Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Non-Potable Water Connections Project

Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration

prepared for

Coachella Valley Water District
75-515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, California 92211
Contact: William Patterson

prepared with the assistance of

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Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Project Title

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Non-Potable Water Connections Project

1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address

Coachella Valley Water District
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1.3 Contact Person

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1.4 Project Background and Overview

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) delivers water for domestic consumption, landscape and agricultural irrigation, and fire protection across approximately 1,000 square miles of service area. CVWD also collects and treats wastewater, provides regional stormwater protection, replenishes the groundwater basin, and promotes water conservation. CVWD's service area has a population of approximately 300,000 people, served through approximately 110,000 domestic water service connections. The CVWD service territory overlies the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin, which serves as the primary source of domestic water supply. Imported Colorado River water is used for irrigation, groundwater replenishment, and environmental habitat enhancement. Additionally, CVWD serves recycled water (tertiary treated municipal wastewater) for irrigation use.

The Coachella Canal conveys Colorado River water from the All-American Canal to the Coachella Valley north of the Salton Sea in Riverside County. Colorado River water is conveyed from the Coachella Canal via an 18-inch pipeline to CVWD's existing Water Reclamation Plant No. 7 (WRP7 facility[1]), and via the 54-inch diameter Mid-Valley Pipeline (MVP) to CVWD's existing Water Reclamation Plant No. 10 (WRP10) facility in Palm Desert. WRP7 and WRP10 provide non-potable water (NPW) in the form of recycled water, untreated Colorado River water (Coachella Canal water), or a blend of recycled water and Coachella Canal Water.

The proposed project includes NPW originating from the WRP10 facility, which currently conveys NPW via existing distribution pipelines to water customers in the northern portion of the Coachella Valley. Additional description of the MVP and the WRP10 facility is provided below.

- **Water Reclamation Plant No. 10.** WRP10 began delivering recycled water in 1987. Since 2009, WRP10 is also capable of serving Coachella Canal water from the MVP to NPW customers

[1] The existing WRP7 facility is not included in improvements under the 2020-2021 NPW Connections Project.

blended with tertiary treated recycled water. WRP10 NPW is provided primarily for irrigation of golf courses. WRP10 also delivers secondary treated effluent to percolation ponds for land disposal, but these operations are being phased out as the use of NPW throughout CVWD's service territory is increased. Current WRP10 recycled water supply is about 10,200 acre-feet per year (AFY), or 9.1 million gallons per day (mgd). The supply is expected to reach 11,400 AFY (10.2 mgd) by 2030, and 12,400 AFY (11.1 mgd) at build-out of the NPW Master Plan by 2042.

- **Mid-Valley Pipeline.** The MVP was constructed in 2009 to benefit the Indio Groundwater Subbasin through conveyance of Colorado River water from the Coachella Canal to irrigation customers (primarily golf courses) and for direct groundwater replenishment. Colorado River water is currently delivered to WRP10 through the MVP, a 54-inch-diameter buried steel pipeline, and a pump station known as the Mid-Valley Pump Station, located at the intersection of the Coachella Canal and the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel (WWRSC). The MVP is aligned between the MVP Pump Station and the eastern boundary of the WRP10 site, a distance of approximately 36,000 feet (6.8 miles), entirely within the WWRSC. In some areas, the existing pipeline is buried at depths of up to 20 feet to protect from scour during large storm events.

Currently, CVWD's NPW distribution network consists of 31 miles of NPW pipeline which includes all NPW customers for Blended Recycled Water and Direct Canal Water connections from the MVP. In addition, CVWD would implement final design and construction of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-2018 NPW Connections Project (CVWD 2018), which would add approximately 9.5 miles of new pipeline segments to the 31 miles of existing NPW pipeline noted above. The FY 2017-2018 NPW Connections Project includes six golf courses and one RV resort as end user connections (CVWD 2018).

The FY 2020-2021 NPW Connections Project ("proposed project") would implement an additional approximately 12 miles of NPW pipeline. With implementation of the proposed project, CVWD's NPW distribution network would increase to approximately 48 miles. A detailed description of the proposed project, including figures showing the pipeline alignments, is provided in Chapter 2, *Project Description*.

1.5 Project Location

The project alignment is in central Riverside County within the Coachella Valley. The project corridor (pipeline alignments) traverses the cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, and La Quinta in Riverside County, as well as the community of Thousand Palms in unincorporated Riverside County. Please see Figure 1 and Figure 2.

1.6 Recycled Water Supply

1.6.1 Coachella Valley Water Management Plan

In September 2002, CVWD adopted the Coachella Valley Water Management Plan (WMP), which was compiled to reliably "meet current and future water demands in a cost-effective and sustainable manner." In January 2012, an update to the WMP was completed which addressed changing conditions such as increased water demands and evolving federal and state laws and regulations. The 2002 WMP and 2010 WMP Update, collectively referenced as WMP in this document, include the following five major elements:

- Water conservation (urban, golf course, and agricultural)

- Increasing surface water supplies for the Coachella Valley from outside sources
- Substitution of surface water supplies for groundwater (source substitution)
- Groundwater recharge
- Monitoring and evaluation of subsidence and groundwater levels and quality to provide the information needed to manage the Coachella Valley's groundwater resources

The proposed project described herein is part of the source substitution element of the WMP. As stated in the 2010 WMP Update:

> Source substitution is the delivery of an alternate source of water to users that currently pump groundwater. The substitution of an alternate water source reduces groundwater extraction and allows the groundwater to remain in storage, thus reducing overdraft.

The source substitution element is described in additional detail in Section 6.5 of the 2010 WMP Update (CVWD 2012). The proposed project is part of this near-term effort to reduce groundwater overdraft in accordance with the water management goals and objectives of both the 2002 WMP and the 2010 WMP Update. Accordingly, the WMP is addressed throughout the impact analysis as applicable to the respective environmental issue areas.

1.6.2 Existing Non-Potable Water Facilities

Recycled water, also referred to as reclaimed water, is defined in the California Code of Regulations (Title 22, Chapter 3) and refers to water produced by the three-stage (tertiary) treatment of municipal wastewater. CVWD owns and operates five WRPs, two of which (WRP7 and WRP10) generate recycled water for irrigation of golf courses and large landscaped areas (CVWD 2016). The proposed project includes improvements at WRP10, but not at WRP7; however, WRP7 is described herein as well to provide context for CVWD's existing NPW distribution system. WRP1, WRP2, and WRP4 currently do not provide NPW connections.

At WRP7, tertiary treated recycled water is blended with Colorado River water from the Coachella Canal and is served to two 18-hole golf courses at one site and an additional nine holes at another site. At WRP10, tertiary treated water is blended with Colorado River water from the MVP before being distributed to golf courses and other large landscape customers. The WRPs deliver the remaining secondary effluent into percolation ponds. CVWD provides the blend of recycled water and Colorado River water, individually and collectively referred to as Blended Recycled Water or NPW, to water impoundments and the conveyance system for irrigation purposes across the service area (CVWD 2016).

The proposed project would facilitate the expanded use of NPW for irrigation at nine end user connections within CVWD's existing service territory, and is overall intended to enhance the existing NPW distribution system within the Palm Desert area. These improvements are consistent with CVWD's NPW Draft Master Plan, which is currently (as of September 2020) in development. In addition, existing NPW facilities include connections that were implemented under the 2017-2018 NPW Connections Project, which is referred to throughout this analysis of the proposed project, as applicable.

1.7 Existing Setting and Surrounding Land Uses

Land uses in and around the project area are predominantly residential and recreational. The pipeline alignment primarily traverses public roads and through gated residential areas.

