buffers is directly related to the disturbance tolerance of each individual species and shall be set at the discretion

of the qualified monitoring biologist. Listed species and/or species with a very low tolerance for disturbance will have a much larger avoidance buffer. Species will a high disturbance tolerance will have a much shorter avoidance buffer. The use of noise attenuation barriers when adjacent to nesting habitat or known nests may allow such buffers to be reduced or eliminated (Wood-A, p. 39.) Construction outside of the breeding season would not require a nesting bird survey.

The retention basin contains a small patch of marginal habitat that is suitable for least Bell's vireo and yellow warbler. Therefore, focused surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted by Wood, with no detections recorded. (Wood-C, 2019.) Incidentally, yellow warbler, peregrine falcon, Cooper's hawk, and willow flycatcher were all detected in the EWTF area during focused surveys for the least Bell's vireo. If the riparian habitat is still present within the EWTF basin at the time construction commences, then pre-construction surveys for sensitive riparian bird species, including least Bell's vireo shall be conducted during the nesting season for portions of the EWTF site that are within 500-feet of the basin pursuant to mitigation measure **MM BIO 3**. If any least Bell's vireo or their nests are observed during the pre-construction survey, or if they are found during construction, a biological monitor will be required during all vegetation removal and ground disturbance activities within 500 feet of any riparian habitat until the listed species has left the area. Construction activities may be postponed at the discretion of the qualified monitoring biologist to avoid indirect impacts to these species. With agency concurrence, the use of noise attenuation barriers could reduce the 500-foot buffer that would be expected between work and the active nest of any listed species.

Suitable habitat for burrowing owl is present in the unpaved parts of the EWTF, outside of the retention basin. Therefore, focused surveys for burrowing owls were conducted by Wood following the current survey protocol (CDFG 2012). (Wood-B.) Three potential burrowing owl burrows, but no owls, were present in the EWTF area during the focused surveys. (Wood-B, Figure 2a.) Because suitable habitat for burrowing owls is present, the potential remains for the species to occur on or adjacent to the EWTF in additional locations in the future. Therefore, to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level, a pre-construction burrowing owl "take avoidance survey" shall be conducted by a qualified biologist at the EWTF pursuant to mitigation measure **MM BIO 4**, prior to any vegetation removal or soil disturbance of unpaved areas. If burrowing owls are observed within the Project site, consultation with CDFW will be required to determine if a Habitat Loss Mitigation and Relocation Program is warranted. Based on the location of the owls, CDFW may require a number of mitigation options that range from passive relocation to habitat replacement.

The BRA identified suitable habitat for sensitive species to be present within the EWTF, specifically in the riparian habitat around the retention basin and the unpaved areas. Focused surveys for three (3) listed species have been completed with no detections of burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, or least Bell's vireo within the EWTF property. Because sensitive species have the potential to move into the EWTF prior to construction, a WEAP will be required pursuant to **MM BIO 1.** In the event construction commences at the EWTF during the

breeding season, 1 February and 31 August, pre-construction surveys for common and special status nesting birds will be required pursuant to **MM BIO 2, MM BIO 3,** and **MM BIO 4.** If detected, the project biologist shall implement avoidance and minimization measures through coordination with CDFW. Through incorporation of mitigation measures **MM BIO 1** through **MM BIO 4,** impacts to sensitive species resulting from demolition and construction activities at the EWTF are reduced to **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed pipeline alignment is located within disturbed areas associated with existing roads, road shoulders, and road right-of-ways. Keeping direct impacts confined to such areas will minimize or eliminate direct impacts to protected biological resources along the pipeline route. Habitat types adjacent to the alignments consist of agricultural lands and developed/disturbed lands. (Wood-A, Figures 5-1 to 5-4.) Areas where direct impacts are possible due to the presence of relatively undisturbed potential habitat along the pipeline alignment include:

- The Alternative Alignment from Edison Avenue north to the EWTF; and
- Any areas where pipeline installation work might encroach on the walls of ditches and berms, which could potentially harbor burrowing owls and/or be a jurisdictional water. (Wood-A, p. 38.)

Suitable habitat for the nomadic, state listed as threatened tricolored blackbird is present along portions of the Brine Pipeline alignment south of Eucalyptus Avenue as shown on **Figure 7b** through **Figure 7d – Vegetation Map**. Therefore, focused surveys for tricolored blackbird were conducted by Wood at this location, with no detections. (Wood-A, p. 41.) Nesting habitat (tall annual vegetation or crops) for this nomadic species is dynamic, however, and can grow, die back, and grow again annually in various locations depending on current land management. Because construction will occur in proximity to suitable habitat for tricolored blackbird, pre-construction surveys will be required for construction during the breeding season for this species (1 March to 31 July) pursuant to mitigation measure **MM BIO 5**.

The CDFW has advised that a minimum of two pre-construction surveys shall be conducted no more than one week before ground disturbances. In the event nesting tricolored blackbirds are found within 500 feet of the Project footprint, CDFW shall be contacted for advice on avoidance measures that should be implemented. Such measures would be chosen at the discretion of the CDFW, but might include “no work” buffers or noise attenuation barriers.

Extremely marginal habitat for the unlisted San Bernardino aster is present in the ephemeral engineered roadside ditch adjacent to the Brine Pipeline alignment for approximately 1.9 miles (9,872 linear feet) commencing on the north side of Merrill Avenue, then going south adjacent to the west side of Euclid Avenue. However, said ditches are regularly maintained and cleared of vegetation by other agencies, and this species has not been detected in the BSA for over 100 years. (Wood-A, p. 40.) The unlisted Southern California black walnut is not in the path of

the Project, and if present at all, it would be within private properties preserved or planted as a shade tree. (Wood-A, p. 40.) Therefore, no impacts to these plant species are anticipated. However, in the event the proposed alignment changes to unpaved areas that have not been previously surveyed, mitigation measure **MM BIO-6** will require a pre-construction rare plant survey of the changed alignment by a qualified biologist. Rare plants identified within the construction area will be flagged for avoidance by the biologist. In the event the plant cannot be preserved in-place, the biologist shall identify appropriate minimization measures including, but not limited to, seed collection or plant relocation.

Suitable habitat for burrowing owl is present along segments of the proposed pipeline alignment within agricultural lands and disturbed/developed areas as shown on Figures 2a through 2c in the *Focused Survey for the Burrowing Owl*, included in Appendix B.2. Wood also spotted several potential burrowing owl burrows along the alignments and made two observations of owl groups (one group of four individuals, and one group of two individuals) adjacent to the proposed pipeline alignments. The majority of potential burrows and one owl group observation are along the Preferred Alignment. The other owl observation was at the northeast corner of Edison Avenue/Bon View Avenue within the agricultural field outside of the Project footprint. Due to the presence of potential burrows and observations of owl groups within close proximity to the pipeline alignments, a pre-construction "take avoidance survey" shall be conducted pursuant to **MM BIO 4** to ensure that any owls that may have moved into the Project area are identified and avoided until consultation with CDFW for minimization and avoidance measures is completed.

Suitable nesting habitat for common and special status birds is present in the trees and shrubs located along the pipeline alignment. Installation of the Brine Pipeline will require the removal of approximately 80 trees that may contain nesting birds, which are protected by the MBTA. Therefore, in the event construction cannot avoid the nesting season (between 1 February and 31 August) a qualified biologist shall perform a pre-construction survey for nesting birds and implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to nesting birds until the young have fledged pursuant to **MM BIO 2**.

In addition, suitable roosting habitat for the western yellow bat is present in native and non-native palm trees and have also been documented roosting in cottonwood trees. Some individuals migrate, but others are present year-round. A few palms suitable for occupation by this species are present in the BSA. If construction cannot avoid removal of trees, a pre-construction roosting bat survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist at most one week prior to project disturbances pursuant to **MM BIO 7**. This mitigation measure applies year-round because roosting can occur year-round. If roosting bats are found, they shall be avoided until the project biologist can consult wildlife agencies for avoidance and minimization measures, which could include the use of noise attenuation barriers.

The habitat assessment identified suitable habitat for sensitive species to be present along the Brine Pipeline alignment, specifically in the trees, agricultural lands, berm/ditch walls, and the

Preferred Alignment. Focused surveys for burrowing owl have been completed, with two groups of owls detected and a multitude of potential burrows found adjacent to the alignment. Focused surveys for tricolored blackbird have also been completed along the alignment, with no detections. Because sensitive species have the potential to move into the unpaved portions of the alignment route prior to construction, a WEAP will be required for the pipeline crew pursuant to **MM BIO 1.** In the event construction commences during the breeding season, which for most nesting birds is between 1 February and 31 August, pre-construction surveys for common and special status nesting birds will be required pursuant to mitigation measures **MM BIO 2, MM BIO 4,** and **MM BIO 5.** If detected, the project biologist shall implement avoidance and minimization measures at their professional discretion and through coordination with CDFW. In the event the pipeline route changes to unpaved areas that have not been surveyed for biological resources previously, **MM BIO 6** will identify and flag special status plant species for avoidance, or relocation if it cannot be avoided. Through implementation of mitigation measures **MM BIO 1** through **MM BIO 7,** impacts to sensitive species resulting from construction of the Brine Pipeline will be reduced to **less than significant**.

4.b. Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

EWTF Expansion

Marginal riparian habitat is present at the EWTF site around the existing retention basin. The basin is a man-made feature and functions to allow process water and stormwater from the EWTF to infiltrate into the ground. The proposed Project footprint avoids the basin and excludes it from the construction area. (Refer to **Figure 4 – EWTF Access, Staging, and Demolition Plan**.) Thus, there will be no direct impacts to the marginal riparian habitat present at the EWTF.

Indirect impacts to nesting bird species could result from construction occurring during the bird breeding season adjacent to the habitat associated with the basin. Therefore, if the riparian habitat is present and construction occurs during the breeding season; mitigation measure **MM BIO 3** will identify the presence of nesting riparian birds, and minimization measures shall be implemented at the discretion of the Project biologist. These measures could include avoidance buffers or temporary noise attenuation barriers until the young birds have fledged. With implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO 3**, indirect impacts to sensitive habitats will be reduced to **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The BRA found no evidence of riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities within the BSA along either the Preferred or Alternative Alignments. Therefore, impacts to sensitive habitats resulting from construction of the Brine Pipeline are **less than significant**.

4.c. Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally-protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF contains a retention basin and channel; however, these features are within the area identified on **Figure 4 – EWTF Access, Staging, and Demolition Plan** as contractor access prohibited and no work will be done in this area. Therefore, expansion of the EWTF will have **no impact** to state or federally protected wetlands.

Brine Pipeline

There are no state- or federally-protected wetlands adjacent to the pipeline alignment. There is an ephemeral engineered roadside ditch adjacent to a portion of the Brine Pipeline alignment, that likely flows for less than three (3) months per year and would therefore be classified as a non-relatively permanent water (RPW) by the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This drainage is adjacent to the Brine Pipeline alignment for approximately 1.9 miles (9,872 linear feet) commencing on the north side of Merrill Avenue, then going south adjacent to the west side of Euclid Avenue then continuing south approximately 3.5 miles where the drainage flows into the Prado Reservoir. Construction of the Brine Pipeline will cross this drainage at the intersection of Merrill Avenue/Euclid. To avoid impacts to this drainage, construction at this location will entail digging an open trench within the roadway and excavating under the existing culverts. Because there are no state- or federally-protected wetlands along the Brine Pipeline Alignment, there will be **no impa**cts in this regard.

4.d. Would the Project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The Project area was assessed by Wood to determine if a wildlife linkage occurs on or within a portion of the BSA. Wood determined that because the BSA is completely altered by development and agriculture, it does not act as a corridor for terrestrial animals. To a limited degree, it acts as a corridor – a flyway – for birds, especially those associated with water, which use agricultural ponds and marshes for foraging. (Wood-A, p. 39.) This was evidenced by the observation of a white-faced ibis (which would only occur in winter or as a forager) foraging in the EWTF retention basin during the BSA survey. (Wood-A, p. 34.) There are no native wildlife nursery sites in proximity to the Project site. For these reasons, impacts will be **less than significant**.

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

The City of Ontario has "Parkway Tree Regulations," which are set forth in Chapter 2 of its Municipal Code. Ontario Municipal Code Section 10-2.05m Injuring, states "No person shall cut, carve, mutilate, or otherwise do harm to any tree in any park, parkway, or public place, or prune or top such trees except as provided in this chapter, or to apply or allow to exist upon any parkway or tree any substance harmful to such trees." Section 10-2.06, Removal: Permits, states "No person shall remove or relocate any parkway tree without prior authorization from the Public Works Agency of the City." Parkway is defined in Section 10-2.03 defined in as "that portion of any public street right-of-way between the right-of-way boundary line and the curb line, and also the area enclosed within the curb lines of a median divider."

The Chino Code of Ordinances 19.06.050 states, "No tree protected by Chapter 12.16 of the Chino Municipal Code shall be removed, unless it is replaced under the provisions of that chapter." Chapter 12.16 states that "This chapter is intended to and does give full advisory authority to the service department (of the City of Chino) over any and all trees, plants and shrubs now planted and growing or hereafter to be planted and grown upon any and all of the public streets and planting strips in the city subject to final approval of the director of public works and the city council." (City of Chino 2019.)

EWTF Expansion

Because implementation of the proposed EWTF Expansion component will not entail the removal of trees there will be **no impact**.

Brine Pipeline

Construction of portion of the Brine Pipeline within the City of Chino does not require tree removal; thus, there will be no conflict with Chino's policies or ordinances. Construction of the portion of the Brine Pipeline between Edison Avenue and Merrill Avenue, which is within the City of Ontario, will require the removal of approximately 80 trees on the west side of the Bon View Avenue ROW. With implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO 8**, which requires coordination with the Ontario Parks Department and obtaining a tree permit if required, potential conflicts with Ontario's Parkway Tree Regulations will be reduced to less than significant.

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

There is one Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in the City of Ontario and one HCP near Ontario. The Oakmont Industrial Group Habitat Conservation Plan encompasses approximately 16 acres in the vicinity of the southwest intersection of Greystone Dive/Stanford Avenue in Ontario. The Southern California Edison Etiwanda and Miraloma Corridor Low-Effect HCP, which encompasses approximately 126 acres near the Cities of Fontana and Ontario. Neither of these HCPs are within the Project area.

There are no HCPs in the City of Chino; however, Chino does implement The Preserve Resource Management Plan (RMP). (Chino GLOSMNDUSFWSP Draft EIR, pp. 4.4-37-4.4-38.)

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The Project is not located in an area that has an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Although the portion of the Brine Pipeline alignment in Merrill Avenue is in proximity to the RMP, it is not within the RMP boundaries. (RMP, Exhibit 3.) Thus, implementation of the Project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other conservation plan; there will be **no impact**.

Biological Resources Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to biological resources to less than significant.

MM BIO 1: Biological Resources Worker Environmental Awareness Program. Prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall be retained by the City of Chino Public Works Department to prepare a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) that will outline pertinent biological issues and avoidance measures related to the project sites and surrounding areas. Such measures will include making sure construction workers and equipment stay out of sensitive vegetation communities and any non-paved area outside of the biological study area (BSA) shown on **Figures 7a through 7d – Vegetation Map**. The biologist or designee(s) shall present the WEAP to the construction contractor and each of the construction crews working at the EWTF and Brine Pipeline alignment during a preconstruction meeting.

MM BIO 2: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey. To avoid direct and indirect impacts to nesting birds, if construction takes place between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist (the "Project Biologist") retained by the City of Chino Public Works Department, shall conduct preconstruction nesting bird survey(s) no sooner than 14 days prior to initiation of ground disturbing activities, to document the presence or absence of nesting birds within or directly adjacent to (within 100 feet) of the construction zone. If no active nests are found during the survey, construction activities may proceed. The Project Biologist shall serve as a biological monitor during those periods when construction activities occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts on these nests occur.

If active nests are documented during the preconstruction survey(s), species-specific measures shall be prepared by the Project Biologist and implemented to prevent abandonment of the active nest. At a minimum, construction in the vicinity of an active nest shall be monitored by the Project Biologist and if necessary, work in the vicinity of the nest shall be postponed until the young birds have fledged or avoidance buffers

established. Any nest permanently vacated for the season would not require monitoring or protection.