1.8 General Plan Land Use Designation

The project corridor is within the vicinity of the following General Plan land use designations for the cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, and La Quinta, as well as the community of Thousand Palms in unincorporated Riverside County. General Plan Land Use designations in the project area include: Resort Entertainment, Conventional Suburban Neighborhood, Town Center Neighborhood, Suburban Retail Center, Public Facilities/ Institutional, Employment, Open Space, Small Town Neighborhood, Golf Course & Resort Neighborhood, Very Low Density Residential, and Community Development Foundation.

1.9 Required Approvals

CVWD is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with responsibility for approving the project. Other approvals that are anticipated to be required for the project are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of Potentially Required Approvals

Regulating Agency	Potential Permit/Approval
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), as administrator of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act[1]	The BOR may use this document to inform its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for CVWD's anticipated WIIN funding application; NEPA approval is not required for the project itself.
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), in federal/state partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program
SWRCB, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) – Colorado River Basin Region	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater (NPDES) Construction General Permit
SWRCB, Colorado River Basin Region RWQCB	General Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use
County of Riverside Department of Transportation	Encroachment Permit
City of Palm Desert	Encroachment Permit
City of Rancho Mirage	Encroachment Permit
City of Indian Wells	Encroachment Permit
City of La Quinta	Encroachment Permit
Riverside County (for the community of Thousand Palms)	Encroachment Permit
South Coast Air Quality Management District	Fugitive Dust Control Plan, Permit to Construct and Permit to Operate

1. Federal agencies do not provide approval of CEQA documents, and the BOR does not have approval authority over this IS-MND; the BOR is identified in this table because it has approval authority over CVWD's WIIN funding application for the project, and it may use information from this CEQA document to inform its eventual NEPA process.

1.10 Scope and Use of this Document

This Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) provides an assessment of the potential impacts to environmental resources that would result from implementing the proposed project. The discussion and level of analysis are commensurate with the expected magnitude and severity of each impact to environmental resources. This document primarily addresses the environmental effects of constructing and operating recycled water conveyance and storage infrastructure and the effects of using the water supplies under consideration. The analyses in Chapter 3 are based on technical reports and studies prepared for the project, supplemented with other public information sources as provided in the list of references.

This document evaluates the potential for impacts to resources areas identified in Appendix G of the current (2020) *State CEQA Guidelines,* and adheres to CVWD's Local CEQA Guidelines (2019). These resource areas include:

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

1.10.1 Administration of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program in California

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act or CWA), as amended in 1987, established the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. The CWSRF program offers low interest financing agreements for water quality projects. The proposed project may be partially funded with a loan through the CWSRF Loan Program. The program is nationally administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and in certain instances the administration has been delegated to the individual states. In California, administration of the CWSRF program has been delegated to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). In turn, the SWRCB requires that all projects being considered under the CWSRF program must comply with CEQA and certain federal environmental protection laws, including the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA; Section 7), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA; Section 106), the General Conformity Rule for the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), and other executive orders and federal regulations. Collectively, the SWRCB refers to these requirements as "CEQA-Plus."

This IS-MND has been prepared in accordance with the *State Environmental Review Process for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program* (SWRCB 2017) and is expanded beyond the typical content requirements of an IS-MND to include additional CEQA-Plus information. The SWRCB is a

CEQA Responsible Agency for the proposed project and would consider this CEQA document prior to CWSRF loan authorization. Only those portions of the project that are located "off-site" in public rights-of-way would be subject for funding support through the CWSRF program; please see Section 2.2.1, *Pipeline Segments*, for further discussion of these project components.

1.10.2 Administration of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016 includes the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, the Water and Waste Act of 2016, significant tribal and natural resources legislation, and other important measures to help improve and manage water supply infrastructure throughout the nation. The WIIN Act includes provisions aimed at improving drinking water infrastructure around the country and improving water storage and delivery infrastructure, particularly for areas affected by long-term drought. Multiple grant opportunities are authorized under the WIIN Act, and CVWD may apply for WIIN funding to support the proposed project.

1.10.3 Impact Terminology

The anticipated environmental impacts are identified for each of the resource areas listed above. The level of significance for each resource area uses CEQA terminology as specified below:

- **Potentially Significant.** Adverse environmental consequences that have the potential to be significant according to the threshold criteria identified for the resource, even after mitigation strategies are applied and/or an adverse effect that could be significant and for which no mitigation has been identified. If any potentially significant impacts are identified, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared to meet the requirements of CEQA.
- **Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation is Incorporated.** Adverse environmental consequences that have the potential to be significant, but can be reduced to less than significant levels through the application of identified mitigation strategies that have not already been incorporated into the proposed project.
- **Less than Significant.** Potential adverse environmental consequences have been identified. However, they are not so adverse as to meet the significance threshold criteria for that resource. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.
- **No Impact.** No adverse environmental consequences have been identified for the resource or the consequences are negligible or undetectable. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

1.10.4 Recommended Level of Environmental Documentation

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

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

☐	Aesthetics	☐	Agriculture and Forest Resources	☐	Air Quality
■	Biological Resources	☐	Cultural Resources	☐	Energy
■	Geology and Soils, including Paleontological Resources	☐	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	■	Hazards and 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

Based on the analysis presented herein, an MND is the appropriate level of environmental documentation for the project.

DETERMINATION (To be completed by lead agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "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.

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

Prepared by:	Aubrey Mescher	10-14-20
	Aubrey Mescher, Senior Environmental Planner Rincon Consultants	Date
Reviewed by:		
	Elizabeth Meyerhoff, Environmental Specialist Coachella Valley Water District	Date
Reviewed by:		
	William Patterson, Environmental Supervisor Coachella Valley Water District	Date
Submitted by:		
	Steve Bigley, Director of Environmental Services Coachella Valley Water District	Date
Concurrence by:		
	Sylvia Bermudez, Environmental Assessment Committee Chair & Clerk of the Board Coachella Valley Water District	Date
Approved by:		
	J. M. Barrett, General Manager Coachella Valley Water District	Date

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Chapter 2 Project Description

The proposed project involves the construction and operation of approximately 12 miles of NPW pipeline segments and connections to provide irrigation water to nine new end users, which include seven local golf courses, one community church, and one sports and entertainment venue, as listed below in Table 2. These end users currently use on-site pumped groundwater or CVWD-supplied potable water for irrigation; there are no connections to canal water at this time. Under the proposed project, those water sources would shift to Blended Recycled Water provided from CVWD's existing WRP10 facility, located at 43000 Cook Street in Palm Desert. WRP10 is equipped with a tertiary treatment design capacity of 15 mgd. During the winter months, when current demand for recycled water is less than the available supply, a portion of the recycled water (tertiary water) is disposed through on-site percolation-evaporation ponds, which would be eliminated as more NPW users are connected to the NPW distribution system (CVWD 2016).

Table 2 Proposed Project Non-Potable Water End User Connections

Land Use Type	Connection Name	Location
Golf Course	Annenberg Estate aka Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands Golf Course	37977 Bob Hope Drive Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
Golf Course	Rancho Mirage Country Club	38500 Bob Hope Drive Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
Golf Course	Tamarisk Country Club	70240 Frank Sinatra Drive Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
Golf Course	Suncrest Country Club	73450 Country Club Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260
Golf Course	Jack Ivey Ranch Country Club	74580 Varner Road Thousand Palms, CA 92276
Golf Course	Tri-Palm Estates and Country Club	32700 Desert Moon Drive Thousand Palms, CA 92276
Golf Course	Palm Royale Country Club	78259 Indigo Drive La Quinta, CA 92253
Church	Southwest Community Church	44175 Washington Street Indian Wells, CA 92210
Sports and Entertainment Venue	Indian Wells Tennis Garden	78200 Miles Avenue Indian Wells, CA 92210

The length of pipeline segments traversing each of these jurisdictions is identified in Table 3, and the Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) transected by the project alignment are listed in Table 4.