MM BIO 3: Preconstruction Least Bell's Vireo Survey. To avoid indirect impacts to least Bell's vireo, if the riparian vegetation is present at the detention basin and construction takes between February 1 and August 31, the Project Biologist shall conduct preconstruction nesting bird survey(s) at the EWTF no sooner than 14 days prior to initiation of construction activities. If active nests are documented during the preconstruction survey(s), species-specific measures shall be prepared by the Project Biologist and implemented to prevent abandonment of the active nest. At a minimum, construction in the vicinity of an active nest shall be monitored by the Project Biologist and if necessary, work in the vicinity of the nest shall be postponed until the young birds have fledged or avoidance buffers established. Any nest permanently vacated for the season would not require monitoring or protection.

MM BIO 4: Preconstruction Burrowing Owl Surveys. To avoid direct and impacts to burrowing owls the Project Biologist shall conduct take avoidance surveys prior to any vegetation removal or soil disturbance at the EWTF and those portions of the Brine Pipeline Alignment with suitable habitat as shown on **Figure 2a through Figure 2c – Burrowing Owl Survey Results** of the *Focused Survey for the Burrowing Owl Eastside Water Treatment Facility and Brineline Project* (Appendix B.2 of the Initial Study). The first survey shall take place no sooner than 14 days prior to initiating ground disturbance and a second survey shall take place within 24 hours prior to ground disturbance. If burrowing owls are present, the Project Biologist shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine if a Habitat Loss Mitigation and Relocation Program is warranted. Based on the location of the owls and if avoidance of the area is not feasible, mitigation options may range from passive relocation to habitat replacement.

MM BIO 5: Preconstruction and Monitoring Surveys for the Tricolored Blackbird. To avoid direct and indirect impacts to tricolored blackbirds, if construction takes place during this species' breeding season (between March 1 and July 31) within 500 feet of suitable nesting habitat, the Project Biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys and monthly monitoring. The first preconstruction survey shall occur no sooner than 15 days prior to construction activities and the second survey shall occur no sooner than five (5) days prior to construction activities. If nesting birds are detected the Project Biologist shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to determine the appropriate avoidance measures. CDFW has the discretion to choose the avoidance measures, which could include "no work" buffers or noise attenuation barriers. Once identified, the avoidance measures shall be implemented. In addition to the preconstruction surveys, the Project Biologist shall conduct monthly surveys during the breeding season if construction is occurring within 500 feet of suitable habitat.

MM BIO 6: Special Status Plant Surveys. Prior to any construction-related activities, including equipment storage and staging, occurring in unpaved areas outside of the biological study area (BSA) shown on **Figures 6a through 6d – Vegetation Map**, the Project Biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys to determine if special status species will be impacted. If the survey results indicate no special status species are present, work may proceed without further action. If the survey results indicate special status plant species are present, the Project Biologist shall flag said species for avoidance, or relocation if avoidance is not feasible.

MM BIO 7: Preconstruction Surveys for Western Yellow Bat. To minimize or avoid impacts to the western yellow bat, prior to the disturbance of (e.g., branch trimming or removal) or removal of any trees along the Brine Pipeline alignment, the Project Biologist shall perform a preconstruction survey no sooner than seven (7) days prior to disturbance or removal to determine if bat roosts are present. If bat roosts are present and disturbance or removal cannot be avoided, the Project Biologist shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify and implement appropriate mitigation measures.

MM BIO 8: Parkway Tree Removal in the City of Ontario. To minimize impacts associated with the removal of parkway trees along the portion of the Brine Pipeline within the City of Ontario, prior to the removal of said trees, the City of Chino Public Works Department, or its designee, shall coordinate with the City of Ontario Parks Department and, if necessary, obtain a tree removal permit and comply with the provisions of said permit. If the Ontario Parks Department determines no tree permit is required, no further action is necessary.

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

Sources: PaleoWest

5.a. Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) refers to the geographic area within which the Project has the potential to directly or indirectly impact historic properties per 36 CFR 800.16(d). The APE for the Project was defined to include the entire existing EWTF property on Schaefer Avenue, the Preferred Alternative, Alternative Alignment, as well as additional areas that may be used for equipment staging and laydown. These additional areas are located within the road ROW or existing easements on either side of the Preferred and Alternative Alignments. The APE for the Project encompasses approximately 68 acres. Ground disturbance is not expected to exceed 5-feet below ground level at the EWTF site and 20-feet below ground for the Brine Pipeline. (PaleoWest, p. 2.)

Cultural literature and records searches were conducted by PaleoWest at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) housed at California State University Fullerton on March 28, 2019 for the Project APE and a one-mile radius. A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search was conducted with the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). (PaleoWest, pp. iii, 2, 19, 25.) Additional sources consulted include the National Register of Historic Places (HRHP), the Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility, and the Office of Historic Preservation Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File. There are no listed historic properties, historical resources, or historic landmarks recorded within a one-mile radius of the Project APE. (PaleoWest, p. 23)

Results of these efforts indicate that no less than 57 investigations have been conducted previously within a one-mile radius of the Project APE. Eighteen of the identified studies appear to intersect with portions of the Project APE; however, the majority of these previous studied are linear and simply bisect the Project APE. (PaleoWest, p. 19.) The records search results also indicated there are 18 previously recorded cultural resources within a one-mile radius of the Project APE; however, none of these resources are located within the Project APE. Further, none of these resources have been recommended eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). (PaleoWest, p. 22.)

In addition to the records search and literature review, a Phase I intensive pedestrian field survey of the Project APE was conducted on August 3, 2019.[5] The Alternative Alignment was not accessible during the survey due to the presence of a locked gate. However, the surveyor was able to obtain photographs from the gate. The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects across the entirety of the Project APE spaced at 10- to 15-meter (33- to 50-feet) intervals, when possible. The Project APE was recorded with digital photographs and a photo log was maintained to include, at a minimum, photo number, date, orientation, photo description, and comments. The surveyor carefully inspected all areas likely to contain or

[5] The Alternative Alignment was not accessible during the survey due to the presence of a locked gate. However, the surveyor was able to obtain photographs from the gate.

exhibit sensitive cultural resources to ensure discovery and documentation of and visible, potentially significant cultural resources located within the Project APE. No prehistoric or historic-period archaeological resources were identified in the Project APE during the pedestrian survey. (PaleoWest, p. 25.)

EWTF Expansion
Because there are no historic resources present at the EWTF site, there will be **no impact**.

Brine Pipeline
Because no historical resources were identified within the APE for the Brine Pipeline, there will be **no impact**.

5.b. Would the Project cause a substantial change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline
Based on the results of the records searches and field survey, no archaeological resources were identified within or adjacent to the Project APE. However, in order to provide protection in the unlikely event that archaeological resources are unearthed during Project construction, the Project will implement mitigation measures **MM CR 1** and **MM CR 2**, which will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

5.c. Would the Project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline
The Project site is not within or adjacent to Human remains are not expected to be disturbed as a result of Project activities. In the unlikely event that unknown human remains are uncovered during Project construction, pursuant to law, the proper authorities will be notified and standard procedures for the respectful handling of human remains will be adhered to in compliance with California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15064.5(e), Public Resources Code (PRC) Division 5, Chapter 1.75, Section 5097.98, State Health and Safety Code (HSC) Division 7, Part 1, Chapter 2, Section 7050.5. Compliance with these regulations will reduce potential impacts to the disturbance of human remains to a **less than significant level.**

Cultural Resources Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to cultural resources to less than significant.

> **MM CR-1: Cultural Resources Worker's Environmental Awareness Training**. Prior to the start of construction, the City of Chino shall retain a Project Archaeologist, meeting Secretary of Interior Standards, to provide a preconstruction training for the Project construction contractor and construction

crews. The training shall identify the types of cultural resources that could be found in the area, the procedures to follow should cultural resources be encountered and contact information for the Project Archaeologist. The training may be conducted concurrently with other environmental training (e.g., biological, safety training).

MM CR-2: Inadvertent Discovery. In the event cultural resources are discovered during Project activities, all ground disturbance activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resource shall be halted and an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) physical demarcation/barrier installed. The contractor shall call the City of Chino Public Works Department and Project Archaeologist immediately upon discovery of the cultural resource to assess the significance of the resource and determine the appropriate treatment (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) and disposition of the cultural resource. Further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of the discovery until the appropriate treatment has been accomplished. Work on the other portions of the Project outside of the buffered area may continue.

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

Sources: CCR, CEC-SCE, TAF-A, TAF-B, WEBB-A

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

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The proposed EWTF Expansion construction activities overlap with the construction activities for the installation of the Brine Pipeline, therefore the following analysis for both Project components are evaluated together.

This analysis addresses each of the six potential energy impacts identified in Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines and utilizes the assumptions from CalEEMod evaluated under threshold 3, Air Quality and threshold 10, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, of this IS/MND, respectively.

Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines provides for assessing potential impacts that a project could have on energy supplies, focusing on the goal of conserving energy by ensuring that projects use energy wisely and efficiently. Pursuant to impact possibilities listed in CEQA Guidelines Appendix F, an impact with regard to energy consumption and conservation will occur if implementation of the proposed Project will result in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. Impacts may include:

1. The project's energy requirements and its energy use efficiencies by amount and fuel type for each stage of the project including construction, operation, maintenance and/or removal;
2. The effects of the project on local and regional energy supplies and on requirements for additional capacity;
3. The effects of the project on peak and base period demands for electricity and other forms of energy;
4. The degree to which the project complies with existing energy standards;
5. The effects of the project on energy resources;
6. The project's projected transportation energy use requirements and its overall use of efficient transportation alternatives.

The analysis below addresses each of these six potential energy impacts.

1. The project's energy requirements and its energy use efficiencies by amount and fuel type for each stage of the project including construction, operation, maintenance and/or removal.

The Project, which consists of expansion of the existing EWTF and construction of the Brine Pipeline, will not require additional employees or increase the frequency of existing maintenance vehicle trips. The construction of the Brine Pipeline will eliminate the need for regular brine waste truck disposal trips; however, the additional water treatment facility capacity would require additional salt truck trips. Ultimately the number of truck loads (trips) would be similar to the current operation. The Project's increase in operational electrical consumption is approximately 102 thousand kilowatt hour per year (KWH/yr). In comparison to the Project, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) produced approximately 83.4 billion kWh of electricity in 2018. (CEC SCE.) At full operation, the Project's electricity demand will be a negligible amount of the existing electricity and will be a negligible percent of the existing electricity use in SCE's service area. There is no natural gas consumption proposed as a result of implementation of the Project. Thus, the long-term operational energy use from the

proposed Project will be negligible and will result in a less than significant effect on energy resources.

Project construction will require the use of construction equipment for each of the construction activities identified in Response 3b, as well as construction workers and vendors traveling to and from the Project site. Construction equipment uses diesel fuel. However, fuel consumed during construction will be temporary in nature and will not represent a significant demand on energy resources. Construction equipment is also required to comply with regulations limiting idling to five minutes or less. (CCR Title 13 § 2449(d)(3).) Furthermore, there are no unusual Project site characteristics that will necessitate the use of construction equipment that will be less energy-efficient than at comparable construction sites in other parts of the State. For comparison, the State of California consumed 15.6 billion gallons of gasoline and 3.1 billion gallons of diesel fuel in 2018, which is the most recent published data. (TAF-A; TAF-B.) Thus, the fuel usage during Project construction will account for a negligible percent of the existing gasoline and diesel fuel related energy consumption in the State of California. Furthermore, it is expected that construction-related fuel consumption associated with the Project will not be any more inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary than at other construction sites in the region.

Because the Project will have consume a limited amount of construction energy and comply with regulatory programs, the Project will not result in the inefficient, unnecessary, or wasteful consumption of energy. Therefore, impacts to energy resources during Project construction and operation will be less than significant.

2. The effects of the project on local and regional energy supplies and on requirements for additional capacity.

The proposed Project is an infrastructure project and will not create a substantial demand for local or regional gas or electricity energy supplies. As previously noted, Project construction would have a negligible increase in annual energy demand and a less than significant impact on electricity. Also, as noted above, the Project does not use natural gas. For these reasons, impacts to local and regional energy supplies during construction or operation will be less than significant.

3. The effects of the project on peak and base period demands for electricity and other forms of energy.

As described above, construction and operation of the Project will not substantially affect peak and base period demands for electricity or other forms of energy, such as natural gas, as the Project does not use natural gas. Therefore, impacts to local and regional energy supplies during construction or operation will be less than significant.

4. The degree to which the project complies with existing energy standards.

The proposed Project will comply with state and federal energy conservation measures related to construction and operations. Although many of the regulations regarding energy efficiency

are focused on increasing building efficiency and renewable energy generation, promoting sustainability through energy conservation measures, as well as reducing water consumption, this Project will comply with applicable regulations. As such, Project construction and operation will meet and/or exceed these regulatory requirements and impacts will be less than significant.

5. The effects of the project on energy resources.

The effects of Project construction and operation with regard to energy supplies and resources from a capacity standpoint are described the preceding analysis. Similar to the discussion above, the Project will comply with applicable regulations that reduce energy consumption such as the Renewable Portfolio Standards, which will reduce reliance on fossil fuels to generate electricity. Further, state and local requirements which reduce water consumption (indoor and outdoor) will limit the wasteful consumption of water-related energy usage. Therefore, the effects of the Project on energy resources, will not result in the inefficient, unnecessary, or wasteful consumption of energy and impacts will be less than significant.

6. The project's projected transportation energy use requirements and its overall use of efficient transportation alternatives.

As indicated in the discussion above, energy impacts associated with transportation during construction and operation of the Project will be negligible and thus will not result in the inefficient, unnecessary, or wasteful consumption of energy. Since this is a public facilities project, this Project will not impact efficient transportation alternatives.

Taken together, implementation of the proposed Project will have **less than significant** impacts regarding the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation.

6.b. Would the Project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

Because construction activities for the EWTF Expansion will overlap with construction activities for the installation of the Brine Pipeline, these components are evaluated together.

As discussed above in Response 6.a, Project implementation will not result in inefficient, unnecessary, or wasteful consumption of energy. As the electrical provider for the proposed Project, SCE will be required to comply with applicable state and federal energy conservation measures related to energy generation, as noted above. As such, impacts regarding conflicting with or obstructing a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency resulting from the Project's construction or operation will be **less than significant**.

Aesthetics Mitigation Measures

Aesthetic impacts are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

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

Sources: Chino GP EIR, Converse, Chino GP, Hazen, TOP DEIR, WEBB-B

A *Geotechnical Investigation Report* was prepared for the Project by Converse Consultants and is the basis for most of the following analysis.

7.a.(i) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other

substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

The Project site is situated in a seismically active region. As is the case for most areas of Southern California, ground-shaking resulting from earthquakes associated with nearby and more distant faults may occur at the project site. During the life of the Project, seismic activity associated with active faults can be expected to generate moderate to strong ground shaking at the EWTF site and along the Brine Pipeline Alignment. The Project site is not located within a currently mapped State of California or San Bernardino County Earthquake Fault Zone for surface fault rupture. The closest known major faults to the Project site with mappable surface projections is the Newport-Inglewood Fault at approximately 9.4 miles to the southwest. (Converse, pp. 9–10.) There are no known active faults projecting toward or extending across the Project site. To address primary effects of seismic activity on the EWTF and Brine Pipeline, the *Geotechnical Investigation Report* identifies seismic design parameters based on the California Building Code (2016) and determined using the Seismic Design Maps application from the Office of Statewide Planning Health and Improvement. (Converse, p. 10.)

EWTF Expansion

The Uniform Building Code, California Building Code, and Unreinforced Masonry Law are the primary tools used by local agencies to ensure seismic safety in structures. The EWTF will include new, non-habitable structures built to current standards. Through incorporation of the seismic recommendations from the *Geotechnical Investigation Report* and current building standards, impacts from rupture of a known earthquake fault are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

No part of the proposed pipeline alignment crosses into a known earthquake fault zone. However, the pipeline will still be subject to seismic activity. Because of the flexibility in the type of pipe that is proposed (PVC), combined with incorporation of the recommendations from the *Geotechnical Investigation Report* impacts to the Brine Pipeline resulting from surface rupture of a known fault are **less than significant**.

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

EWTF Expansion

No habitable structures are proposed at the EWTF that would expose people to adverse effects from strong seismic ground shaking. The new structures proposed for the EWTF will be designed pursuant to current building standards, including the Uniform Building Code, California Building Code, and Unreinforced Masonry Law, which are the primary tools used by local agencies to ensure seismic safety in structures. Through adherence to current building standards and incorporation of the recommendations from the Project geotechnical investigation, impacts from strong seismic ground shaking are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

Although the pipeline will be subject to seismic activity by virtue of being in a seismically active region, no habitable structures are proposed as part of the Project which would expose people to substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving earthquake rupture. The American Water Works Association, American Society of Testing Materials, technical specifications, detailed design drawings, along with local standards are the primary tools used by local agencies to ensure quality piping installation is achieved. Because of the innate flexibility in the type of pipe that is proposed (HDPE), special seismic design considerations in addition to the recommendations from the Project geotechnical investigation are not required. Through incorporation of the recommendations from the geotechnical investigation and current building standards, the risk from the Project during rupture of a known fault is **less than significant**.