Table 3 New NPW Pipeline Segments per Jurisdiction

City	Length of New NPW Pipeline (LF)
Palm Desert	21,000
Thousand Palms (unincorporated Riverside County)	25,000
Rancho Mirage	16,000
Indian Wells	4,000
La Quinta	2,000
Total	**68,000[1]**

LF = linear feet

1. The total length of new NPW pipeline that would be installed as part of the proposed project is calculated to be 68,011 LF; however, to streamline calculations and aid in providing clear quantitative comparisons for the purposes of this analysis, the total length of new NPW pipeline has been rounded to "approximately 68,000 LF."

Please refer to Figure 1, Regional Project Location, and Figure 2, Project Site Vicinity, for depictions of the proposed project alignment in a regional and local context, including in relation to city and county boundaries.

Table 4 APNs for Properties Traversed by the Proposed Project

Assessor Parcel Numbers		
604020021	637020013	674430015
604020042	674310001	685430015
620082037	674310002	685230001
620180022	674310007	693230002
633310024	674310010	693251018
633310037	674310011	685230004
633350014	674310013	685231053
633350015	674340011	694010092
633360023	674360002	694040073
633360034	674360015	694100044
637020011	674430012	694110044

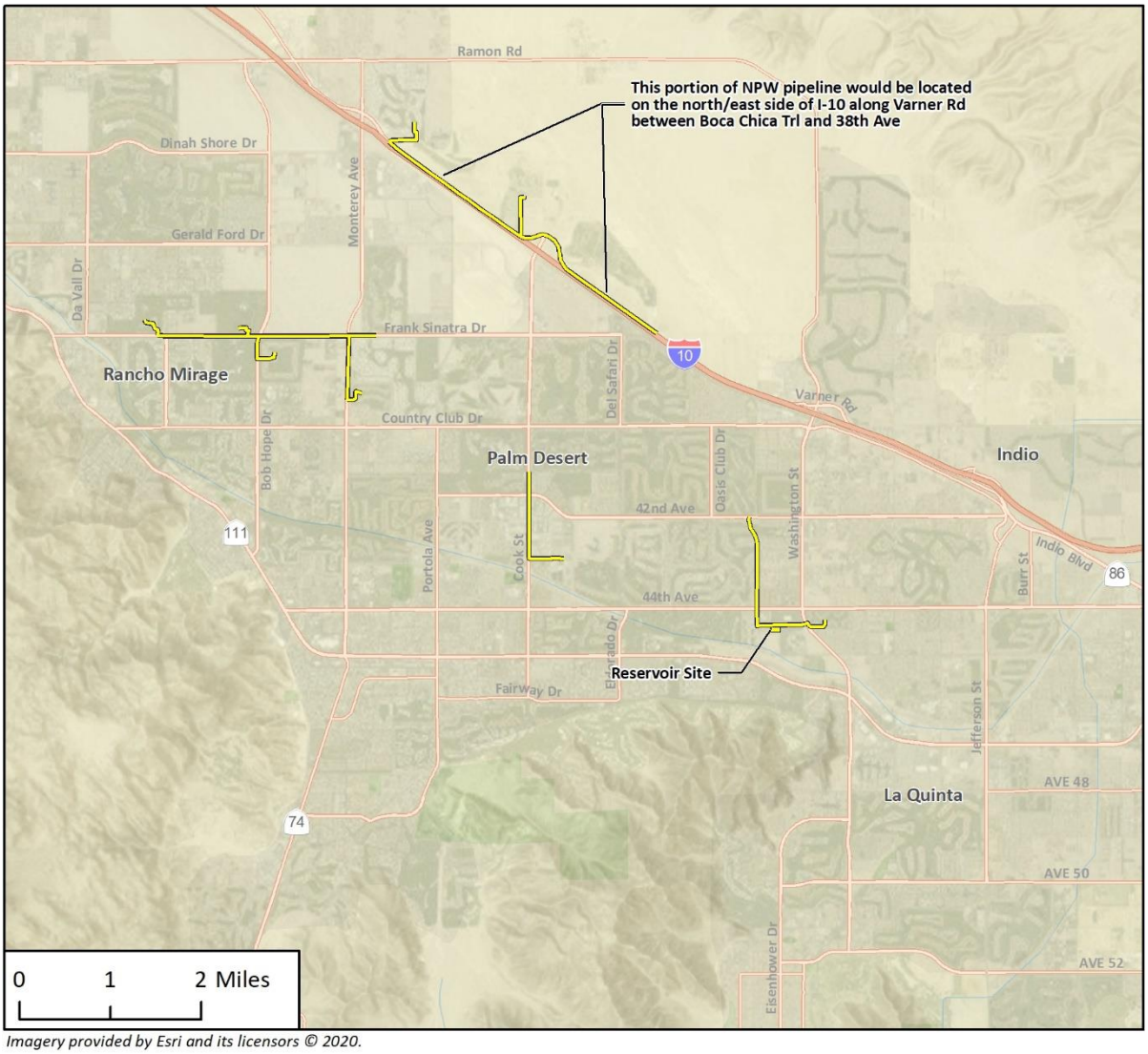
2.1 Purpose of the Project

CVWD's 2002 WMP and 2010 WMP Update set forth several groundwater source substitution projects, including the provision of NPW for irrigation of golf courses that currently pump groundwater for irrigation use. On July 17, 2019, CVWD obtained approval of the 2010 WMP from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as an "Alternative Plan" in compliance with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The key water management plan elements of the "Alternative Plan" include water conservation, water supply augmentation, groundwater recharge, and source substitution. The proposed project is part of the source substitution element. The proposed project would reduce groundwater overdraft in accordance with the water management goals and objectives of both the 2002 WMP and the 2010 WMP Update. In keeping with the goals identified in the WMP, the purpose of the proposed project is to:

- Provide up to 6,500 AFY of NPW for irrigation use in CVWD's service area

- Reduce groundwater overdraft in accordance with the water management goals and objectives of both the 2002 WMP and the 2010 WMP Update