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

Soil liquefaction generally occurs in submerged granular soils and non-plastic silts during or after strong ground shaking. There are several general requirements for liquefaction to occur, including: (1) soils must be submerged; (2) soils must be loose to medium-dense; (3) ground motion must be intense; and (4) duration of shaking must be sufficient for the soils to lose shear resistance. Seismically-induced settlement during ground shaking associated with earthquakes is similar to liquefaction, however it occurs in unsaturated, unconsolidated, granular sediments. (Converse, p. 12.)

EWTF Expansion

One exploratory boring was drilled by Converse at the EWTF site as part of the geotechnical investigation on May 29, 2019 to investigate subsurface conditions. The subsurface data that Converse obtained from the boring drilled at the EWTF was used to perform a liquefaction and settlement analysis of the EWTF site. The analysis found the soil underneath the EWTF site has the potential during a large earthquake for up to 0.3 inch of dry seismic settlement with negligible liquefaction induced settlement under groundwater conditions deeper than 50 feet below ground surface (bgs). The dynamic differential settlement of the site may be half of the total settlement (half of 0.3 inch or 0.15 inch) over 30 horizontal feet. (Converse, p. C-1.)

The liquefaction and settlement analysis provides information for the structural design. Through incorporation of the findings and recommendations of the *Geotechnical Investigation Report*, as well as current building standards, impacts from seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction and settlement at the EWTF site are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

Strong ground shaking can cause soils to become more tightly packed and settle due to the collapse of voids and pore spaces. This type of settlement typically occurs in soils that are

loose, granular, and cohesionless, and can occur in either wet or dry soils. Unconsolidated young alluvial sediments are especially susceptible to this hazard. (TOP DEIR, p. 5.7-10.) The results of the geologic mapping completed as part of the Geotechnical Investigation Report indicated that the Project site, which includes the Brine Pipeline alignment, is underlain by young (Holocene-age) alluvial fan deposits. (Converse, p. 9.) Although soils along the Brine Pipeline alignment may be subject to liquefaction and settlement, through implementation of the recommendations of the Geotechnical Investigation Report, particularly those recommendations regarding engineered fill and compacted fill placement, impacts will be reduced to **less than significant**.

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

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

Seismically-induced landslides and slope failures are common occurrences during or soon after large earthquakes. The Project is located in the broad alluvial valley of the Chino Basin. The EWTF property does not contain, or abut, topographical elements that could be subject to landslide or slope failure. The Brine Pipeline will be buried underground in the same type of flat topography. Due to the flat nature of the Project area, the potential for seismically-induced landslides affecting the Project is considered low. (Converse, p. 12.) Therefore, substantial adverse impacts resulting from landslides are **less than significant**.

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

EWTF Expansion

The Project is located in the broad alluvial valley of the Chino Basin. The EWTF property does not contain, or abut, topographical elements that could induce or be subject to substantial erosion. Offsite run-on from Schaefer Avenue would be negligible because of the flatness of the area and the distance from the road to the facility. The EWTF site generally slopes down from north to south at a rate of approximately 1.2 percent with the low point at the southerly retention basin. (Hazen, p. 3-25.) The proposed improvements at the EWTF do not include significant changes in the existing topography. In addition, no asphalt paving is included in this Project (Hazen, p. 3-25); therefore, the area of imperviousness is not expected to significantly increase. Some grading, excavations, staging of equipment and materials, and the import of clean fill will be necessary. Project biding and construction to operational completion is estimated to last 18 months. (Hazen, p. 6-34); therefore, construction is likely to occur during the rainy season when soil erosion is most likely to occur. Because the Project is greater than one acre in size, Project compliance with the statewide Construction General Permit (CGP) for construction activities will be required (Order 2009-009-DWQ). This includes preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) by a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) and implementation of effective onsite erosion control BMPs by a Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP). Following the expansion, EWTF operations will be similar to existing operational activities, which include periodic maintenance activities that release water; but because onsite flows will continue to be directed to the retention basin, and are expected to be of the same

volume and velocity, the Project will not result in substantial erosion. Through implementation of existing regulations to control the loss of topsoil, impacts will be **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The Brine Pipeline will be buried underground within the flat alluvial valley topography of the Chino Basin. During construction however, there is potential for erosion from wind and water. Because the pipeline is part of a Project that is greater than one acre in size, coverage under the statewide CGP for construction activities (including linear projects) will be required (Attachment A to Order 2009-009-DWQ). This includes preparation of a SWPPP by a QSD and implementation of effective erosion control BMPs by a QSP. No operational activities of the pipeline will result in soil erosion. Through implementation of and compliance with existing regulations to control the loss of topsoil, impacts will be **less than significant**.

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

Impacts related to liquefaction and settlement are addressed in Response 7.a.(iii) and impacts related to landslide are addressed in Response 7.a.(vi), above. Collapsible soils can result in liquefaction and settlement when the right conditions are present, therefore, the analysis in Response 7.a.(iii) is also applicable to impacts from collapsible soils. This analysis addresses impacts related to unstable soils that could result in lateral spread or subsidence.

Lateral spread generally involves lateral movement of earth materials over underlying materials which are liquefied due to ground shaking. (Converse, p. 12.)

Ground subsidence is the gradual settling or sinking of the ground surface with little or no horizontal movement, and most often results from human activities such as the extraction of oil, gas, or groundwater. Effects of subsidence include fissures, sinkholes, depressions, and disruption of surface drainage. (TOP DEIR, p. 5.7-13.) Land subsidence resulting from groundwater production has occurred in the City of Chino, specifically in Management Zone 1 (MZ1) of the Chino Groundwater Basin.

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF is located in a region of flat topography. Due to the flat topography of the EWTF site, the risk of lateral spreading is considered low. (Converse, p. 12).

Ground subsidence resulting from groundwater pumping has been known to occur in the City of Chino, particularly in the MZ1 area west of the Project site. The Project analyzed herein is the expansion of treatment capacity of the existing treatment facilities at the EWTF. The Project does not include an increase of groundwater production rates. Therefore, the impact of lateral spread, subsidence and other unstable soil conditions that could result from the Project are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The preceding discussion of the EWTF is also applicable to the Brine Pipeline. The risk of lateral spread is considered low and the pipeline will not result in subsidence or other unstable soil conditions. Through implementation of the recommendations in the *Geotechnical Investigation Report*, impacts are **less than significant.**

7.d. Would the Project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Certain types of soil are inherently expansive, meaning they can expand and contract as the water content fluctuates within the soil. This expansion and contraction, also called "shrink-swell," can damage structures that are not appropriately engineered for this activity. (Chino GP EIR, p. 4.6-8.)

EWTF Expansion

One representative soil sample from the upper five feet of the EWTF was tested as part of the geotechnical investigation to determine the expansion index (EI). The test soil was described as silty sand and the test result showed an EI of 0, indicating very low expansion potential. (Converse, p. 13.) Therefore, the proposed improvements at the EWTF are not expected to be located on an expansive soil that would create risk to life or property, and impacts are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

One representative soil sample from the upper 10 feet of the pipeline alignment was tested during the geotechnical investigation to determine the expansion index (EI). The test soil was described as sandy clay and the test result showed an EI of 54, indicating medium expansion potential. (Converse, p. 13.)

In addition, five (5) samples along the alignment were tested for sand equivalents, which ranged from four (4) to 12. Typically, soils with sand equivalent values of 30 or more are used as pipe bedding material (i.e. the material supporting and surrounding the pipe). Based on the laboratory test results, onsite soils may not be suitable for pipe bedding. (Converse, p. 18.)

Therefore, the recommendations of the *Geotechnical Investigation Report* regarding suitable bedding material shall be incorporated into the design and construction of the Brine Pipeline to reduce the impact of potentially expansive soils. Incorporation of said recommendations regarding bedding material in combination with the type of pipe proposed (HDPE), which is inherently flexible, will reduce potential impacts from expansive soils to **less than significant.**

7.e. Would the Project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF has no direct sewer connection and utilizes a 1,000-gallon below-ground holding tank for storing sewage from bathrooms. The sewage is pumped from the holding tank into a truck and hauled offsite for disposal. The holding tank does not leach sewage into the ground. The proposed Project does not include alterations to the existing sewage holding tank, nor does it include the introduction of septic tanks or other waste water disposal system.

The washdown water from the existing ISEP™ process building and the tank farm area all drain to a 1,000-gallon stormwater vaulted holding tank. This tank also requires removal by truck when full. The overflow from the stormwater vault goes to the retention basin on the south side of the site. Operators have historically noticed poor drainage of water from the process building to the stormwater drain holding tank. It is proposed under this Project to replace the existing stormwater holding tank with a 6,000-gallon stormwater holding tank for capture of washdown drainage from the new ISEP™ building. The stormwater waste tank will be fitted with a level transmitter as currently done to warn Operations Staff in the event of an overflow. The existing building drainage and new building drainage would both be routed to this tank. Therefore, **no impacts** to soils are anticipated in this regard.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed Brine Pipeline will convey brine waste from the EWTF to the IEBL connection point near the intersection of Kimball Avenue/Euclid Avenue. The pipelines will not dispose of waste water to the ground. Thus, there will be **no impact** in terms of having soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

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

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

Although there are no known unique paleontological resources or geologic features at the EWTF site or along the Brine Pipeline alignment, paleontological resources have been discovered in both the City of Chino and City of Ontario. (Chino GP DEIR, p. 4.5-12; TOP DEIR, p. 5.5-14.) The Project site is underlain by young (Holocene-aged) alluvial fan deposits, which have a low potential to contain significant nonrenewable paleontological resources. However, the younger sediments may overlie older Pleistocene sediments, which have a high potential to contain paleontological resources. (TOP DEIR, p. 5.5-14.) Because ground disturbance is not expected to exceed 5-feet below ground level at the EWTF site, it is unlikely paleontological resources will be encountered at that location. Construction of the Brine Pipeline may result in ground disturbance of up to 20 feet. To reduce potential impacts to unique paleontological resources to a **less than significant** level, the Project will implement mitigation measure **MM GEO-1**.

Geology and Soils Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to unique paleontological resources to less than significant.

MM GEO-1: Inadvertent Paleontological Discovery. Should any paleontological resource(s) be accidentally discovered during construction, construction activities shall be moved to other parts of the construction site and a qualified paleontologist shall be retained to determine the significance of the resource(s). If the find is determined to be a unique paleontological resource, as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, then a mitigation program shall be developed in accordance with the provisions of CEQA as well as the guidelines of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2010).

The paleontologist (or designee(s)) shall wash any collected samples of sediments to recover small invertebrate and vertebrate fossils. Recovered specimens shall be prepared so that they can be identified and permanently preserved. Specimens shall be identified and curated at a repository with permanent retrievable storage to allow further research in the future (e.g., Western Science Center, Raymond Alf Museum, or the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County). The cost of curation is assessed by the repository and is the responsibility of the landowner. If specimens are found, the qualified paleontologist shall prepare a report of findings, including an itemized inventory of recovered specimens, upon completion of all Project fieldwork. The report shall include a discussion of the significance of all recovered specimens. The report and inventory, when submitted to the City of Chino Public Works Department, shall signify completion of the program to mitigate impacts to paleontological resources. If the monitoring efforts produced fossils, then a copy of the report will also be submitted to the curation facility.

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

Sources: CARB-B**,** SCAQMD-C, SCAQMD-D, WEBB-A

8.a. Would the Project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The proposed EWTF expansion construction activities overlap with the construction activities for the installation of the Brine Pipeline, therefore r both Project components are evaluated together in the following discussion.

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are not presented in pounds per day (lbs/day) like criteria pollutants; they are typically evaluated on an annual basis using the metric system. Several agencies, at various levels, have proposed draft GHG significance thresholds for use in CEQA documents. SCAQMD has been working on GHG thresholds for development projects. The most recent draft proposal was in September 2010 and included significance thresholds for residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects at 3,500, 1,400, and 3,000 metric tonnes per year of carbon dioxide equivalents ($MTCO_2E/yr$), respectively (SCAQMD-C). Alternatively, a lead agency has the option to use 3,000 $MTCO_2E/yr$ as a threshold for all non-industrial projects. Although both options are recommended by SCAQMD, a lead agency is advised to use only one option and to use it consistently. The SCAQMD significance thresholds also evaluate construction emissions by amortizing them over an expected project life of 30 years. If emissions are above the screening level threshold, additional analysis may be required. The analysis herein uses the threshold of 3,000 $MTCO_2E/yr$.

The Air Quality/Greenhouse Analysis (AQ/GHG Analysis) prepared for the Project (WEBB-A) and provided in Appendix A estimated Project-generated GHG emissions from construction and operation using the CalEEMod model. The CalEEMod output results for construction-related GHG emissions present the GHG emissions estimates for the project for carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and CO_2 equivalents (CO_2E). Construction-related GHG emissions are calculated from fuel usage by construction equipment and construction-related activities, like construction worker trips, for the Project, which are described in Response 3.b, above, and discussed in detail in Appendix A. Long-term GHG emissions from

the proposed Project include electricity from the new electrical equipment for the EWTF site. The estimated electricity increase is approximately 102 thousand kilowatt hours per year (kWH/yr).

As shown in **Table H – Total Project-Related GHG Emissions,** the total GHG emissions generated from the proposed Project are approximately 56.20 $MTCO_2E$ per year which includes construction-related emissions amortized over a typical project life of 30 years.

Table H – Total Project Related GHG Emissions

Source	Metric Tons per year (MT/yr)			
	CO_2	CH_4	N_2O	Total CO_2E
Amortized Construction	--	--	--	23.66
Energy	32.42	0.00	0.00	32.54
Total	**32.42**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**56.20**

Source: Appendix A – Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Analysis
Note: Emissions reported as zero are rounded and not necessarily equal to zero.

The proposed Project does not fit into the categories provided (industrial, commercial, and residential) in the draft thresholds from SCAQMD. The Project's emissions were compared to whichever threshold is more conservative. Since the draft SCAQMD GHG threshold Guidance document released in October 2008 (SCAQMD-D) recommends that construction emissions be amortized for a project lifetime of 30 years, the total GHG emissions from Project construction were amortized and added to the energy-related GHG emissions. The resulting total GHG emissions (56.2 $MTCO_2E$/yr as shown above in T**able H**) are below the SCAQMD recommended screening level of 3,000 $MTCO_2E$/yr. Due to the estimated amount of emissions from Project construction and negligible operational emissions from infrequent maintenance vehicles related to the Brine Pipeline and increased electrical usage at the EWTF site, the proposed Project will not generate GHG emissions that exceed the screening threshold and, the proposed Project will not generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, impacts will be **less than significant**.

8b. Would the Project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

CEQA allows lead agencies to consider whether regulatory programs are adequate to reduce a project's potentially significant environmental effects. Under Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the State's emission inventory must be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020 (CARB-B). Most of the reductions required to reach AB 32's 2020 reduction target will be achieved by regulations that apply to both existing and new development, including the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), Pavley standards, Low Carbon Fuel Standards (LCFS), landfill regulations, regulations and programs on high global warming potential (GWP) gases, initiatives on water conservation (such as Senate Bill X7-7 [SB X7-7]), and the indirect influence of the Cap and Trade system on electricity and transportation fuel prices (CARB-B). These regulations are sufficient to achieve

AB 32's goal to reduce statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The CARB 2017 Scoping Plan includes a regulatory strategy that will result in the State achieving the Senate Bill 32 (SB 32) target by 2030 (CARB-B). As described in Response 8.a, above, the proposed Project will not generate a significant amount of GHG emissions. For these reasons, the proposed Project does not conflict with any regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases and impacts will be **less than significant**.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources Mitigation Measures

Impacts to GHG emissions are less than significant; therefore. no mitigation is required.

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

Sources: CalEPA, Cal OES, CCR, CFR, Chino ACLUP, DTSC EnviroStor, Health and Safety Code.

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

Construction activities may include the transport and storage of hazardous materials, such as fuels, used for the construction equipment. The transportation of hazardous materials can result in accidental spills, leaks, toxic releases, fire, or explosion. The Project is not expected to create the need for an excess of hazardous materials being used on-site for construction.

A number of federal and state agencies prescribe strict regulations for the safe transportation of hazardous materials. Hazardous material transport, storage, and response to upset or accidents are primarily subject to federal regulation by the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Hazardous Materials Safety in accordance with Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). California regulations applicable to hazardous material transport, storage, and response to upsets or accidents are codified in Title 13 (Motor Vehicles), Title 8 (Cal/OSHA), Title 22 (Management of Hazardous Waste), Title 26 (Toxics), of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), and the Chapter 6.95 of the Health and Safety Code (Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory).

EWTF Expansion

As reported to the state on February 19, 2019 the following chemicals are stored at the EWTF site (CalEPA Regulated Site Portal):

- Brine Waste (liquid);
- Chlorine (gas);
- Hydrochloric Acid (10-33 percent, liquid);
- Sodium Chloride (solid);
- Sodium Hypochlorite (liquid);
- Softener – Brine Waste – Sodium Chloride (liquid)

Operation of the EWTF will require the use of sodium chloride (NaCl), hydrochloric acid (HCl), sodium hydroxide (NaOH) and chlorine gas. (Hazen, p. 3-11.) The sodium chloride is applied as a rock salt dissolved in the brine maker to achieve a 26 percent NaCl solution. For the backwash cycle, softened water is mixed with 0.2 percent HCl solution. (Hazen, p. 3-11.) In addition, a maximum of four 150-lb cylinders of liquefied chlorine gas are stored in the chlorinator room. (Converse, pp. 12-13.)

Depending on the quantity and concentration, chemicals used at the EWTF may be hazardous to on-site staff and the surrounding environment if released. Compliance with applicable federal and state laws related to the transportation, use, storage, and response to upsets or accidents that may involve hazardous materials would reduce the likelihood and severity of upsets during transit and storage. Disposal of hazardous materials would be subject to the appropriate disposal regulations, fees, and methods. In the event a release of hazardous materials occurs, the EWTF is required to report to the California Governor's Office of

Emergency Services (OES) Warning Center who will then notify the local RWQCB, the local public health department, and local office of environmental health. These government offices are responsible for determining appropriate public and environmental safety measures. Therefore, compliance with existing regulations will reduce potential impacts to **less than significant.**

Brine Pipeline

Construction of the proposed pipeline may include the transport and storage of hazardous materials, such as fuels for the construction equipment. The transportation of hazardous materials can result in accidental spills, leaks, toxic releases, fire, or explosion. The Project is not expected to create the need for an excess amount of hazardous materials being used on-site for construction.

Once the pipeline is operational, it will convey concentrated brine waste and brine waste softener from the EWTF to the nearest connection point of the IEBL located near the intersection of Kimball and Euclid Avenues. The IEBL conveys brine waste, which is primarily concentrated salt, to Orange County Sanitation District for treatment prior to discharge into the ocean. Manholes to access the pipeline will be constructed every 400- to 700-feet along the length of the pipeline. The manholes may vent trapped air and, in the event of a pipeline failure, brine waste. Although it is a "reportable" spill if released into the environment unintentionally, brine waste is no more hazardous than sewage, and in addition, the proposed pipeline will be buried.

Compliance with applicable federal and state laws related to the transportation, use, storage, and response to upsets or accidents that may involve hazardous materials would reduce the likelihood and severity of upsets and accidents during transit and storage. Additionally, the Project is not expected to result in the use of large amounts of hazardous materials that would create a hazard to the public or environment. Therefore, potential impacts are considered **less than significant**.

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

EWTF Expansion

As noted previously, the proposed activities at the EWTF will require certain chemicals for the construction and operation of the facility, and depending on the quantities and concentrations present, may be considered hazardous if unintentionally released into the environment. The EWTF is surrounded by dairy farms and agricultural operations. The EWTF will continue utilizing standard operating procedures for the handling and disposal of chemicals that are used on-site. New procedures will also be incorporated for each new chemical or material that may be required as part of the new treatment system components. Bulk quantities of potentially hazardous materials will be equipped with secondary containment measures, which

provide a second layer of protection if the first containment method were to fail. In addition, the existing stormwater vaulted holding tank will be expanded from 1,000 gallons to 6,000 gallons to better hold onsite flows. In the event a release of hazardous materials occurs, the EWTF is required to report to the California Governor's OES Warning Center, who will then notify the local RWQCB, the local public health department, and local office of environmental health. These government offices are responsible for determining appropriate public and environmental safety measures. Reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions that would release hazardous materials into the environment are not expected through project design features and compliance with existing regulations; therefore, impacts are **less than significant.**

Brine Pipeline

As noted above, the proposed brine waste pipeline may involve the use of hazardous materials during construction and operation, but shall be required to comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to the transport, use, disposal, handling, and storage of hazardous materials, including but not limited to Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations and Title 13, (motor vehicles) Title 8 (Cal/OSHA), Title 22 (Health and Safety Code), Title 26 (Toxics) of the California Code of Regulations, and Chapter 6.95 of the Health and Safety Code (Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory), which describe strict regulations for the safe transportation of hazardous materials.

Although a brine spill would be a "reportable" spill if released into the environment unintentionally, brine waste is no more hazardous than sewage, and in addition, the proposed pipeline will be buried. The Brine Pipeline will have manholes located periodically along the length of the pipeline that will vent trapped air. In the event of a pipe break, the manholes may emit brine waste, considered equivalent to the hazards of a sewage spill. Compliance with all applicable federal and state laws related to the transportation, use and storage of hazardous materials will reduce the likelihood and severity of accidents during transit, use and storage to a **less than significant** impact.

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

EWTF Expansion

There are no existing schools or known future school sites within one-quarter mile of the EWTF. Therefore, impacts from hazardous emissions or handling of hazardous substances within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

There are no existing schools or known future school sites within one-quarter mile of the proposed Brine Pipeline alignment. Lyle Egan High School was located at 15180 South Euclid Avenue as part of the youth correctional facility but was closed in 2010. Therefore, impacts

from hazardous emissions or handling of hazardous substances within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school are **less than significant**.

9.d. Would the Project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

The state Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) maintains the "EnviroStor" database, which is the DTSC's data management system (per Government Code Section 65962.5) for tracking their cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination, or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. EnviroStor also includes information on Spills, Leaks, Investigation, and Cleanups (SLIC) sites and Leaking Underground Fuel (or Storage) Tank (LUFT or LUST) cleanup sites regulated by the SWRCB/RWQCB, as reported to the GeoTracker system.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) maintains the "CalEPA Regulated Site Portal" that combines data from five state and federal data sources including, EnviroStor, CERS (California Environmental Reporting System), GeoTracker, CIWQS (California Integrated Water Quality System) and TRI (Toxics Release Inventory).

EWTF Expansion

According to the CalEPA Regulated Site Portal, the regulatory programs applicable to the EWTF are Chemical Storage Facilities, and Hazardous Chemical Management. Regulatory oversight of each of these is done by San Bernardino County Fire. The EWTF is currently in compliance on these items.

According to a search of the EnviroStor database, as of August 2019, the EWTF is not listed on a hazardous materials list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Furthermore, the Project would upgrade and expand the water treatment capacity of the EWTF within the developed footprint of the plant; therefore public or environmental exposure to hazardous materials resulting from construction is unlikely. Therefore, the Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment because the facility is not on a list of hazardous materials sites, and impacts are **less than significant.**

Brine Pipeline

Based on a review of the EnviroStor database, the pipeline is not aligned through or adjacent to properties that are included on a list of active hazardous materials sites. The segment of pipeline within Euclid Avenue south of Merrill Avenue will pass through the areal extent of a known groundwater plume of volatile organic compounds emanating from the Chino Airport (7000 Merrill Avenue). This is an ongoing groundwater remediation program (Regional Board Case #2086300) known as the Chino Airport Groundwater Remedial Project (CAGRP), which was approved by San Bernardino County on January 29, 2019. The Project design engineers have coordinated with the design engineers of the CAGRP to determine if the Brine Pipeline

requires any design changes to avoid conflicts with the remediation plan. (WEBB-B, p. 7-8). The CAGRP is in the preliminary design stage. In order to avoid conflicts along Euclid Avenue and Kimball Avenue, Project engineers will continue coordinating with the CAGRP designers and obtain updated plans.

Based on a review of the CalEPA Regulated Site Portal, the pipeline alignment is adjacent to several properties that are have been a part of some sort of government regulation program; however, no information on the Portal indicated that constructing a pipeline adjacent to these properties would create conflict or exposure to risk.

- Nederend Dairy No. 2-Schaefer, 7520 Schaefer, Ontario.
    - Regulatory Program: NPDES Wastewater and Stormwater
        - Status – in compliance.
- Chino Valle Heifer Ranch, 13752 Bon View, Ontario.
    - Regulatory Program: Animal Wastewater Discharge
        - Status – in compliance.
- Cirilo Silva Calf Ranch, 14366 Bon View, Chino.
    - Regulatory Program: Animal Wastewater Discharge
        - Status – in compliance.
- Southern California Dairy Equip., 7000 Merrill Ave, A320 Suite 1, Chino.
    - Regulatory Program: Chemical Storage Facilities, Hazardous Waste Generator
        - Status – In compliance.
- Aero Trader, 7000 Merrill Ave., Unit 19, Chino.
    - Regulatory Program: US EPA Air Emission Inventory System
        - Status – in compliance
- Herman G Stark Youth Correctional Facility, 15180 S. Euclid, Chino.
    - Regulatory Program: US EPA Air Emission Inventory System, Aboveground Petroleum Storage, Chemical Storage Facilities, Hazardous Waste Generator.
        - Status – in compliance.
- BP John Hauling, 17954 S. Euclid, Chino.
    - Regulatory Program: US EPA Air Emission Inventory System
        - Status - In compliance.
- Proposed Farmer Boys Restaurant and Commercial Services, southwest corner of Kimball Avenue and Euclid Avenue, Chino.
    - Regulatory Program: Construction Storm Water.
        - Status – In compliance.
- Chino Basin Desalter Authority, 6905 Kimball, Chino.
    - Regulatory Program: US EPA Air Emission Inventory System
        - Status – In compliance.

Because the pipeline design will coordinate and incorporate recommendations from the CAGRP to avoid impacts to or from the groundwater plume along Euclid and Kimball Avenues, and the pipeline is not located on properties that are listed pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, construction and operation of the Brine Pipeline is not anticipated to create a hazard to the public or environment. Therefore, potential impacts are considered **less than significant**.

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

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF is located within the Chino Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (ACLUP) area; specifically, within the "Conical Surface" buffer around Referral Area "C". While not specifically incorporated as a referral area, a Conical Surface extends for a distance of 4,000 feet outward and upward from the perimeter of Referral Area C at a slope of 20 to 1. This area is still the subject of FAA Part 77 height restrictions (ACLUP, p. 1-16). The proposed structures will be of commensurate height as the existing structures, and because they do not include housing accommodations, impacts from airport safety hazards or excessive noise are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The entire pipeline is within the Chino ACLUP. Because the pipeline will be located underground and does not include housing or employment centers, impacts from safety hazards or excessive noise are **less than significant**.

9.**f. Would the Project impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF is located within the City of Ontario and the County of San Bernardino. The San Bernardino County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) is the state-designated CUPA (Certified Unified Program Agency) for the County of San Bernardino, which oversees programs to address the disposal, handling, processing, storage, and treatment of local hazardous materials and waste products. The County Fire Department also provides emergency response services and hazardous material inspections to cities in San Bernardino County, including Ontario. The EWTF is inspected by the County Fire Department as part of regular operations.

The EWTF is owned and operated by the City of Chino. The City maintains its own Emergency Response Plan to minimize the impact of water supply interruptions. (UWMP, p. 67.) Throughout the process of implementing the Emergency Response Plan, the City Water Utility will coordinate with the City's Emergency Operations Center. (UWMP, p. 68.)

Maintaining existing plant operations (MOPO) during construction and commissioning is important to maintaining a potable water supply to the distribution system. The construction of new treatment processes will be in a new space on the existing site that does not directly impact operations of the existing facilities. Access will be maintained during construction to allow operators at the EWTF suitable access for operations and maintenance. During construction of the ISEP™ building and the underground pipeline connection points between the GAC and buildings, access to the south side of the site will be disrupted. The contractor will be required to maintain temporary roadway access. This will include maintaining appropriate access to the chlorination facility to allow continued use. The EWTF specifications will include specific details for the general contractor outlining MOPO requirements. (Hazen, p. 7-35.)

The primary impacts to MOPO are the interface connection points:

- Well pipeline connection;
- GAC expansion points (feed, effluent, backwash, backwash waste)
- Pipeline connection between GAC and IX;
- Treated water pipeline connection to reservoir; and
- Waste pipeline connection.

Plant shutdowns during construction of these pipelines is unavoidable. To reduce the impact, the pipelines can be constructed and blind flanged at each connection point. Also, the GAC and IX unit will be commissioned individually to minimize disruption to existing operations. Additionally, a shutdown will be required to integrate the new electrical infrastructure to the existing system and transformer. The shutdowns can be planned and multiple connections can occur during a single shutdown to minimize downtime. (Hazen, p. 7-35.)

By planning for ways to maintain ongoing plant operations and access to all parts of the site during construction, the Project will not interfere with implementation of an emergency response or evacuation plan; therefore, impacts to an adopted emergency plan are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

Although the design of the pipeline places it at the edge of existing pavement or in the road shoulders outside of pavement, installation of the proposed pipeline will require encroachment permits and approved traffic control plans from each jurisdiction through which the pipeline will cross. This includes, Caltrans, City of Chino, and City of Ontario (WEBB-B, pp. 7-1-7-5). Depending on the location and extent of an emergency, the surface streets affected by the proposed pipeline could be utilized to route traffic. The ability of emergency vehicles to safely, efficiently and quickly pass by the proposed pipeline installation will not be limited with implementation of the Project's Traffic Management Plan (TMP), see threshold 14, Transportation/Traffic below). Therefore, Project impacts related to the interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan will be **less than significant**.

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

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF is located within a dairy and agricultural community, which is not immune to the threat of wildland fires. Some of the proposed plant upgrades will construct new equipment, machinery and structures, the plant's existing procedures for fuel abatement and fire suppression will limit the risk of wildland fires. In addition, the Project does not include the construction of residential structures that would expose people or structures at the EWTF to a significant level of risk from wildland fires. Therefore, impacts are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed Brine Pipeline will be located underground and would not expose people or structures to a significant level of risk from wildland fires. Impacts will be **less than significant**.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials Mitigation Measures

Impacts regarding hazards and hazardous materials are less than significant; therefore. no mitigation is required.

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or				
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.	☐	☐	☒	☐

Sources: Wood-D, Project Description. Flood Insurance Rate Maps, Converse

10.a. Would the Project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Water quality standards are the combination of water quality objectives (i.e. numeric and narrative thresholds) that are established to protect the beneficial uses of downstream receiving waters.

EWTF Expansion

During construction of the proposed improvements at the EWTF, there may be exposure of pollutants which may degrade water quality. Therefore, an effective SWPPP developed by a QSD and implemented onsite by a QSP will be required for construction operations pursuant to the CGP (Order 2009-009-DWQ) (also discussed in threshold 7 Geology and Soils). The SWPPP will describe stormwater and non-stormwater control measures that will be used to minimize the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable.

After completion of the proposed improvements, stormwater runoff from the EWTF will continue to be captured in an underground vault with overflow to the onsite retention basin. Effluent from the water treatment system will be piped south in the proposed Brine Pipeline, and sewage from bathrooms will continue to be held in a vault before being trucked away. Because treatment wastes and sewage are contained in closed systems, they are not expected to degrade groundwater quality. Further, infiltration is considered one of the best methods of removing typical pollutants from stormwater; therefore, the runoff in the retention basin is also not expected to degrade water quality. Therefore, impacts to surface or groundwater quality during construction and operation of the EWTF will be **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The Brine Pipeline will be buried underground within paved roadways and the road shoulders. During construction however, there is potential for the exposure of construction-related

pollutants to surface and ground waters. Because the pipeline is part of a Project that is greater than one acre in size, coverage under the statewide CGP for construction activities (including linear projects) will be required (Attachment A to Order 2009-009-DWQ). This includes preparation of a SWPPP by a QSD and implementation of effective erosion control BMPs by a QSP. Operational activities of the pipeline will not impact surface or ground waters. Through implementation of existing regulations to control construction-related pollutants, impacts will be **less than significant**.