Figure 1 Regional Project Location



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Proposed Project

N

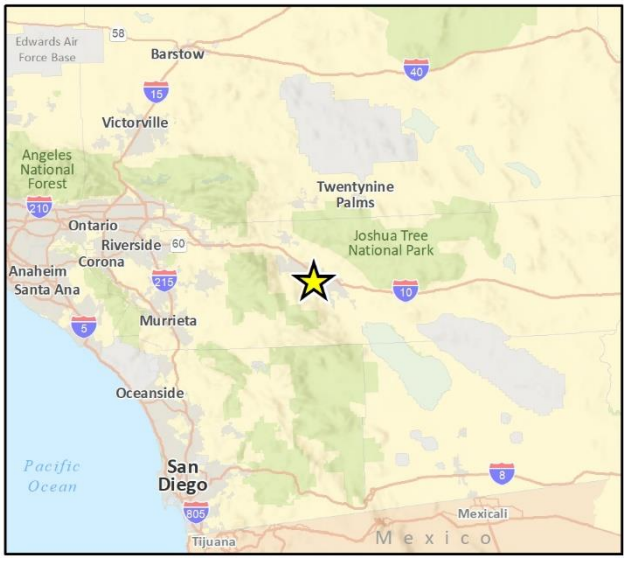

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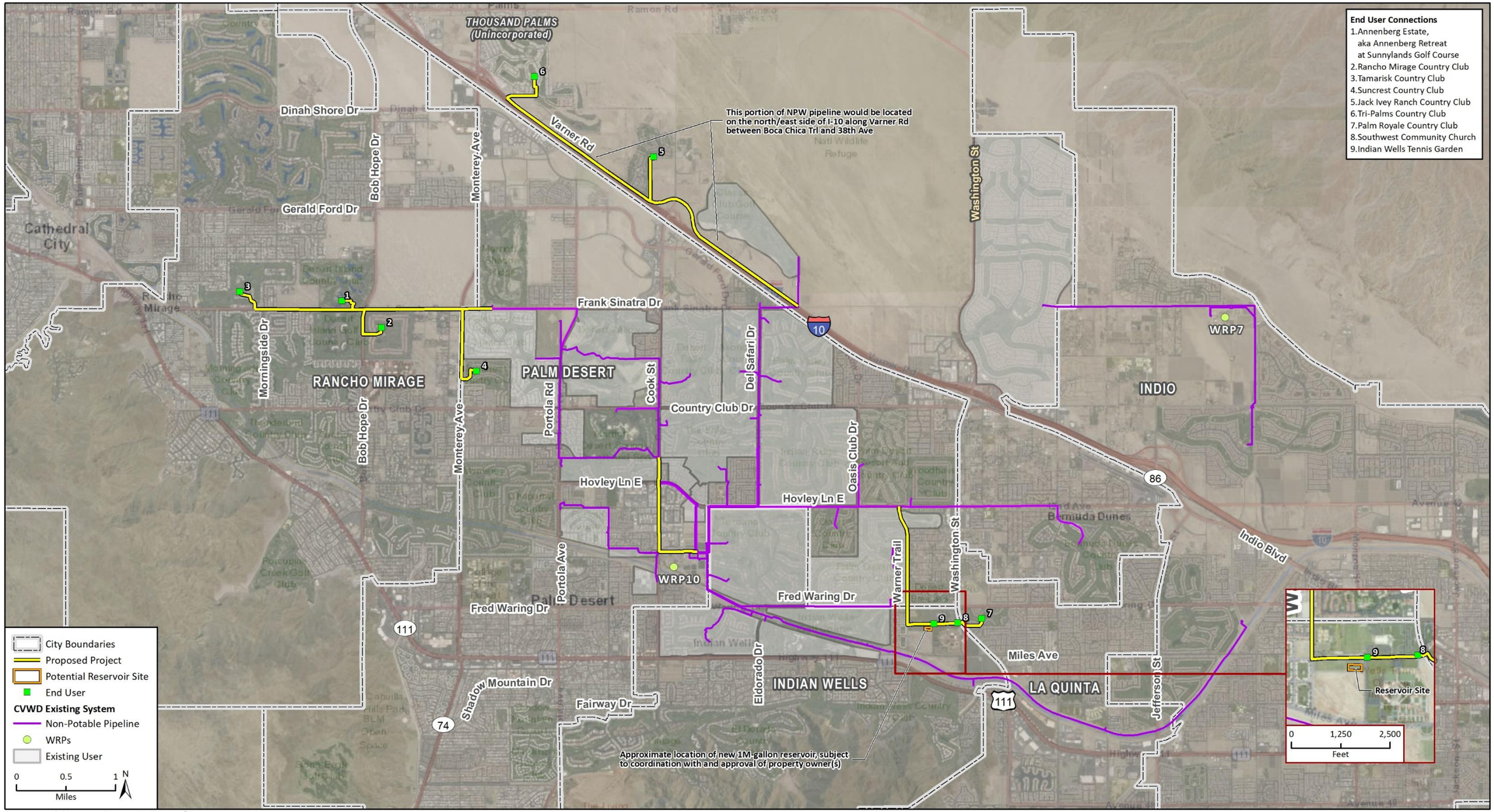
Figure 2 Project Site Vicinity



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Additional data provided by Coachella Valley Water District, 2020.

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2.2 Pipeline Construction and Infrastructure

2.2.1 Pipeline Segments

The proposed project would install a total of approximately 68,000 linear feet (LF) of new NPW pipeline within public rights-of-way and private lands in the project area, as shown on Figure 2. For the purposes of this IS-MND, the term "on-site" refers to private land (primarily golf courses) that would be end user connections for the project, and the term "off-site" refers to public rights-of-way, primarily existing roadways, where NPW pipeline segments would be constructed. Of the project's total approximately 68,000 LF, approximately 52,861 LF would be off-site (in public rights-of-way) and approximately 15,150 LF would be on-site (on private property where end user connections are located). As described in Section 1.10.1, Administration of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program in California, only those portions of pipeline that are located off-site are eligible for funding support through the CWSRF program. The table below provides an overview of off-site and on-site pipeline segments for each component of the proposed project.

Table 5 Length of Off-Site and On-Site Pipeline Segments

Project Component	Off-Site Pipeline (LF)	On-Site Pipeline (LF)
Annenberg Estate aka Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands Golf Course	645	1,100
Rancho Mirage Country Club	6,830	2,540
Tamarisk Country Club	5,211	1,440
Suncrest Country Club	3,710	1,240
Jack Ivey Ranch Country Club	10,340	2,560
Tri-Palm Estates and Country Club	9,450	2,720
Palm Royale Country Club	855	1,550
Southwest Community Church & Indian Wells Tennis Garden[1]	8,620	2,000
WRP10 Low Pressure Pipeline Improvement[2]	7,200	0
Total (68,011 LF)[3]	**52,861**	**15,150**

1. The Southwest Community Church and the Indian Wells Tennis Garden are two separate end user connections; however, they are listed here together because they are located adjacent to each other, and the pipeline in this area would be used for both end users.

2. The WRP10 Low Pressure Pipeline Improvement refers to the section of NPW that would be installed in Cook Street, adjacent to the west of the WRP10 facility; this project component is not an end user connection, but is a necessary improvement to the existing NPW system.

3. The combined total of off-site and on-site pipeline segments is 68,011 LF; for the purposes of this analysis this total is rounded to "approximately 68,000 LF".

The proposed NPW pipelines would extend adjacent to Rancho Portola, a planned future development in Palm Desert, and the Eagle, a planned future development in Rancho Mirage. The proposed project NPW pipelines would supply NPW to existing and future customers through CVWD's Low and High Pressure Systems (NPW delivery systems). The proposed project pipeline segments would convey NPW into existing water impoundments (surface lakes) located on-site at each golf course facility identified in Table 2, and to the new storage reservoir described below, located near the Indian Wells Tennis Garden (IWTG) to serve the landscape irrigation needs of the IWTG and Southwest Community Church facilities.

2.2.2 Storage Reservoir

The proposed project would include construction of one water storage reservoir or lake impoundment (reservoir) located in Indian Wells to serve the IWTG and the Southwest Community Church. Southwest Community Church is adjacent to the north of the IWTG, and bordered to the west by Gerald R. Ford Elementary School, to the north by Fred Waring Drive / Avenue 44, and to the east by Washington Street. The IWTG, located adjacent to the south of the Southwest Community Church, is bordered to the east by Washington Street, to the south by Miles Avenue, and to the west by undeveloped land and residences. The reservoir location is shown on Figure 2. This project component would be a lined surface water storage reservoir with a capacity of approximately one million gallons, and a pond-like configuration. Figure 3 shows an example lake reservoir (water impoundment). During construction of the project's reservoir, approximately 5,000 cubic yards of material would be exported off site.