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

EWTF Expansion

The treatment capacity of the EWTF will be increased as a result of the Project. The Project does not include an increase in the rate of groundwater pumping at the EWTF or the development of new well sites. Therefore, impacts to groundwater supplies or recharge are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed pipeline will be installed underground beneath existing paved roads and road shoulders adjacent to paved roads. The pipeline will convey brine and softener wastes that are produced as a result of the water treatment processes at the EWTF. A known plume of groundwater contamination from the Chino Airport is within the proposed alignment along Euclid Avenue; therefore, pipeline design will be coordinated with the remediation project designers to ensure no adverse impacts to the remediation project or the Brine Pipeline occur. Construction and operation of the proposed pipeline will not decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge and impacts are **less than significant.**

10.c.i. Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on-or-off-site?

10.c.ii. Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or-off-site?

10.c.iii. Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned

stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF site contains a drainage channel and retention basin, which currently intercepts and collects onsite runoff for the purpose of containing it onsite. The proposed Project will increase impervious areas onsite which may increase the rate of stormwater runoff. The Project includes an expansion of the stormwater vault so that the increase in runoff will not adversely impact the retention basin. Further, as shown in **Figure 4 – EWTF Access, Staging, and Demolition Plan**, the Project design avoids the existing onsite drainage channel and retention basin. Through compliance with a construction SWPPP and Project design considerations, impacts from substantial erosion, siltation, flooding, exceeding the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems, and providing additional sources of polluted runoff will be **less than significant.**

Brine Pipeline

The Jurisdictional Delineation Report prepared for the Brine Pipeline identified one drainage channel located along the north side of Merrill Avenue and one drainage channel along the east side of Euclid Avenue. The proposed pipeline will avoid the existing drainages located along the alignment. However, installation of the proposed pipeline will temporarily impact the drainage pattern of the area. Through compliance with a construction SWPPP and Project design considerations to avoid drainage features, impacts from substantial erosion, siltation, flooding, exceeding the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems, and providing additional sources of polluted runoff will be **less than significant.**

10.c.iv. Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would create or contribute runoff water which would impede or redirect flood flows?

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF site is shown on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) No. 06071C8620H (revised August 28, 2008) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. The EWTF is within flood zone "Zone D" which is an area where "flood hazards are undetermined, but possible." The area surrounding Zone D in which the EWTF is located is designated "Zone X" which is "areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain (i.e. 500-year flood)." Offsite flows coming onto the EWTF site are considered minimal given the surrounding topography and land uses. As shown in **Figure 4**, the Project will avoid the onsite drainage channel and retention basin, which provide stormwater runoff and capture to avoid runoff exiting the property. The Project will also expand the capacity of the existing stormwater vault to offset the increase in impervious area. Because the EWTF site is in flood zone D and surrounded by flood zone X, the risk of the EWTF being subject to flood flows is considered low. Through compliance with existing regulations for stormwater runoff, as well as project design features to accommodate changes

in the amount of onsite stormwater runoff, impacts to impeding or redirecting flood flows are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed pipeline alignment is shown on FIRM No. 06071C9335H (revised August 28, 2008). All of the alignment is within flood Zone D. Installation of the pipeline will avoid surface drainage channels and will be placed underneath existing culverts that feed said drainage channels. The pipeline will be located underground and will not require new aboveground structures. Therefore, impacts to impeding or redirecting flood flows are **less than significant**.

10.d. Would the Project in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF is not located in a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone, including the Prado Dam Inundation Area (City of Chino General Plan EIR Figure 4.8-2; Converse, p. 12.). According to Figure 5.9-2 of The Ontario Plan Draft EIR, the EWTF is located within the San Antonio Creek Dam Failure inundation zone. San Antonio Dam is on San Antonio Creek, located approximately five miles north of the northern City boundary. Catastrophic failure of the San Antonio Dam could occur during an earthquake. Catastrophic failure of the San Antonio Dam when it is at or near capacity could spread water two to four feet deep over the western and central parts of Ontario. A less severe inundation scenario, when the dam is not at capacity, could be contained in the Cucamonga Creek channel until it reached Holt Avenue, at which point it would overflow the banks and flood a localized area roughly between Vineyard Avenue and Archibald Street. The Ontario Plan Draft EIR determined that the probability of catastrophic failure of the San Antonio Dam is very low and that Ontario is adequately prepared in the event of such a failure. Inundation of the EWTF would pose limited risk of pollutant release because the chemicals are stored indoors. Therefore, through existing regulations and project design features to adequately secure and store chemicals, impacts from release of pollutants during inundation are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed pipeline alignment from the EWTF to the corner of Merrill Avenue and Euclid Avenue is located within the San Antonio Creek Dam Failure inundation zone (Figure 5.9-2 of the Ontario General Plan EIR). The pipeline is not within the Prado Dam Inundation Area (City of Chino General Plan EIR Figure 4.8-2). Because the pipeline is buried underground, the risk of pollutant release during inundation is **less than significant**.

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

The local water quality control plan is known as the "Basin Plan," which is the primary document guiding the regulatory programs of the Santa Ana RWQCB. Regulatory programs are

developed to protect water resources and drinking water for use by people and the environment.

The Project overlies a groundwater basin that is adjudicated, and therefore will not be managed by a sustainable groundwater management plan. The basin is managed by the court-appointed Watermaster following the stipulations of the Judgment.

EWTF Expansion

The proposed EWTF Expansion component consists of improving the treatment system and expanding treatment capacity of groundwater that is currently produced at the site. The Project does not include an increase in the production of groundwater. The Project will obtain permit coverage under the CGP for construction and compliance with SWRCB Policy 97-005 for Direct Domestic Use of Extremely Impaired Sources. The existing NPDES permit and Department of Drinking Water (DDW) operating permit for the EWTF will be updated with the SWRCB. (Hazen, p. 4-31.) Through obtaining the required permits and compliance with any permit requirements or conditions, impacts from conflict with or obstruction of the Basin Plan will be **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

Brine waste generated by the current treatment system at the EWTF is currently held onsite and trucked away. With the proposed pipeline, this brine waste will be conveyed directly to the nearest brine waste collection point. Pipeline conveyance of brine waste will not conflict or obstruct with implementation of the Basin Plan or groundwater management efforts, including the Judgment; therefore, impacts are **less than significant**.

Hydrology and Water Quality Mitigation Measures

Impacts regarding hydrology and water quality are less than significant; therefore. no mitigation is required.

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

Sources: TOP Land Use Map and Zoning Map.

11.a. Would the Project physically divide an established community?

EWTF Expansion

The proposed treatment system upgrades and other changes to the existing treatment facility will change the appearance of the facility. However, all modifications will occur within the existing site boundary of the existing treatment facility and will not divide an established community, therefore **no impact** will occur in this regard.

Brine Pipeline

Installation of the proposed Brine Pipeline within the Preferred Alignment will result in the construction of an underground pipeline within existing road rights-of-way adjacent to paved roadways. Installation of the Brine Pipeline within the Alternative Alignment will result in the construction of an underground pipeline within either City of Ontario right-of-way in the northerly prolongation of Campus Avenue or in an easement secured for the pipeline. Although construction activities may temporarily disrupt normal activities, the Project will not create any physical barriers that will divide an established community or neighborhood. The Project does not propose any change in land uses or to the Circulation Elements of Ontario or Chino that will result in the construction of any physical barrier As discussed in Response 17.d, temporary lane closures may be required; however, Traffic Control Plans will be prepared as part of the construction documents and reviewed by each applicable agency (i.e., Ontario, Chino, and Caltrans) to ensure consistency with policies for construction activities and access to the properties along the pipeline alignment. For these reasons there will be **no impact** with regard to physically dividing an established community.

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

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF and surrounding properties are identified as “Low Density Residential” with the onsite SCE easement identified as “Low Density Residential” and “Open Space – Non Recreation” according to The Ontario Plan Land Use Plan (revised 2018). The EWTF and surrounding properties are zoned by the City of Ontario as “Specific Plan with an Ag (Agricultural) overlay/” (Zoning Map revised 2018.) The EWTF is an existing and approved facility. The proposed system improvements will not cause conflict with a land use plan, policy or regulation for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect and **no impact** will occur.

Brine Pipeline

Installation of the proposed Brine Pipeline within the Preferred Alignment will result in the construction of an underground pipeline within existing road rights-of-way adjacent to paved roadways. Installation of the Brine Pipeline within the Alternative Alignment will result in the construction of an underground pipeline within either City of Ontario right-of-way in the northerly prolongation of Campus Avenue or in an easement secured for the pipeline. The

installation of an underground utility pipeline within existing road rights-of-way will not cause conflict with a land use plan, policy or regulation for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect and **no impact** will occur.

Land Use Mitigation Measures

There are no impacts regarding land use; therefore. no mitigation is required.

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

Sources: TOP, Chino GP

12.**a. Would the Project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?**

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The Project is not located within a known mineral resource area. The proposed Project will occur in the active footprint of the EWTF and within the ROW adjacent to paved roadways that are actively used and have been excavated in the past. Therefore, impacts to known mineral resources are **less than significant**.

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

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The Project is located within areas designated by both City of Chino and City of Ontario as Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) 3. MRZ-3 designates an area where there is a higher likelihood for the presence of mineral resources, such as sand and gravel, although there is insufficient data to ascertain whether these mineral deposits are significant. The proposed Project will occur in the active footprint of the EWTF and within existing road ROW adjacent to and under paved roadways that are actively used and have been excavated in the past. Therefore, impacts to known mineral resources are **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

Impacts to mineral resources are less than significant; therefore. no mitigation is required.

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

Sources: Chino ACLUP, Chino Municipal Code, Caltrans, FTA, Ontario Municipal Code

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

A temporary increase to ambient noise levels will occur during Project construction. Noise would derive from the use of various construction equipment, such as excavators, dump trucks, dozers, generators, and worker-related increase in traffic within the vicinity of the Project site. Sensitive receptors would include any residences, educational institutions and public parks located within 250 feet of the EWTF and the proposed Brine Pipeline alignment.

EWTF Expansion

The City of Ontario restricts construction activities to the weekday hours of 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM and 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. (Ontario Municipal Code section 5-29.09.) However, the maintenance, repair or improvement of any public work or facility by public agencies, other than the City of Ontario, is exempt from these time restrictions. (Ontario Municipal Code, Section 5-29.09. The Ontario Municipal Code also allows construction activities (for non-public works projects) to occur outside of the aforementioned hours if the City of Ontario determines that the maintenance, repair, or improvement is necessary to maintain public services, cannot feasibly be conducted during normal business hours, or if

construction activities comply with the stationary-source noise standards of the Ontario Municipal Code (Ontario Municipal Code section 5-29.04).

The nearest sensitive receptors to the EWTF are two residences on Schaefer Avenue located on either side of the EWTF. The residences are located approximately 500 feet from the construction area of the EWTF. The proposed EWTF improvements will relocate the existing generator from its current location to a point approximately 550 feet north at a similar distance from the EWTF site's eastern property line. Since this relocation will not place the generator closer to any existing receptors, it will not result in a permanent increase in noise levels at the EWTF. The new GAC vessels are not noise generators and the expanded ISEP™ facilities will be enclosed in a building, which will provide sound attenuation. For these reasons, noise levels are not anticipated to increase after the proposed upgrades are constructed. Therefore, the EWTF component will not expose people to, or generate noise levels in excess of, standards established in the local noise ordinance and potential impacts will be **less than significant.**

Brine Pipeline

Chino Municipal Code section 15.44.030 states that construction shall occur only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, with no construction allowed on Sundays and federal holidays. Construction of the portion of the Brine Pipeline in the City of Ontario is exempt from construction hour limitations per Ontario Municipal Code section 5-29.10.

Sensitive receptors will be within 250 feet or less of pipeline construction activities. Construction of the portion of the Brine Pipeline in Chino will be limited to the hours allowed by the City Chino. Noise associated with pipeline construction will progress linearly at a rate of approximately 150 feet per day and not be in any given location for an extended period of time.

Underground pipelines do not generate noise above ground, and because the Brine Pipeline is gravity-fed, pump stations will not be needed along the alignment. Noise will not be emitted from the man-holes or any aboveground vents. Through compliance with each City's noise standards for construction, the Project will not expose people to, or generate noise levels in excess of, standards established in the local noise ordinance and potential impacts will be **less than significant.**

13.b. Would the Project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Construction projects can generate groundborne vibration, and in general, demolition of structures preceding construction generates the highest vibrations. However other construction equipment such as vibratory compactors or rollers, pile drivers and pavement breakers can generate perceptible vibration during construction activities. Heavy trucks can also generate ground-borne vibrations that vary depending on vehicle type, weight and pavement conditions.

Typically, groundborne vibration generated by man-made activities attenuates rapidly with distance from the source of vibration. Man-made vibration issues are therefore, usually confined to short distances (i.e., 500 feet or less) from the source. Sensitive receptors for vibration include structures (especially older masonry structures); people (especially residents, the elderly, and the sick) and vibration sensitive equipment. Ground vibrations from construction activities do not often reach the levels that can damage structures, but they can achieve the audible and feelable ranges in buildings very close to the site.

Various types of construction equipment have been measured under a wide variety of construction activities with an average of source levels reported in terms of velocity as shown in **Table I – Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment**. Although the table gives one level for each piece of equipment, it should be noted that there is a considerable variation in reported ground vibration levels from construction activities. The data provide a reasonable estimate for a wide range of soil conditions.

Table I – Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment [a]

Equipment	PPV at 25 feet (inches/second)	RMS[b] at 25 feet
Large Bulldozer	0.089	87
Caisson Drill	0.089	87
Loaded Truck	0.076	86
Jackhammer	0.35	79
Small Bulldozer	0.003	58

Notes:

[a] Federal Transit Administration, *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*, May 2006. Table 12-2

[b] RMS velocity in decibels (VdB) re 1 micro-inch/second.

Regarding impacts from groundborne vibration, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has published guidance in their document titled *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*. According to the FTA, although the perceptibility threshold for humans is approximately 65 VdB, human response to vibration is not usually significant unless the vibration exceeds 70 VdB. If the vibration level if a residence reaches 85 VdB, most people will be strongly annoyed by the vibration.

Table J– Typical Human Reaction and Effect on Buildings Due to Groundborne Vibration, displays some of the common human reactions to various levels of groundborne vibration (expressed in PPV) and its effect on buildings.

Table J – Typical Human Reaction and Effect on Buildings Due to Groundborne Vibration [a]

Vibration Level (PPV [b]) (inches/second)	Human Reaction	Effect on Buildings
0.006-0.019	Threshold of perception	Vibrations unlikely to cause damage of any type
0.08	Vibration readily perceptible	Recommended upper level of vibration to which ruins ancient monuments should be subjected
0.10	Level at which continuous vibration begins to annoy people	Virtually no risk of "architectural" (i.e., not structural) damage to normal buildings
0.20	Vibrations annoying to people in buildings	Threshold at which there is a risk to "architectural" damage to normal dwelling – houses with plastered walls and ceilings
0.4-0.6	Vibrations considered unpleasant by people subjected to continuous vibrations and unacceptable to some people walking on bridges	Vibrations at a greater level than normally expected from traffic, but would cause "architectural" damage and possibly minor structural damage

Notes:
a Source: California Department of Transportation, *Noise Impact Analysis for the Sycamore Canyon Business Park Warehouse*, September 2013. Compiled from Table 5 (p. 22) and Table 12 (p. 24).
b PPV = Peak Particle Velocity measured in inches per second.

EWTF Expansion

The proposed Project will include demolition of various structures at the EWTF, which may result in groundborne vibrations and/or groundborne noise levels. Likewise, construction of the proposed improvements may also require equipment that can cause groundborne vibrations. As described earlier in threshold 12.a, the Ontario Municipal Code exempts the noise generated during construction activities; however, it does not exempt ground-borne vibration. Based on the information in Tables I and J, above, due to the distance from the EWTF to the nearest sensitive receptor (approximately 500 feet), groundborne vibration generated during construction at the EWTF may be perceptible, but would not reach the threshold of annoyance or result in structural damage to buildings. Impacts are **less than significant** in this regard.

Brine Pipeline

Installation of the proposed brine waste disposal pipeline will require standard construction equipment and methods that could produce groundborne vibrations as shown in Table I above. No demolition is proposed for installation of the pipeline. Operation of the pipeline will not result in groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise. Based on the information in Tables I and J, above, the distance from the pipeline to the nearest residence (approximately 70 feet), ground-borne vibration generated during construction of the pipeline may be perceptible, but would not

reach the threshold of annoyance. Additionally, the pipeline will be constructed during the hours regulated by the pertinent City noise ordinances. Because the Project will be consistent with each jurisdiction's noise ordinances, and construction methods are not anticipated to generate any significant sources of groundborne vibration above those that would normally be associated with construction, impacts relating to exposure and generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels will be **less than significant**.