The reservoir site is in the southeastern portion of a parcel owned and maintained by the IWTG, bounded to the north and west by other portions of the parcel, and to the east and south by existing paved access roads that bound the entire site. The site is approximately 922 feet (0.17 mile) east of Warner Train and approximately 265 feet (0.05 mile) south of Entrada Las Brisas, which provides access from Warner Trail east to the entrance of Southwest Community Church on Washington Street, just south of Fred Waring Drive. This site is approximately 422 feet (0.08 mile) southeast of Gerald R. Ford Elementary School, approximately 300 feet (0.06 mile) south of an undeveloped field adjacent to the west of the Southwest Community Church, and approximately 578 feet (0.11 mile) west of the IWTG's tennis courts in the northern portion of the complex.

The reservoir site is located on a privately-owned parcel that is previously cleared and graded, and does not include existing infrastructure, such that placement of the reservoir on this site would not represent a major land use conversion. Use of this site would not introduce a hazard to the public or surrounding land uses, due to access restrictions between the identified parcel and surrounding land uses. In addition, the site is located in sufficient proximity to the project's NPW pipeline components to serve the intended purpose of the project.

2.2.3 Valves and Meters

The proposed project would include installation of nine new motor-actuated valves and nine new CVWD meters installed in the CVWD metering vault. Each delivery point (end user connection) would be equipped with one motor actuated valve located in a belowground vault, adjacent to an existing golf course lake where a delivery point is located. NPW deliveries would be measured via CVWD-owned meters, located immediately outside of the public right-of-way within an easement obtained from the respective customer. Each meter vault would be equipped with an antenna and telemetry panel.

An example golf course lake delivery is shown in Figure 3; under the proposed project, the underground vault containing a valve and meter would be collocated at a similar delivery point as shown here. The motor actuated valve would allow each terminal user to control delivery of NPW to the on-site water impoundment.

Figure 3 Conceptual Non-Potable Water Lake Impoundment

2.3 Construction Activities

Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to last approximately two years. Implementation of each of the proposed NPW pipeline segments would entail the following:

- Removal of existing ground cover (landscaping, asphalt, or concrete)
- Open trenching along the NPW pipeline alignment (a jack and bore technique may be used at major intersections)
- Placement of bedding within the trench
- Placement of NPW pipeline
- Backfilling of trenches and soil compaction
- Installation of meters and motor actuated valves

The new NPW pipeline segments would be constructed via open trench measuring approximately five feet in width and up to eight feet in depth, and/or by a jack and bore technique at major intersections. Figure 4 shows a typical trenching work site for the installation of new segments of NPW pipeline. With the addition of approximately 68,000 LF of new pipeline segments under the proposed project, the total disturbed area would be up to approximately 340,000 square feet, involving up to approximately 2,720,000 cubic feet (100,740 cubic yards) of earth movement for pipeline installation.

Figure 4 Typical Non-Potable Water Pipeline Trenching Work Site

Project construction activities would involve the removal of approximately six inches in depth of existing asphalt along the project corridor, yielding approximately 115,000 cubic feet of asphalt export. Where the project alignment transects unpaved golf course land, it is assumed that six inches of grass and soil would be removed in lieu of asphalt. Another six inches of soil and gravel would be removed during trenching to make room for the pipelines.

Some native soil would remain on site to be used as backfill. Surplus soil resulting from pipeline installation would be exported for disposal at an approved facility. It is assumed that approximately 250,000 cubic feet, or approximately 9,260 cubic yards, of material would be exported in total. Finally, six inches of new asphalt and six inches of clean gravel would be imported to backfill and re-pave the project footprint within public rights-of-way. It is assumed that approximately 285,000 cubic feet, or approximately 10,500 cubic yards, of material would be imported. This is a conservative estimate based upon the project's footprint as analyzed in this IS-MND. Export and import material quantities are summarized below:

- Export 115,000 cubic feet (4,259 cubic yards) of asphalt
- Export 250,000 cubic feet (9,260 cubic yards) of soil
- Import 285,000 cubic feet (10,500 cubic yards) of material

In addition, as noted in Section 2.2, *Proposed Infrastructure,* approximately 5,000 cubic yards of material would be exported off site for the construction of the new storage reservoir.

2.4 Operation and Maintenance Activities

Operation and maintenance of the proposed project would include conveyance of NPW from CVWD's existing WRP10 facility to each of the proposed end user connections to provide landscape irrigation water. The delivery of NPW would require pump station operation and motor-actuated valve operation. Operation and maintenance activities for the proposed project would include

regular visual inspections of project infrastructure, and the implementation of repairs on an as-needed basis. These activities are consistent with ongoing operation and maintenance activities for CVWD's existing NPW distribution system.

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Chapter 3 Environmental Checklist

3.1 Aesthetics

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

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

The proposed project includes NPW pipeline segments traversing the cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, and La Quinta, as well as the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms in Riverside County. The project area consists of the relatively flat Coachella Valley, surrounded by undeveloped mountainous areas to the northeast and southwest. The Coachella Valley's general visual character is typified by golf-oriented and tourist resort communities, desert oasis areas, date groves and agricultural uses, wind turbines, and desert and mountain vistas (County of Riverside 2015). Please see Figure 2, *Project Site Vicinity*, in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, for a depiction of the project alignment, the surrounding area, and the jurisdictions crossed by the project corridor.

There are no designated scenic vistas in the project area. Views in the region consist primarily of mountains surrounding the Coachella Valley, open desert, and landscaped areas including golf courses. Land uses in and around the project area are predominantly residential and recreational, including multiple golf courses that would receive water supply from the proposed project. During construction of the proposed project, scenic vistas surrounding the project area may be temporarily

impaired due to the presence of construction vehicles and equipment used to install project components. Once construction is complete, the NPW pipeline segments would be underground and not visible, including from scenic vistas, and areas along the proposed project alignment that are currently landscaped would be returned to a similar pre-construction setting.

The project also includes construction of a new one-million-gallon reservoir that would serve the Indian Wells Tennis Garden and Southwest Community Church; this reservoir would be a below-ground impoundment and would visually appear as a pond on the subject property. Because the storage reservoir would be situated below ground instead of as an aboveground tank, it would not be visible from a distance. Improvements within CVWD's existing WRP10 facility, including two new 100-HP pumps, would be visually consistent with other features of the WRP10 facility, and would not affect scenic vistas in the area. Potential impacts of the project to scenic vistas from construction and operation of the proposed project would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

In Riverside County, scenic vistas and natural features are often enjoyed by transient viewers traveling on the local roadways (County of Riverside 2015). The closest officially designated State scenic highway to the proposed project is State Route (SR) 74, which extends from Interstate 5 in San Juan Capistrano in Orange County to Palm Desert (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 2018). The Palm Desert city limits respective to the proposed project components are shown on Figure 2; this figure also shows that SR 74 ends in Palm Desert at its connection to SR 111, which runs in a west-east alignment through the project area. SR 111 is eligible to be included in the State Scenic Highway System, but it is not officially designated as a scenic highway by Caltrans. No visible evidence of the proposed project would be present near SR 74. No other designated or eligible scenic highways are located in the project area. Therefore, the project would not result in a substantial adverse effect on a scenic resource visible from a State scenic highway and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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

Construction of the proposed project would be visible from surrounding land uses and would temporarily alter the existing visual character and quality of the project area and vicinity. A temporary change in visual character would result from the presence of construction equipment and material, stockpiles of soil, and construction vehicles during installation of the NPW pipeline segments. Construction activities would include grading, excavation, trenching, and erection of safety barriers and temporary exclusion fencing. Consistent with CVWD's other NPW pipeline projects, construction of the NPW pipeline segments would occur in sections of approximately 200 LF. Each section of the pipeline alignment would be excavated, constructed, and backfilled within approximately one day. These activities may temporarily obstruct or degrade the viewshed for residents, golfers, and motorists along the project alignment, but this change would end once project construction is complete and the project site is restored to pre-construction conditions.

Therefore, the visual impacts of construction activity at any given location would be limited to a few days at most.

During operation and maintenance of the proposed project, the NPW pipeline segments would be underground; therefore the visual character of the project site would not be affected. Components of the proposed project that would be visible from the ground surface include the one-million-gallon storage reservoir and the valves and meters.

As described, the proposed project would deliver NPW to each golf course lake impoundment, as well as the one reservoir site; an example of the delivery of NPW water is shown on Figure 3. The visual character of these surface delivery points is consistent with other surface delivery points in CVWD's NPW infrastructure system, and would not substantially affect the area's visual character. Also, as described in the Project Description, the new storage reservoir would be designed as a below-ground impoundment, and would be located on a presently undeveloped parcel. The storage reservoir would be visible from adjacent sites, but similar to the NPW delivery points, it would not substantially affect the area's visual character. Additionally, because the storage reservoir would be situated below ground, instead of as an aboveground tank, it would not be visible from a distance.

Due to the temporary nature of construction activities at any given location, and the lack of visible project components following construction (with the exception of the delivery points and the storage reservoir), construction and operation of the proposed project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. This impact would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Construction of the proposed project components may create temporary light and glare during construction due to the presence of construction vehicles and equipment. The proposed project would not create a new source of light or glare once construction is complete, as the NPW pipeline segments would be located underground. Construction would occur primarily during the daytime hours, though late afternoon activities during the winter could require that some lighting be used and, in some cases, nighttime construction may be required. This nighttime light may be visible from surrounding roadways and residential and other land uses, but the lighting would not face toward adjacent uses and would be directed downward towards pipeline installation activities.

For the portion of the project that would occur in unincorporated Riverside County (community of Thousand Palms), all construction activities would be subject to the County of Riverside's Ordinances No. 655 (Regulating Light Pollution). Ordinance No. 655 defines lighting sources, establishes the type and manner of installation and operation of lighting, and details lighting prohibitions in order to restrict undesirable nighttime light rays which have a detrimental effect on astronomical observation and research at the Palomar Observatory in Riverside County. The project site would be located in Lighting Policy Area Zone B. Ordinance No. 655 restricts certain types of lighting between 11:00 p.m. and sunrise in Zones A and B; no construction activities are planned during this time period. The County of Riverside's noise ordinance also prohibits construction within one-quarter mile of an occupied residence unless it occurs between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (June through September) or between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (October through May). The segment of the project corridor located in unincorporated Riverside County abuts

residential neighborhoods and is therefore subject to these restrictions. Construction activities located in unincorporated Riverside County would occur within these hours.

Project construction activities in Palm Desert would generally occur during normal work hours, consistent with the weekday construction hours established by the City of Palm Desert (7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday). No construction would occur on Saturdays or Sundays. In addition, construction activities within golf course communities would be scheduled in collaboration with the appropriate Homeowners Association (HOA) in order to minimize disruptions to residents and recreational users.

Compliance with the above ordinances would ensure that light and glare from construction activities would not substantially disturb sensitive receptors, including but not limited to residents in the project area. Furthermore, construction activities would be temporary, lasting no more than a few days at any given location. Therefore, potential impacts during construction associated with light or glare would be less than significant.

During operation and maintenance of the project, select infrastructure components would be visible from the ground surface, including the delivery points and associated valves and meters (one per delivery point), and the new storage reservoir. As discussed above, the NPW delivery points and associated infrastructure would be visually consistent with the surrounding area, and would not introduce a new source of light or glare. The new storage reservoir would be located below ground, and the surface of the water could introduce glare during daytime hours from select viewpoints; however, this would be consistent with other storage reservoirs included in CVWD's NPW system and would not introduce a significant adverse impact.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

3.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources

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

a. Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, 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. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

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 by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?

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

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?

The proposed project corridor is not currently in agricultural production and does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or land with a Williamson Act contract (DOC 2020). No project components are located on forest land or timber land (County of Riverside 2015).

The project would also not cause the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Due to the absence of agricultural land at the project site or in the surrounding area, the project would not involve changes to the existing environment which could result in conversion of Farmland to a non-agricultural use. No impact to agricultural or forest resources would occur.

NO IMPACT

3.3 Air Quality

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

"Air pollution" is a general term that refers to one or more chemical substances that degrade the quality of the atmosphere. Individual air pollutants may adversely affect human or animal health, reduce visibility, damage property, and reduce the productivity or vigor of crops and natural vegetation.

Six air pollutants have been identified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as being of concern nationwide: carbon monoxide (CO); ozone; nitrogen dioxide; sulfur dioxide; lead; and particulate matter (PM), which is subdivided into two classes based on particle size, fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$) and coarse particles (PM_{10}). These pollutants are collectively referred to as criteria pollutants. The sources of these pollutants, their effects on human health and the nation's welfare, and their final deposition in the atmosphere vary considerably.

The criteria pollutants that are most important for this air quality impact analysis are those that can be traced principally to motor vehicles and to earth-moving activities. Of these pollutants, CO, reactive organic gases (ROG)[2], nitrogen oxides (NO_X), $PM_{2.5}$, and PM_{10} are evaluated on a regional or "mesoscale" basis. CO is also often analyzed on a localized or "microscale" basis in cases of congested traffic conditions.

The project area is within the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB) which is bounded by the San Jacinto Mountains to the west, Mojave Desert to the north and east, and the Mexico border to the south. The SSAB includes Imperial County and most of the low desert areas of central Riverside County.

[2] The California Air Resources Board (CARB) defines volatile organic compounds (VOC) and ROG similarly as, "any compound of carbon excluding CO, carbon dioxide, carbonic acid, metallic carbides or carbonates, and ammonium carbonate," with the exception that VOC are compounds that participate in atmospheric photochemical reactions (CARB 2004). For the purposes of this analysis, ROG and VOC are considered comparable in terms of mass emissions and the term ROG is used in this report.

The Riverside County portion of the SSAB, in which the proposed project would be located, is under the regulatory jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).

Air Quality Standards and Attainment

The local air quality management agency is required to monitor air pollutant levels to ensure that National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are met and, if they are not met, to develop strategies to meet the standards.

Depending on whether or not the standards are met or exceeded, the SSAB is classified as being in "attainment" or "nonattainment." The SCAQMD's 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) assesses the attainment status of the Coachella Valley portion of the SSAB. The NAAQS and CAAQS attainment statuses for the Coachella Valley portion of the SSAB are listed in Table 6. As shown therein, the SSAB is in nonattainment for the State standards for 1-hour ozone, both the federal and State standards for 8-hour ozone and PM_{10} (SCAQMD 2017). Thus, the Coachella Valley portion of the SSAB currently exceeds several State and federal ambient air quality standards and is required to implement strategies that would reduce pollutant levels to recognized acceptable standards. The SCAQMD has adopted an AQMP that provides a strategy for the attainment of State and federal air quality standards.