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

EWTF Expansion

The EWTF is located within the Chino Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (ACLUP) area and approximately 1.5 miles north of the Chino Airport. The noise exposure from the Chino Airport to people working in the Project area will not change as a result of this Project. The proposed improvements do not include housing accommodations, therefore, impacts from excessive noise are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The entire pipeline is within the Chino ACLUP. Because the pipeline will be located underground and does not include housing or employment centers, impacts from excessive airport noise are **less than significant.**

Noise Mitigation Measures

Noise impacts are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

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

Sources: Chino UWMP, Project Description

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

EWTF Expansion

As stated in the City of Chino 2015 UWMP: Chino currently obtains water from the following sources: (1) groundwater from the Chino Groundwater Basin managed by the Chino Basin Watermaster; (2) imported State Water Project water; (3) treated groundwater from the Chino Desalter Authority; and (4) recycled water supplied by Inland Empire Utility Agency. These water supply sources are sufficient to meet the Chino's current and projected water demands. Chino plans to maintain its existing water supply and distribution infrastructure that enables Chino to make use of these sources of water supply. (UWMP, p. 51.)

The EWTF was constructed in 2016 to "enhance system reliability and redundancy" to ensure more water supply capacity than water demands, and multiple sources of available supply. (UWMP, p. 55.) The Project will improve and increase the treatment capacity and may indirectly support future population growth in the City of Chino; however, this growth is planned for by the Chino and the growth supported by the Project would not be substantial because the proportion of the water supply obtained from the EWTF is minimal compared to Chino's overall water supply portfolio. Therefore, impacts from inducing substantial unplanned population growth are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed pipeline will replace the current method of brine waste disposal which is hauling away by truck on a regular basis. The pipeline will not in and of itself induce population growth and impacts are **less than significant.**

14.b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

Project construction and operation will not necessitate the demolition or relocation of existing housing units. Since no housing will be displaced, no people will be displaced as a result of Project implementation, **no impacts** will occur.

Population and Housing Mitigation Measures

Impacts to population and housing are less than significant; therefore. no mitigation is required.

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

Sources: Chino GP, TOP DEIR, OFD, CVFD, CPD,

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:

15.a. Fire Protection

EWTF Expansion

Fire protection services for the EWTF are provided by the City of Ontario Fire Department (OFD). The OFD has "Automatic Aid Agreements" with the bordering cities, including Chino. The OFD conducts plan reviews to ensure that the applicable codes, ordinances, and standards are being followed and to prevent unnecessary hazards.

The proposed Project at the EWTF will not change access into the property and does not propose to reduce the width of existing interior roadways. The layout and design of the proposed structures on the plant site will be required to comply with the current fire safety guidelines incorporated as part of building design, to ensure appropriate fire suppression methods are available. The OFD will review the site plans in coordination with the City planning department and ensure the site will meet applicable fire protection and prevention requirements including, but not limited to, building setbacks, emergency access, and interior sprinklers. Although the EWTF is a governmental facility, the proposed improvements will not cause significant environmental impacts and will not affect service ratios or response times for emergency public services. Therefore, impacts are **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

Fire Protection services for the pipeline within the City of Chino is provided by the Chino Valley Fire District. Operation of the proposed brine waste disposal pipeline will be underground and will not affect fire protection services. However, construction of the proposed Brine Pipeline may cause traffic delays, especially in two-lane roads, that may affect response times for emergency vehicles. The Project's Traffic Control Plans to be approved by Ontario, Chino, and Clatrans will be required to provide adequate pass-by features for emergency vehicles. Through compliance with required Traffic Control Plans and encroachment permits, the details of which will be dictated by each agency with ROW through which the pipeline aligns, impacts to fire protection services are reduced to **less than significant**.

15.b. Police Protection

EWTF Expansion

Police protection services for the EWTF are provided by the City of Ontario Police Department (OPD). The OPD participates in mutual aid agreements with San Bernardino County Sheriff and various jurisdictions surrounding the city, as well as statewide mutual aid program.

As noted above, the proposed improvements to the EWTF will be limited to the existing plant boundaries and are not expected to require more police protection or impact current police service ratios or response times. **No impacts** are expected in this regard.

Brine Pipeline

Police protection services in the City of Chino are provided by the Chino Police Department. Operation of the proposed brine waste disposal pipeline will be underground and will not affect police protection services. However, construction of the proposed Brine Pipeline may cause traffic delays, especially in 2-lane roads, that may affect response times for emergency vehicles. The Project's Traffic Control Plans to be approved by each agency with ROW through which the pipeline will align (i.e., Chino, Ontario, Caltrans) will be required to provide adequate pass-by features for emergency vehicles. Through compliance with required Traffic Control Plans and encroachment permits, the details of which will be dictated by each agency through which the pipeline aligns, impacts are reduced to **less than significant**.

15.c Schools

15.d. Parks

15.e. Other Public Facilities

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The proposed Project consists of upgrading the facilities at the EWTF and constructing the Brine Pipeline. As discussed in Response 14.a, the Project in and of itself will not result in substantial unplanned population increases that would require additional school facilities, park facilities, or other public facilities. **No impacts** will occur.

Public Services Mitigation Measures

Impacts to public services are less than significant; therefore. no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
16. RECREATION.				
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Sources: Project Description

16.a. Would the Project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The proposed Project involves upgrades to the EWTF and a brine disposal pipeline that will not cause an increase in the local population. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. **No impact** will occur in this regard.

16.b. Does the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The Project does not include new public recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, there will be **no impact** in this regard.

Recreation Mitigation Measures

There are no impacts to parks or recreational facilities; therefore. no mitigation is required.

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

Sources: Ontario Municipal Code

17.a. Would the Project result in conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

EWTF Expansion

Ontario Municipal Code Section 4-6.307(c) (Exceptions for Certain Vehicles) states that the regulations pertaining to the parking or standing of vehicles shall not apply to any vehicle of a City department or public utility while necessarily in use for construction or repair work.

Construction at the EWTF will temporarily increase traffic along the roadways used to access the site as a result of construction personnel, supply trucks and hauling of heavy-duty equipment. However, this congestion will be short-term and relatively minor considering equipment will be kept onsite in staging areas. For these reasons, impacts to transit system plans, ordinances, or policies will be **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

Approximately 8,800 linear feet of the proposed pipeline is within the City of Ontario, approximately 4,150 linear feet is within the City of Chino, and approximately 5,700 feet within Caltrans right-of-way within Chino (Euclid Avenue). Construction of the proposed Brine Pipeline may result in temporary traffic congestion as work progresses. Temporary lane closures and interruptions from equipment and supply movement are expected. The Brine Pipeline Alignment and Traffic Control Plans will be reviewed by each applicable agency ROW (i.e., Ontario, Chino, and Caltrans) to ensure consistency with policies for construction activities. Through compliance with existing plan review requirements, temporary impacts to the circulation system are **less than significant**.

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

CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(a) describes specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts and states "Generally, vehicle miles traveled is the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts." As stated in CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(b)(2), "projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact."

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The proposed construction activities at the EWTF and construction of the Brine Pipeline will temporarily increase traffic in the area as a result of construction-related vehicles. After Project construction is completed and the pipelines are in operation, there will be no need to truck the brine waste currently generated by the EWTF offsite for disposal; however, the additional EWTF capacity will require additional salt truck trips. Ultimately the number of truck loads (trips) would be similar to the current operation and is it is anticipated that vehicle miles traveled will be similar. Thus, there will be no net increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMTs). Therefore, Project implementation will not conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3. subdivision (b) and impacts are **less than significant.**

17.c. Would the Project 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?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The proposed Project includes several new structures on the EWTF property in order to house machinery, but the height of these structures would not be sufficiently tall enough to change air traffic patterns. In addition, the proposed Brine Pipeline would be located underground. Therefore, the Project will not increase air traffic levels or change the location of air traffic patterns. As such, **no impact** will occur.

17.d. **Would the Project result in substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?**

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The proposed Project will not change roadway configurations or introduce a new use into the area. There will be **no impacts** in this regard.

Transportation Mitigation Measures

Transportation impacts are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

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

Sources: AB 52 consultation, PaleoWest,

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:

18.a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?

18.b.. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The City of Chino provided "Notification of Tribal Consultation Opportunity" letters dated November 27 and December 4, 2019 pursuant to AB 52 to Tribes that have previously requested such a notice. Letters were sent from the City to five tribes: Gabrielino Band of

Mission Indians – Kizh Nation, Gabrielino/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, and Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.

As discussed in Response 5.a above, there are no resources listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources, additionally, the records search completed as part of the *Cultural Resources Investigation in Support of the Eastside Water Treatment Facility and Brine Pipeline Project* did not identify any prehistoric resources within a one-mile radius of the Project APE. The EWTF site and the portion of the proposed Brine Pipeline alignments (both Preferred and Alternative) within the City of Ontario are not located within a designated, proposed, or potential historic district. (Ontario Historic Districts.) The portion of the Brine Pipeline within the City of Chino is not within a designated historic district or in proximity to any historically noteworthy historic buildings or markers. (Chino GP EIR, pp. 4.5-74.5-9.)

With implementation of mitigation measures **MM CR-1** and **MM CR-2** impacts with regard to tribal cultural resources will be reduced to **less than significant**.

Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measures

Implementation of mitigation measures **MM CR 1** and **MM CR 2**, will reduce impacts to tribal cultural resources to less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
19. UTILITIES AND SYSTEM SERVICES. Would the project:				
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local	☐	☐	☒	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?				
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Sources: Chino GP EIR, Ontario Municipal Code, Ontario Solid Waste Dept. Refuse and Recycling Planning Manual, AB 939

19.a. Would the Project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The proposed Project involves construction of improvements to an existing water treatment facility and a conveyance pipeline, the environmental impacts of which are being evaluated herein. The analysis included herein indicates that all environmental effects associated with the proposed Project will be **less than significant with mitigation** incorporated.

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

EWTF Expansion

The proposed Project would require a temporary increase in water for during construction activities at the EWTF, the volume of which will not require new or expanded water supply entitlements. Post-construction staffing at the EWTF is not expected to change significantly from current staffing levels. The proposed EWTF upgrades will improve the treatment system and expand treatment capacity for current groundwater production. The City of Chino indicated in its 2015 UWMP that sufficient groundwater rights and supplies are available to serve the EWTF. The Project will not increase groundwater production onsite and impacts are **less than significant.**

Brine Pipeline

As discussed in threshold 2, Air Quality, installation of the proposed Brine Pipeline will require water trucks for dust control as well as potable water for on-site crews. The City of Chino has sufficient water supplies to serve these temporary needs. Private companies will be hired by the Project contractor to supply water trucks for the Project outside of the City. Construction of the Brine Pipeline will require the relocation of a several segments of a 2-inch diameter gas line and a small segment of a 12-inch diameter water pipeline. Prior to construction of the Brine Pipeline, all utilities will be field verified and potholed. The relocated gas and water pipelines

will be relocated within existing street ROWs in the Brine Pipeline Alignment following coordination with the affected providers. Because there are sufficient water supplies to serve the Project any utility relocations will be coordinated with the appropriate providers, impacts will be **less than significant**.

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

EWTF Expansion

Sewage and wastewater generated at the EWTF will continue to be contained onsite in underground vaults and then trucked away for treatment. The Project proposes no changes to the existing 1,000 gallon sewage storage tank, therefore the contribution of wastewater from the EWTF will not change such that adequate capacity would need to be secured by the wastewater treatment provider. There will be **no impact** to wastewater treatment providers.

Brine Pipeline

The proposed brine waste disposal pipeline will not generate wastewater; thus, there will be **no impact** to wastewater treatment providers.

19.d. Would the Project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

EWTF Expansion

Business refuse, green waste, and recycling from Ontario and Chino are sent to the West Valley Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Fontana for processing, recycling, or landfilling. Most refuse is transported from the MRF to El Sobrante Landfill in Corona. El Sobrante Landfill is privately owned and encompasses 1,322 acres, can accommodate up to 16,054 tons per day, with a maximum capacity of 184,930,000 tons, with a remaining available capacity of 145,530,000 tons (approximately 79 percent).

Ontario requires all qualifying building and demolition permit applicants to submit a Construction and Demolition Recycling Plan. The applicant must estimate how they will recycle 50 percent of the waste generated from the project and must demonstrate the results at the completion of the project. The plan is distributed at the time of application for a permit from the Building Department. Wastes going to landfill from construction and demolition activities must be minimized to the greatest extent possible by recycling, deconstruction for reuse, or by use of "green building" practices. Material targeted for recycling shall include concrete, asphalt, clean wood (unpainted or untreated), brick, metal, cardboard and sheetrock. The Ontario City Manager may modify the targeted materials based on available markets. (Ontario Municipal Code Section 6-3.602.)

Ontario requires a Business Recycling Plan from customers using commercial collection service and proposing to do one of the following: addition of a new development for which a site plan or development review has been submitted; addition of 30 percent or more to the existing floor area of any existing development; or addition of 1,000 square feet or more to any existing development projects. (Municipal Code Section 6-3.601.)

Solid waste will be generated during construction at the EWTF, some of which may be recyclable. The anticipated volume of waste from construction will not be in excess of state or local standards, or of such volume that local collection and hauling systems will be exceeded. Further, the proposed Project is not large enough to affect local waste reduction goals. Solid waste generated after construction is complete will be commensurate with current volumes. Through compliance with existing regulations for construction waste and business waste, impacts to solid waste reduction goals is **less than significant**.

Brine Pipeline

Pipeline projects within roadways generate limited amounts of waste during construction, and the proposed pipeline is not anticipated to impair the waste reduction goals of the cities of Chino and Ontario. Therefore, through compliance with existing regulations for construction waste, impacts to solid waste reduction goals is **less than significant**.

19.**e. Would the Project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

The collection and disposal of solid waste will conform to applicable federal, State, and local plans and regulations, including AB 939 (Integrated Waste Management Act) that local jurisdictions divert at least 50 percent of all solid waste. The proposed Project will adhere to all federal, State and local regulations related to solid waste during construction and operation. Therefore, the proposed Project would have **no impact** in terms of complying with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
20. WILDFIRE If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Sources: Chino GP EIR, TOP EIR

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

20.a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

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

20.c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

20.d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

There are no Very High Fire Hazard Severity zones within Local Responsibility Areas or State Responsibility Areas in the cities of Chino or Ontario. Even though Chino is not located in a fire hazard zone, conditions of approval for new development include a number of actions to reduce fire danger to new structures and the community in general. Ontario enforces building construction standards for such items as roof coverings, fire doors, and fire-resistant materials to help protect structures from external fires and contain internal fires for longer periods. Ontario can also require on a site-specific basis fuel modification and defensible space requirements.

The EWTF is located in a low-density agricultural community with wide open areas for dairies, livestock, and agricultural activities. The threat of fire is considered low. The proposed improvements would not change the current level of fire risk that exists at the EWTF. The

proposed pipeline will be installed underground within and adjacent to existing paved roadways; therefore no risk of fire to the pipeline is anticipated.

Wildfire Mitigation Measures

Wildfire impacts are less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or an endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Sources: Above Environmental Checklist, Wood-A, Wood-B, Wood-C, Wood-D, PaleoWest

21.a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or an endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline

Potential to Degrade Quality of Environment: The proposed Project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment. As indicated in the foregoing analysis, either no impacts, less than significant impacts, or less than significant impacts with mitigation

incorporated would occur with respect to each to the environmental issues analyzed in this Initial Study.

Potential to Impact Biological Resources: As indicated in threshold 4, Biological Resources, implementation of the proposed Project would not:

- substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species;
- cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; or
- threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community.

The results of the *Biological Resources Assessment,* which included a focused survey for the tricolored blackbird, the *Focused Surveys for the Burrowing Owl,* the *Focused Surveys for the Least Bell's Vireo, the Jurisdictional Delineation for the Brine Pipeline,* and the analysis in Threshold 4a indicate that with implementation of mitigation measures **MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-7**, impacts to biological resources will be reduced to less than significant levels.

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

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline
The Project is the expansion of the EWTF and he construction of the Brine Pipeline. Expansion of the EWTF will allow the City of Chino to maximize the use of its groundwater supply, to serve anticipated/planned new development within the City. The use of locally treated groundwater is preferable over alternative sources to increase water supply reliability and reduce reliance on expensive purchased imported surface water. Construction of the Brine Pipeline will eliminate the need to haul brine waste offsite for disposal. The Project is consistent with local and regional plans, and the Project's mitigated air quality emissions do not exceed established thresholds of significance. The Project adheres to all other land use plans and policies within the Cities of Chino and Ontario and will not increase VMTs within the Project area. The Project is not considered growth-inducing as defined by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d) and will not induce, either directly or indirectly, population and/or housing growth beyond what is envisioned by the City of Chino General Plan. Because the proposed Project will not result in any impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable, impacts will be **less than significant**.

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

EWTF Expansion and Brine Pipeline
Effects on human beings were evaluated as part of the aesthetics, air quality, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, population and

housing, and traffic sections of this initial study and found to be less than significant for each of the above sections. Based on the analyses and conclusions in this initial study, the proposed Project will not cause substantial adverse effects directly or indirectly to human beings. Therefore, potential direct and indirect impacts on human beings that result from the proposed Project are considered **less than significant**.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21082.1, 21083, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21151, Public Resources Code; Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino, 202 Cal.App.3d 296 (1988); Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors, 222 Cal.App.3d 1337 (1990).

4 CEQA PLUS ANALYSIS

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program

Evaluation for Environmental Review and Federal Coordination

1. Potential Co-Funding Sources

Will the project potentially be co-funded by any other federal agencies?

☒ *No – No other federal agencies will provide funding for the project.*

☐ *Yes – The project will potentially receive funding from other federal agency(s). Pleas list the agency(ies) and explain the funding status.*

2. United Stated Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Other Federal Land

Is any portion of the proposed project site located on United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), or any other federally managed land?

☒ *No – The proposed project will not be located on USFS, BLM, or any other federally managed land.*

☐ *Yes – The proposed project will be located on USFS, BLM, or other federally managed land. Please explain, or indicate where more information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.), and attach a colored map identifying the project location with respect to the USFS, BLM, or other federal land. Attach a copy of the appropriate authorization/permit for the use of federal land (e.g., USFS Special-Use Authorization, BLM Land Use Permit) or indicate the status of the authorization/permit below.*

3. Environmental Alternative Analysis

The SRF Programs require an environmental alternative analysis for projects that have a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report.

Please attach a copy of the environmental alternative analysis or indicate where it can be found (e.g., Project Technical Report/Engineering Report):

The EWTF expansion must take place at the EWTF site. A discussion of alternative site layouts for the EWTF is presented in the *Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion Project Final Preliminary Design Report,* May 20, 2019. An engineering evaluation of the alternative alignments for the Brine Pipeline is presented in the *Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion Project – Office Brine Line Preliminary Design Report,* May 21, 2019. These documents are available for review at the City of Chino Public Works Department.

Please briefly summarize the direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with each project alternative considered, including a "no project/no action" alternative, and the environmental considerations behind the selected project alternative. Also, include any mitigation measures to reduce potential environmental impacts:

The Project's Initial Study evaluates a Preferred Alignment and Alternative Alignment for the Brine Pipeline. Impacts for both alignments are similar and can be reduced to less than significant levels with implementation of mitigation measures; thus, there is no environmentally superior alternative. The no/project/no action alternative will not result in any environmental impacts; however, it would not achieve the Project's objective of discharging brine waste generated at the EWTF into a public sewer system.

4. Archaeological and National Historic Preservation Act (AHPA)

Will the project cause the irreparable loss or damage to a significant archaeological or historic resource or data through alteration of the terrain resulting from dam or reservoir construction (i.e., flooding, building of access roads, or construction of a reservoir) and require compliance under the AHPA?

☒ *No – The project construction will not cause an irreparable loss or damage of significant archaeological or historic resources or data through alteration of the terrain resulting from dam or reservoir construction. The project does not require compliance with the AHPA.*

☐ *Yes – The project construction will cause an irreparable loss or damage of a significant archaeological or historic resources or data through alteration of the terrain resulting from dam or reservoir construction. The project requires compliance with the AHPA. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found [e.g., Historic Properties Identification Report (HPIR) (see the National Historic Preservation Act below), CEQA document, etc.].*

5. Clean Air Act

Name of Air Basin: South Coast Air Basin

Local Air District: South Coast Air Quality Management District

Complete the following table:

Pollutant	Federal Status (Attainment, Nonattainment, Maintenance, or Unclassified)[1]	Nonattainment Rates (i.e., marginal, moderate, serious, severe, or extreme)[1]	Threshold of Significance for Project Air Basin (if applicable)[2]	Estimated Construction Emissions (Tons/Year)	Estimated Operation Emissions (Tons/Year)
Ozone (O_3)	Nonattainment	Extreme	10 tons/year	N/A	N/A
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Maintenance	Serious	100 tons/year	3.55	N/A
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_X)	Maintenance	N/A	100 tons/year	4.29	N/A
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG)	N/A	N/A	10 tons/year	0.47	N/A

Pollutant	Federal Status (Attainment, Nonattainment, Maintenance, or Unclassified)[1]	Nonattainment Rates (i.e., marginal, moderate, serious, severe, or extreme)[1]	Threshold of Significance for Project Air Basin (if applicable)[2]	Estimated Construction Emissions (Tons/Year)	Estimated Operation Emissions (Tons/Year)
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)	N/A	N/A	10 tons/year	0.47	N/A
Lead (Pb)	Attainment	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$)	Nonattainment	Moderate	100 tons/year	0.37	N/A
Particulate Matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM_{10})	Maintenance	Serious	100 tons/year	0.55	N/A
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	Attainment	N/A	N/A	0.01	N/A

Notes: [1] Federal criteria pollutant status and nonattainment rate, if applicable, per EPA Green Book. Available at https://www.epa.gov/green-book.
[2] Federal *de minimus* thresholds per Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, part 93.153. Available at https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=2f19c374f01438b8787cf80e8c4cea43&mc=true&node=pt40.20.93&rgn=div5#se40.22.93_1153.

Is the project subject to a General Conformity determination?

☒ *No. The project is in an attainment or unclassified area for all federal criteria pollutants, and/or the project emissions are below the federal de minimis levels. The project is not subject to General Conformity determination. Please include supporting documents utilized to compile the data, and any air quality studies/models (e.g., CalEEMod report) that have been completed for the project. Indicate where more information can be found (e.g., CEQA document, etc.):*

An air quality assessment was prepared using the California Emissions Estimator Model® (CalEEMod) program to quantify Project-related emissions. This assessment is provided in Appendix A of this Initial Study.

As shown in the above table, annual construction-related emissions are estimated to be below the federal *de minimus* levels for all constituents. Moreover, operational emissions for the Project will be negligible. Therefore, the Project is not subject to General Conformity determination.

☐ *Yes. The project is in a nonattainment area or attainment area subject to maintenance plans for a federal criteria pollutant and project emissions are above the federal de minimis levels. The project is subject to General Conformity determination. Please include supporting documents utilized to compile the data, and any air quality studies/models (e.g., CalEEMod report) that have been completed for the project. Indicate where more information can be found (e.g., CEQA document, etc.).*

6. Coastal Barriers Resources Act:

Will the project impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters? (Note that since there are currently no Coastal Barrier Resources System in California, projects located in California are not

expected to impact the Coastal Barrier Resources System. If there is a special circumstance in which the project may impact a Coastal Barrier Resource System, indicate your reasoning below.)

☒ *No – The project will not impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters,*

☐ *Yes – The project will impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets and near-shore waters. Describe the project location with respect to the Coastal Barrier Resources System, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.). Please provide the status of any consultation with the appropriate Coastal Zone management agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):*

The Project is not located near a Coastal Barrier Resources System as there are none in the State of California or anywhere along the western coast of the United States. Further, the Project will not involve a special circumstance in which a Coastal Barrier Resource System would be affected.[6]

7. Coastal Zone Management Act:

Is any portion of the project site located within the coastal zone? [NOTE: California's coastal zone generally extends 1,000 yards inland from the mean high tide line, but may extend further if the area is located in significant coastal estuarine, habitat, and/or recreational areas, or to a lesser extent if the area is located in a developed urban area or within a coastal zone of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC).] (To help determine if the project is located within a coastal zone, please visit https://coastal.ca.gov/maps/ and/or https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/media/StateCZBoundaries.pdf, or contact your local California Coastal Commission office or the city or county in which the project is located.)

☒ *No – The project is not within the coastal zone.*

☐ *Yes – The project is located within the coastal zone. Attach a copy of the coastal zone permit or coastal exemption, or indicate the status of the coastal zone permit below (http://www.coastal.ca.gov/enforcement/cdp_pamphlet.pdf). Describe the project location with respect to coastal areas, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., CEQA document, biological report/assessment, etc.).*

8. Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Required documents: Attach a project-level biological report/assessment prepared by a qualified professional biologist that includes an up-to-date field survey and species list information (from the USFWS, the NMFS, the California Natural Diversity Database, and the California Native Plant Society) analyzing the project's direct and indirect impacts on special status species in the project area. An official species list is required from the USFWS and NMFS. Refer to the USFWS Midwest Region

[6] Source: http://www.fws.gov/ecological-services/habitat-conservation/Coastal.html

website for guidance on preparing a biological report/assessment that meets ESA, Section 7 requirements: https://www.fws.gov/Midwest/endangered/section7/index.html. Refer to the following resources for information regarding possible biological impacts and to obtain official and unofficial species lists for analysis: https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/, http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/, http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/consultation/, and/or https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB.

The biological resources assessment and focused surveys prepared for the proposed Project are included in Appendices B.1 through B.5.

Biological Field Survey Dates

- Field reconnaissance survey of the Brine Pipeline Alignment: March 29, 2019
- Field reconnaissance survey of the EWTF Site: April 11, 2019
- Focused burrowing owl surveys: April 11, May 3, May 24, and June 24, 2019
- Focused least Bell's vireo surveys: May 14, May 24, June 3, June 13, June 24, July 8, July 18, and July 29, 2019

Does the project involve any direct or indirect impacts from construction or operation activities that may affect federally listed threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat, that are known, or have a potential, to occur on-site, in the surrounding area, or in the service area?

☐ *No – The project will not have an impact on any federally listed species or their critical habitat. Please explain or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.*

☒ *Yes – The project will have an impact on one or more federally listed species or their critical habitat. Please provide information on the federally listed species that could potentially be affected by the project any proposed avoidance and conservation measures. Please indicate below where more information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.) If any consultations with state or federal agencies have been conducted for the project, please discuss the consultation efforts.*

There is no federally designated critical habitat within the Project's BSA.

The retention basin at the EWTF a small patch of marginal habitat that is suitable for least Bell's vireo and yellow warbler. No least Bell's vireo were detected during the focused surveys conducted from May to July. The retention basin is outside of the construction footprint at the EWTF, that is, there will be no direct impact to the basin. Nonetheless, to avoid indirect impacts to the least Bell's vireo, the following mitigation measure will be implemented if construction takes place during the nesting season.

> **MM BIO 3: Preconstruction Least Bell's Vireo Survey**. To avoid indirect impacts to least Bell's vireo, if the riparian vegetation is present at the detention basin and construction takes between February 1 and August 31, the Project Biologist shall conduct preconstruction nesting bird survey(s) at the EWTF no sooner than 14 days prior to initiation of construction activities. If active nests are documented during the

preconstruction survey(s), species-specific measures shall be prepared by the Project Biologist and implemented to prevent abandonment of the active nest. At a minimum, construction in the vicinity of an active nest shall be monitored by the Project Biologist and if necessary, work in the vicinity of the nest shall be postponed until the young birds have fledged or avoidance buffers established. Any nest permanently vacated for the season would not require monitoring or protection.

Please refer to Appendix B.1through B.4 of this Initial Study for the *Biological Resources Assessment Report*, focused survey reports, and jurisdictional delineation report prepared for the Project.

No consultations with any state or federal agencies have been conducted.

9. Environmental Justice

Does the project involve an activity that is likely to be of particular interest to or have particular impact upon minority, low-income, or indigenous populations?

☒ *No – The project is not likely to be of any particular interest to or have an impact on certain minority, low-income, or indigenous populations. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found.*

The Project consists of system improvements and capacity expansion of an existing water treatment facility and construction of a new brine disposal pipeline. The Project will not have a particular impact upon minority, low-income, or indigenous populations.

☐ Yes – The project is likely to be of particular interest to or have an impact on certain minority, low-income, or indigenous populations.

Check the appropriate box(es):

☐ *The project is likely to affect the health of these populations.*

☐ *The project is likely to affect the environmental conditions of these populations.*

☐ *The project is likely to present an opportunity to address an existing disproportionate impact of these populations.*

☐ *The project is likely to result in the collection of information or data that could be used to assess potential impacts on the health or environmental conditions of these populations.*

☐ *The project is likely to affect the availability of information to these populations.*

☐ *Other reasons (please describe):*

10. Farmland Protection Policy Act

Is any portion of the project located on prime, unique, or important farmland? (Please refer to the following resources regarding important farmland: http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/ciff/ciff.html, and or http://www.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx)

☐ *No – The project is not located on and will not impact impact prime, unique, or important farmland. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., farmland conversion assessment, CEQA document, etc.).*

☒ *Yes – The project is located on and/or will impact prime, unique, or important farmland. Attach documents/assessments evaluating the conversion of prime/unique farmland and farmland of statewide/local importance to non-agricultural uses, as well as any consultation(s) conducted with relevant agencies. Include information on the acreage that would be converted from important farmland to other uses. Indicate if any portion of the project boundaries is under a Williamson Act Contract, and specify the amount of acreage affected. Include this information here or indicate it can be found (e.g., farmland conversion assessment, CEQA document, etc.).*

According to the state Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), the EWTF site is located within "Other" land (Category X) which is not designated "Farmland." (Refer to **Figure 8 – Important Farmland**.) Therefore, no impact to Farmland will occur.

Both the Preferred and Alternative Brine Pipeline Alignments will be located within, along the edge of, and adjacent to, existing paved roads and completely within existing road ROW. Some segments of the road ROWs are adjacent to areas designated Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. Prime Farmland is designated along the north side of Merrill Avenue from Euclid Avenue east for approximately 0.6 mile, and on the east side of Euclid Avenue in three separate segments totaling approximately 0.65 mile between Kimball Avenue and Merrill Avenue. Farmland of Statewide Importance is designated on the east side of Euclid Avenue for approximately 0.25 mile.

Construction of the Brine Pipeline will occur along within the disturbed road shoulder in the south side of Merrill Avenue and the east side of Euclid Avenue; however, because the alignment does not cross into Farmland, and once complete, the pipeline will be buried underground so as to not prohibit Farmland activities to occur in the future, impacts to Farmland are less than significant.

Refer to the discussion under threshold 2, Agricultural and Forestry Resources in this Initial Study.

11. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA)
(https://www.fws.gov/ecological-services/es-library/pdfs/fwca.pdf)

Will the project impact any bodies of water by impounding, diverting, deepening a channel, or otherwise controlling/modifying flow (including navigation and drainage)?

☒ *No – The project will not impact any bodies of water and will not require compliance with the FWCA.*

☐ *Yes – The project will impact a body of water and will require compliance with the FWCA. Consultation with the USFWS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be required. Please discuss the potential project impacts to the water body, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.).*

12. Flood Plain Management: Executive Orders 11988, 12148 and 13690

(https://www.fema.gov/executive-order-11988-floodplain-management,Executive, https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12148.html, and https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/30/executive-order-establishing-federal-flood-risk-management-standard-and-)

- *Required documents: Attach an official floodplain map that includes the project area. Please refer to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center for official floodplain maps: https://msc.fema.gov/portal. If the project area is unmapped by the FEMA, please explain below.*

Is any portion of the project located within a 100-year floodplain as depicted on a floodplain map or otherwise designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency?

☒ *No – The project is not located within a 100-year floodplain.*

☐ *Yes – The project or a portion of the project is located within a 100-year floodplain. Attach any reports (floodplains/hydrological assessment) completed for the project, and provide information of any consultations completed with relevant agencies. Describe the floodplain and any proposed measures that will be implemented to minimize or avoid redirection of the flood flow by the project, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., floodplains/hydrological assessment, CEQA document, etc.).*

The EWTF site is shown on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) No. 06071C8620H (revised August 28, 2008) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. The EWTF is within flood zone "Zone D" which is an area where "flood hazards are undetermined, but possible." The area surrounding Zone D in which the EWTF is located is designated "Zone X" which is "areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain (i.e. 500-year flood)." A map showing the FEMA Flood Zones is included on the following page.