Table 6 Coachella Valley Portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin Attainment Status

Pollutant	Standard	Designation
1-Hour Ozone	NAAQS CAAQS	Attainment Nonattainment
8-Hour Ozone	NAAQS CAAQS	Nonattainment (Severe-15) Nonattainment
CO	NAAQS CAAQS	Unclassified/Attainment Attainment
NO_2	NAAQS CAAQS	Unclassified/Attainment Attainment
SO_2	NAAQS CAAQS	Unclassified/Attainment Attainment
PM_{10}	NAAQS CAAQS	Nonattainment (Serious) Nonattainment
$PM_{2.5}$	NAAQS CAAQS	Unclassified/Attainment Attainment
Lead	NAAQS CAAQS	Unclassified/Attainment Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	CAAQS	Unclassified
Sulfates	CAAQS	Attainment

NAAQS: National Ambient Air Quality Standards; CAAQS: California Ambient Air Quality Standards; CO: carbon monoxide; PM_{10}: particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter; $PM_{2.5}$: particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter; SO_2: sulfur dioxide; NO_2: nitrogen dioxide

Sources: USEPA 2020; SCAQMD 2017, 2018

In an effort to monitor the various concentrations of air pollutants throughout the SSAB, the SCAQMD has divided the region into 38 source receptor areas (SRAs) in which over 30 monitoring stations operate. The project is located within SRA 30, which covers the Coachella Valley area. Ambient air pollutant concentrations within SRA 30 are monitored in Palm Springs.

The SCAQMD provides numerical thresholds to analyze the significance of a project's construction and operational emissions to regional air quality. These thresholds are designed such that a project consistent with the thresholds would not have an individually or cumulatively significant impact to the SSAB's air quality. These thresholds are listed in Table 7.

Table 7 SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds for Coachella Valley

	Mass Daily Thresholds	
Pollutant	**Operation Thresholds (pounds/day)**	**Construction Thresholds (pounds/day)**
NO_X	100	100
ROG	75	75
PM_{10}	150	150
$PM_{2.5}$	55	55
SO_X	150	150
CO	550	550
Lead	3	3

NO_X: nitrogen oxides; ROG: reactive organic gases; PM_{10}: particulate matter less than 10 microns in size; $PM_{2.5}$: particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size; SO_X: sulfur oxides; CO: carbon monoxide; ROG: reactive organic gases; VOC: volatile organic compounds

Note: For Coachella Valley, the mass daily thresholds for operation are the same as the construction thresholds.

Source: SCAQMD 2019

In addition to the above thresholds, the SCAQMD recommends the use of Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs) developed in response to the Governing Board's Environmental Justice Enhancement Initiative (1-4). LSTs were devised in response to concern regarding exposure of individuals to criteria pollutants in local communities and have been developed for nitrogen oxides (NO_X), carbon monoxide (CO), PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that will not cause or contribute to an air quality exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard at the nearest sensitive receptor, taking into consideration ambient concentrations in each SRA, distance to the sensitive receptor, and project size. LSTs only apply to emissions within a fixed stationary location and are not applicable to mobile sources, such as cars on a roadway (SCAQMD 2008). According to the SCAQMD's publication, *Final Localized Significant Thresholds Methodology*, the use of LSTs is voluntary, to be implemented at the discretion of local agencies.

The project site is located in SRA-30, Coachella Valley (SCAQMD 2008). LSTs have been developed for emissions within construction areas up to five acres in size. The SCAQMD provides lookup tables for sites that measure up to one, two, or five acres. The entire project corridor is approximately 17.5 acres. However, this analysis assumes that approximately 200 LF of pipeline (equating to a construction site smaller than 0.1 acre in size) would be under active construction at any one time. Construction work may occur simultaneously on the reservoir site (up to 0.25 acre). Pursuant to SCAQMD guidance, LSTs for the one-acre site should be used for sites that are less than one acre in

size. In rare cases, ground disturbance may exceed the estimated approximate total of 200 LF; however, in no case would the project area under active construction at any one time exceed one acre. LSTs for construction on a one-acre site in SRA-30 are shown in Table 8.

LSTs are provided for receptors at a distance of 25 to 500 meters (82 to 1,640 feet) from the project site boundary. The closest sensitive receptors to the project site are residences located adjacent to the pipeline. The pipeline alignment transects several residential communities. In addition, the project corridor would be situated directly west of the Gerald R. Ford Elementary School, located at 44-210 Warner Trail in Indian Wells. According to the SCAQMD's LST methodology, projects with boundaries closer than 25 meters (82 feet) to the nearest receptor should use the LSTs for receptors located at 25 meters (SCAQMD 2008).

Table 8 SCAQMD LSTs for Construction

Pollutant	Allowable emissions from a one-acre site in SRA-30 for a receptor within 25 meters, or 82 feet (pounds/day)
Gradual conversion of NO_x to NO_2	132
CO	878
PM_{10}	4
$PM_{2.5}$	3

SRA: Source Receptor Area; NO_X: nitrogen oxides; NO_2: nitrogen dioxide; PM_{10}: particulate matter less than 10 microns in size; $PM_{2.5}$: particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size; CO: carbon monoxide

Source: SCAQMD 2008

General Conformity

The 1990 Amendment to FCAA Section 176 requires USEPA to promulgate rules to ensure that federal actions conform to the appropriate SIP. These rules, known as the General Conformity Rule (40 C.F.R. Parts 51.850–51.860 and 93.150–93.160), require any federal agency responsible for an action in a federal nonattainment/maintenance area to demonstrate conformity to the applicable SIP, by either determining that the action is exempt from the General Conformity Rule requirements or subject to a formal conformity determination.

If an applicability analysis shows that the total direct and indirect emissions of nonattainment / maintenance pollutants from project construction and operation activities would be less than specified emission rate thresholds, known as *de minimis* levels, the actions would be exempt, and thus conform to the SIP. If not determined exempt, an air quality conformity analysis would be required to determine conformity.

The General Conformity Rule is applicable only for project criteria pollutants and their precursors for which an area is designated nonattainment or that is covered by a maintenance plan. The project site is located within the SSAB, which is a federal nonattainment area for 8-hour ozone, and a maintenance area for CO based on violation of the applicable NAAQS. Therefore, the General Conformity Rule is applicable to the project emissions of PM_{10} and ozone precursors (ROG and NO_X).

Based on the federal attainment designations for the SSAB, the *de minimis* levels that apply to the SSAB are listed in Table 9. These levels apply to all direct and indirect annual emissions generated during construction and operation of the project that are under the control of the federal agency.

Table 9 General Conformity De Minimis Emission Rates for the Salton Sea Air Basin

Pollutant	SSAB NAAQS Attainment Status Designation	De Minimis Emission Rate (tons/year)
Ozone (ROG or NO_x)	Severe Nonattainment	25
PM_{10}	Serious Nonattainment	70

SSAB: Salton Sea Air Basin; NAAQS: National Ambient Air Quality Standards; VOC: volatile organic compounds; NO_X: nitrogen oxides; PM_{10}: particulate matter less than 10 microns in size

Sources: USEPA 2017, 2020

Applicable SCAQMD Rules and Regulations

Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust)

Rule 403 requires the implementation of best available dust control measures during active operations capable of generating fugitive dust.

Rule 403.1 (Supplemental Fugitive Dust Control Requirements for Coachella Valley Sources)

Rule 403.1 is a supplemental rule to Rule 403 and is applicable to man-made sources of fugitive dust in Coachella Valley. The purpose of this rule is to reduce fugitive dust and resulting PM_{10} emissions from man-made sources in the Coachella Valley. Rule 403.1 requires a Fugitive Dust Control Plan approved by SCAQMD or an authorized local government agency prior to initiating any construction or earth-moving activity. These requirements are only applicable to construction projects with 5,000 or more square feet of surface area disturbance.

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

A project may be inconsistent with the AQMP if it would generate population, housing, or employment growth exceeding the forecasts used in the development of the AQMP. The 2016 AQMP relies on local city general plans and the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy forecasts of regional population, housing, and employment growth in its projections for managing SSAB air quality (SCAG 2016).