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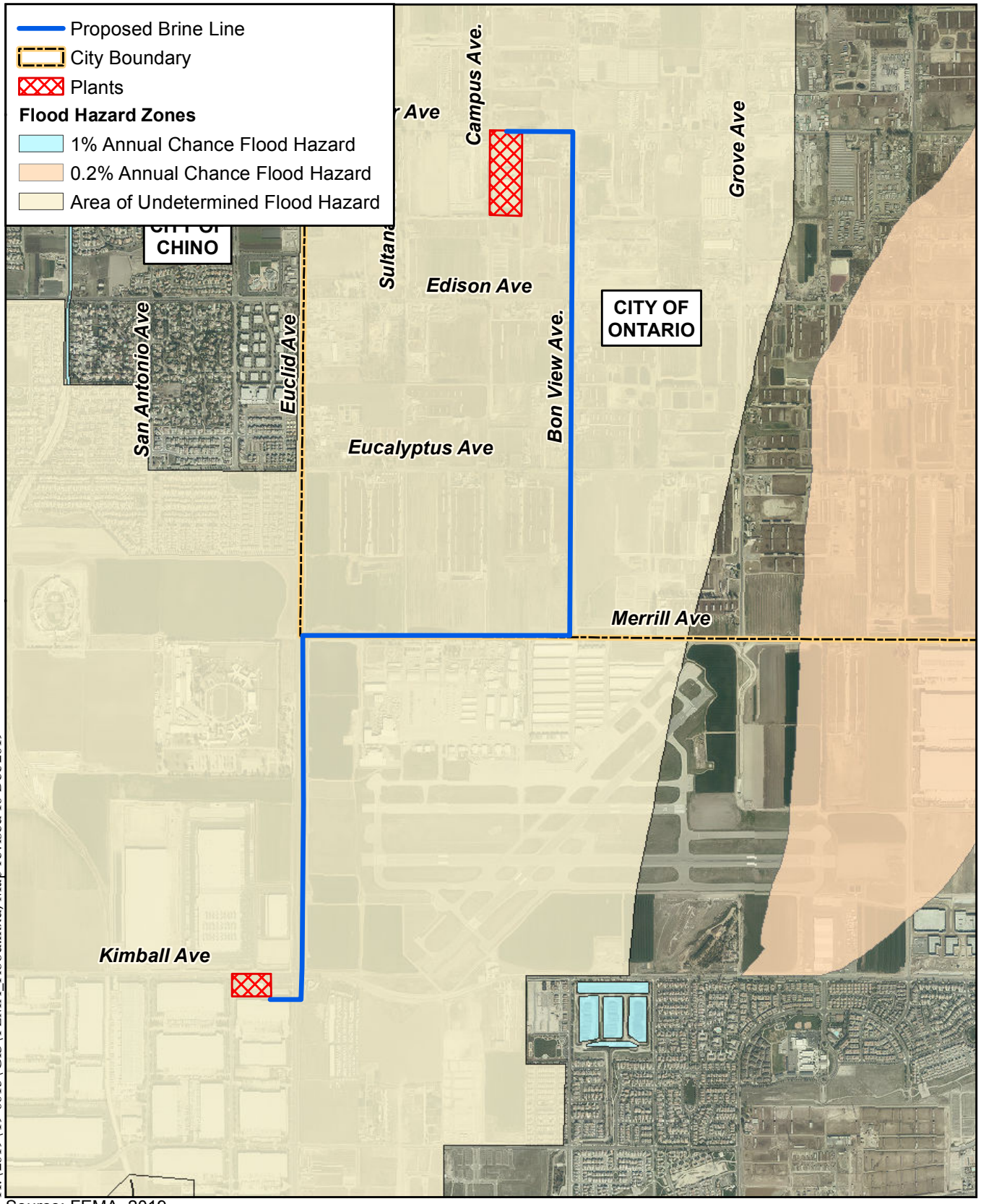

H:\2019\19-0013\GIS\FEMA_Flood.mxd; Map revised 10 Dec 2019

Source: FEMA, 2019

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

FEMA Flood Zones

Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Brine Pipeline Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

13. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act:

Does the project involve any direct or indirect impacts from construction or operational activities or changes in water quality/quantity that may impact Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)? (Please refer to the NMFS Mapper to help determine the project's proximity and potential direct/indirect impacts to EFH, and to obtain a NMFS species list for the project location: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/maps_data/california_species_list_tools.html.)

☒ *No – The project will not impact EFH. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, EFH impact assessment/evaluation, CEQA document, etc.).*

As discussed in the *Biological Resources Assessment* prepared for the Project (Appendix B.1 of thie Initial Study), no waterways capable of supporting Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) are present in the Project area. This is the only fish identified with a potential for occurrence in the literature search. (Wood-A, p. 33.)

☐ *Yes – The project may impact protected migratory birds. Attach documentation (e.g., biological report/assessment) that includes an official USFWS IPaC list of all the "birds of conservation concern" that could occur where the project is located. Discuss the project's direct and indirect impacts (such as noise, vibration impacts, or modification of habitat) to migratory birds, and the mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce or eliminate these impacts. Please indicate where more information can be found [e.g., page number(s) of the biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.]:*

No essential fish habitat has been designated in the inland waterways located downstream of the Project.[7] The nearest essential fish habitat is located along the coast. The Project in and of itself will not result in growth inducement.

14. Migratory Bird Treaty Act:

Will the project impact protected migratory birds that are known or have a potential to occur on the project site, or the surrounding area?

☐ *No – The project will not impact protected migratory birds. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.).*

☒ *Yes – The project may impact protected migratory birds. Attach documentation (e.g., biological report/assessment) that includes an official USFWS IPaC list of all the "birds of conservation concern" that could occur where the project is located. Discuss the project's direct and indirect impacts (such as noise, vibration impacts, or modification of habitat) to migratory birds, and the mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce or eliminate these impacts. Please indicate where more information can be found [e.g., page number(s) of the biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.].*

The following table identifies the special status birds with potential occurrence in the Project's BSA that are also listed on the USFWS *Bird of Conservation Concern*, 2008[8] list for Bird Conservationion

[7] Source: http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/protection/efh/habitatmapper.html

[8] Source: https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/grants/BirdsofConservationConcern2008.pdf

Region (BCR) 32 (Coastal Californis, U.S. portion only) and BCR 33 (Sonoran and Mohave Deserts U.S. portion only.).

Species	Protective Status (F=Federal; C=California)	Habitat	BSA Occurrence Probability
Birds			
Agelaius tricolor tricolored blackbird	F: BCC, BLM, MBTA C: **THR**, SSC, S1S2, FGC	Breeds near fresh water, in emergent wetland with tall, dense cattails or tules, also in thickets of shrubs or tall herbs, including wheat and other crops. Feeds in grassland and cropland habitats.	Low Not found by focused survey, but breeding habitat for this nomadic species is dynamic, and foraging habitat is present.
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	F: BCC, BLM, MBTA C: SSC, S3, FGC	Occupies ground squirrel burrows in open, dry grasslands, agricultural, railroad rights-of-way, and margins of highways, golf courses, and airports. Often utilizes man-made structures, such as earthen berms, cement culverts, cement, asphalt, rock, or wood debris piles. Nests in burrows, drainpipes, and piles of debris in grasslands, scrub habitats, and agricultural areas.	Occurs Found by focused surveys.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis western yellow-billed cuckoo	F: **THR**, BCC, BLM, FS, MBTA C: **END**, S1, FGC	Breeds and nests in extensive stands of dense cottonwood/willow riparian forest along broad, lower flood bottoms of larger river systems at scattered locales in western North America; winters in South America.	Absent No suitable habitat.
Falco peregrinus peregrine falcon	F: MBTA, BCC C: FP	Frequents bodies of water in open areas with cliffs and canyons nearby for cover and nesting.	Nesting: Absent, no suitable habitat Foraging: Occurskn
Lanius ludovicianus loggerhead shrike	F: BCC, MBTA C: SSC, S4, FGC	Found in open habitats with widely spaced vegetation.	Low Suitable potential habitat in BSA
Setophaga petechia yellow warbler	F: BCC, MBTA C: SSC, S3S4, FG	Riparian plant associations in close proximity to water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests in Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash,& alders	Occurs: foraging/ migration Low: nesting, small patch of marginal habitat in the EWTF.
Vireo bellii pusillus least Bell's vireo	F: **END**, MBTA C: **END**, S2, FGC	Inhabits riparian forests and willow thickets. Nests from central California to northern Baja California and winters in southern Baja California.	Absent Not detected by focused survey.

KEY TO TABLE

Definitions of occurrence probability:

Occurs: Observed on the site by Wood biologists, or recorded on-site by other qualified biologists.
High: Observed in similar habitat in region by qualified biologists, or habitat on the site is a type often utilized by the species and the site is within the known range of the species.
Moderate: Reported sightings in surrounding region, or site is within the known range of the species and habitat on the site is a type occasionally used by the species.
Low: Site is within the known range of the species but habitat on the site is rarely occupied by the species.
Absent: A focused study failed to detect the species, or, no suitable habitat is present.
Unknown: Distribution and habitat use has not been clearly determined.

Federal designations: (F = federal Endangered Species Act or federal agency designations)
END: Federally listed, Endangered
THR: Federally listed, Threatened
CAN: Candidate for Federal listing
MBTA: Migratory Bird Treaty Act
BEPA: Bald Eagle Protection Act (also protects Golden Eagles)
BCC: Birds of Conservation Concern
BLM = Bureau of Land Management Sensitive
FS: USFS sensitive
ND: No designation

***State designations*:** (C = California Endangered Species Act or CDFG designations)
END: State listed, Endangered
THR: State listed, Threatened
CAN: Candidate for State listing
RARE: State listed, Rare
FP: Fully Protected Species
SSC: Species of Special Concern
WL: Watch List Species
FGC: Bird species protected by Fish and Game Code
ND: No designation

CDFW state rankings are a reflection of the overall condition of an element throughout its California range. The number after the decimal point represents a threat designation attached to the rank:

S1 = Critically Imperiled. Less than (<) 6 Element Occurrences (EOs) OR < 1,000 individuals OR < 2,000 acres
- **S1.1** = very threatened
- **S1.2** = threatened
- **S1.3** = no current threats known

S2 = Imperiled. 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres
- **S2.1** = very threatened
- **S2.2** = threatened
- **S2.3** = no current threats known

S3 = Vulnerable. 21-80 EOs OR 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres
- **S3.1** = very threatened
- **S3.2** = threatened
- **S3.3** = no current threats known

S4 = Apparently Secure. Uncommon but not rare in the state; some cause for long-term concern.
S5 = Secure. Common, widespread, and abundant in the state.
SH = All known California sites are historical, not extant

To a limited degree the Project's BSA acts as a corridor – a flyway – for birds, especially those associated with water, which use agricultural ponds and marshes for foraging. (Wood-A, p. 39.) However, the Project will not eliminate any of these agricultural ponds. Nonetheless, the Project will implement mitigation measures **MM BIO 2** through **MM BIO 5**, which requires preconstruction surveys for nesting birds, least Bell's vireo, burrowing owl, and tricolored blackbird. In the even active nests are present and avoidance is not feasible, the Project Biologist shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify and implement appropriate species-specific measures

For additional information refer to the analysis under threshold 4, Biological Resources and the *Biological Resources Assessment*, *Focused Survey for the Burrowing Owl*, and the *Focused Survey for the Least Bell's Vireo*, which are included in Appendix B of this Initial Study.

15. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

- *Required documents: A Historic Properties Identification Report (HPIR) written by a cultural resources professional who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards in Archaeology or Architectural History (www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm), as appropriate. The report must include a current records search (not older than five years) from the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068) extending to a half-mile beyond the Project's area of potential effects (APE), maps showing all recorded resources and surveys in relation to the APE, records of Native American outreach (http://nahc.ca.gov), and resource records from the CHRIS search and newly identified resources. Please contact State Water Board staff to receive additional details. Refer to the OHP website (under the Section 106 Submission Checklists header) for guidance regarding the information required to consult under Section 106: http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1071/files/106Checklist_Details.pdf.*

If the project is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, a HPIR is not necessary. Contact the State Water Board to discuss this. This decision is based on the type of activities, not on the presence or absence of historic properties.

Identify the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 finding of effect contained in the cultural resources report:

☒ No Historic Properties Affected
☐ No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties
☐ Adverse Effect to Historic Properties

Provide a brief explanation for the above identified determination, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., HPIR cultural report):

As indicated in the *Cultural Resource Investigation in Support of the Eastside Water Treatment Facility and brine Pipeline Project* (Appendix C of the Initial Study), there are no historic-period resources are within the Project's APE. (PaleoWest, pp. 22, 25.)

16. Protection of Wetlands:

Will any portion of the project be located in or potentially affect a wetland?

☒ *No – The project will not be located in and/or will not potentially affect a wetland. Please explain, or indicate this information can be found (e.g., wetland assessment/delineation report, biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.).*

☐ *Yes – The project will involve the construction of structures and/or one or more of the listed regulated activities in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States, and will require a Section 10 permit. Please provide a copy of the permit obtained from the USACE, or the current status of the permit. Indicate below where more information on the project's construction and regulated activities can be found (e.g., Project Technical Report/Engineering Report, CEQA document, etc.).*

Refer to the Jurisdictional Delineation included as Appendix B.4 of this Initial Study.

17. Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10

Will the project involve the construction of structures or any other regulated activities in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States? (NOTE: Regulated activities include the placement/removal of structures, work involving dredging, disposal of dredged material, filling, excavation, or any other disturbance of soils/sediments or modification of a navigable waterway.)

☒ *No – The project is not located in or near navigable waters of the United States. There will be no construction of structures, modification of existing structures, or any other regulated activity work in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States..*

☐ *Yes – The project will involve the construction of structures and/or one or more of the listed regulated activities in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States, and will require a Section 10 permit. Please provide a copy of the permit obtained from the USACE, or the current status of the permit. Indicate below where more information on the project's construction and regulated activities can be found (e.g., Project Technical Report/Engineering Report, CEQA document, etc.).`*

18. Safe Drinking Water Act, Sole Source Aquifer Protection:

Is the project located in an area designated by the USEPA, Region 9, as a Sole Source Aquifer?

☒ *No – The project is not within the boundaries of a sole source aquifer.* [9]

☐ *Yes – The project is located in and/or will impact the below-marked Sole Source Aquifer:*

- ☐ *Fresno County Aquifer (Recharge Area or Streamflow Source Zone)*
- ☐ *Santa Margarita Aquifer, Scotts Valley*
- ☐ *Campo/Cottonwood Creek Aquifer*
- ☐ *Ocotillo-Coyote Wells Aquifer*

Provide the necessary information, including an alternative project location and/or adequate mitigation measures, for the State Water Board to initiate consultation with the USEPA, Region 9, Ground Water Office, or indicate where this information may be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.)

[9] Source: http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/groundwater/ssa.html.

19. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

Identify the watershed within the project location: Santa Ana River Watershed

Will the project affect a wild and scenic river?

☒ *No – The project will not impact any of the wild and scenic rivers listed above. Please explain, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.).*

The nearest river to the Project is the Santa Ana River, which is not designated as wild and scenic.[10]

☐ *Yes - The project will impact the below-marked wild and scenic river. Attach a map of the impacted wild and scenic river, and identify the relative project location.*

☐ *Amargosa River*	☐ *Cottonwood Creek*	☐ *Klamath River*	☐ *Sespe Creek*
☐ *American River (Lower)*	☐ *Eel River*	☐ *Merced River*	☐ *Sisquoc River*
☐ *American River (North Fork)*	☐ *Feather River*	☐ *Owens River Headwaters*	☐ *Smith River*
☐ *Bautista Creek*	☐ *Fuller Mill River*	☐ *Palm Canyon Creek*	☐ *Trinity River*
☐ *Big Sur River*	☐ *Kern River*	☐ *Piru Creek*	☐ *Tuolumne River*
☐ *Black Butte River*	☐ *Kings River*	☐ *San Jacinto River (North Fork)*	

Explain how the project will impact the wild and scenic river, or indicate where this information can be found (e.g., biological report/assessment, CEQA document, etc.):

[10] Source: http://www.rivers.gov/california.php.

5 References

The following documents were used during preparation of this document. They are available for public review at the locations identified.

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CCR	California Code of Regulations. (Available at https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Index?transitionType=Default&contextData=%28sc.Default%29, accessed September 4, 2019.)
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Converse	Converse Consultants, *Geotechnical Investigation Report for Eastside Water Treatment Facility Expansion and Offsite Pipeline*. August 7, 2019. (Included as Appendix D.)
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CVFD	Chino Valley Fire Districthttps://www.ontarioca.gov/government-departments-fire-fire-department/fire-prevention
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