The proposed project involves the expansion of a recycled water system to serve non-potable demands for irrigation. Provision of recycled water would not directly induce population growth because it would not produce additional water supply; rather, it would utilize locally treated water that is currently produced at CVWD's WRP10 in Palm Desert and is currently discharged to ground in times of low demand. Moreover, it would provide up to 5,200 AFY of NPW for irrigation use in CVWD's service area for the purposes of replacing existing groundwater demand and reducing groundwater overdraft. The project does not include new housing or businesses, nor would operation and maintenance of the proposed project require new employees; therefore, the project would not generate population, housing, or employment growth. The project would not exceed SCAG's projected growth forecasts, and thus, would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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

Methodology

Construction emissions associated with the NPW pipelines were estimated using the Roadway Construction Emission Model (RCEM), version 9.0. RCEM was developed by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District to calculate emissions from linear projects such as roadways, levees, or pipelines. RCEM incorporates CARB's 2017 Emissions Factor Model (EMFAC2017) and 2017 OFFROAD (OFFROAD2017) emissions models. For the purposes of modeling, the analysis relied upon the following conservative assumptions:

- Construction would commence in September 2022 and last two years
- **NPW Pipelines**
  - Approximately 68,000 LF of NPW pipelines would be installed, and pipeline would be constructed via open trench measuring five feet in width and up to eight feet in depth
  - A workspace width of 12 feet would be required around the trench for pipeline installation
  - NPW pipeline export and import material quantities are provided in Chapter 2, *Project Description*; for the purposes of this analysis, a soil swell factor of 1.5 was conservatively assumed[3]
  - For the purposes of modeling, it was conservatively assumed all pipeline would be installed in paved roadways[4]. In reality, a segment of the pipeline would be installed in unpaved areas
  - Construction activities would install approximately 200 LF of pipeline per day before moving to the next segment of pipeline
  - Upon completion of construction activities, disturbed roadways would be re-paved
  - Operation and maintenance of the pipelines would require semiannual inspections of pipeline and exercising of the valves
- **Storage Reservoir**
  - It is assumed the storage reservoir would be approximately 900 square feet in area
  - Approximately 5,000 cubic yards of material (assumed to be soil) would be exported
- **Valves and Meters**
  - No heavy-duty equipment would be required for valve installation and meter upgrades
- **Total Project Assumptions**
  - Total disturbed area is assumed to be approximately 17.5 acres
  - Maximum area disturbed per day is conservatively assumed to be 3,300 square feet (0.1 acre), consisting of the daily pipeline progress of 200 LF (2,400 square feet) plus the total area for the reservoir (900 square feet)
  - Maximum daily export and import material quantities are calculated based on length of construction phase:

[3] When soil is excavated, it typically swells to a greater volume because it is no longer compressed and has more air pockets than in its natural state. The percentage increase in volume is known as the swell factor. This analysis conservatively assumes a swell factor of 1.5.
[4] Paved road construction typically results in greater energy use via additional heavy-duty equipment like concrete saws and excavators.

    - Export approximately 81 cubic yards of soil
    - Export approximately 26 cubic yards of asphalt
    - Import approximately 36 cubic yards of soil
    - Import approximately 84 cubic yards of asphalt
- Soil and asphalt hauling would be approximately 28 miles (Coachella Valley Transfer Station and Mecca II Landfill are both located approximately 14 miles from the project area)
- Operation and maintenance activities would require two vehicle trips per month. It is assumed each trip would be approximately nine miles round-trip (distance between the WRP10 facility and storage reservoir)

Criteria air pollutant emissions associated with operation and maintenance vehicle trips under the proposed project were estimated using vehicle emissions factors (EFs) for the Riverside County region for year 2020 as reported by CARB's EMFAC2017 Web Database v1.0.2 tool (CARB 2020). It was assumed that all net new vehicle trips would be gasoline-fueled light-duty trucks (gross vehicle weight rating of less than 6,000 pounds and equivalent test weight less than or equal to 3,750 pounds; LDT1). Additional model inputs include aggregated model years and aggregated speeds.

Project construction activities would comply with SCAQMD Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust) and Rule 403.1 (Supplemental Fugitive Dust Control Requirements for Coachella Valley Sources). Rules 403 and 403.1 require construction projects to implement measures to suppress fugitive dust emissions, such as watering of exposed soils and the preparation of a Fugitive Dust Control Plan. A Fugitive Dust Control Plan would be submitted to SCAQMD prior to any grading or excavation activities.

Construction Emissions

Project construction would generate temporary air pollutant emissions. These impacts are associated with fugitive dust and exhaust emissions from heavy construction vehicles. The excavation phase of the project would involve the largest use of heavy equipment and generation of fugitive dust. Table 10 summarizes maximum daily pollutant emissions during construction of the project.

Table 10 Construction Emissions Compared to SCAQMD Thresholds

	Estimated Maximum Daily Emissions (pounds/day)					
	ROG	NO_X	CO	SO_X	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Maximum	2.2	22.2	15.4	<0.1	2.0	1.1
SCAQMD Thresholds	**75**	**100**	**550**	**150**	**150**	**55**
Threshold Exceeded?	No	No	No	No	No	No
Maximum (On-site only)[1]	2.2	20.2	15.1	<0.1	1.9	1.0
Localized Significance Thresholds (On-site only)	n/a	132	878	n/a	4	3
Threshold Exceeded?	n/a	No	No	n/a	No	No

SCAQMD: South Coast Air Quality Management District; ROG: reactive organic gases; NO_X: nitrogen oxides; CO: carbon monoxide; SO_X: sulfur oxides; PM_{10}: particulate matter less than 10 microns in size; $PM_{2.5}$: particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size

[1]Maximum on-site emissions do not include mobile emissions associated with soil and asphalt hauling trips.

See Appendix A for air quality modeling results.

As shown in Table 10, project construction emissions would not exceed the SCAQMD's regional thresholds or LSTs. Therefore, impacts to regional air quality and local receptors due to construction emissions would be less than significant.

Operational Emissions

The upgraded pump station at the existing WRP10 facility would incrementally increase daily electricity use, but this energy demand would be offset by the reduction in groundwater pumping and potable water treatment and delivery.

The proposed infrastructure would require two operational and maintenance vehicle trips per month. Mobile source emissions associated with these trips would be less than 0.1 pound per day for all criteria air pollutants. See Appendix A for modeling details. Consequently, operational emissions would be negligible and would have a less than significant impact on regional air quality.

General Conformity Assessment

As a required applicability analysis, a FCAA Conformity Analysis was prepared for the proposed project in July 2020 (Appendix B). Table 11 summarizes the project's total annual construction emissions and compares those to the applicable *de minimis* rates for the SSAB. As shown in Table 11, the project's criteria air pollutant emissions would not exceed the applicable *de minimis* rates. Therefore, the project is exempt from general conformity requirements and a formal conformity determination.

Table 11 Maximum Annual Project Emissions Compared to De Minimis Threshold

Emissions Source	Estimated Annual Emissions (tons/year)		
	ROG	NO_X	PM_{10}
Maximum Construction Emissions	0.2	1.9	0.2
De Minimis Thresholds	25	25	70
Threshold Exceeded?	No	No	No

ROG: reactive organic gases; NO_X: nitrogen oxides; PM_{10}: particulate matter less than 10 microns in size

Source: USEPA 2017

See Appendix A for air modeling results.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Certain population groups, such as children, the elderly, and people with health problems, are particularly sensitive to air pollution. Sensitive receptors are defined as land uses that are more likely to be used by these population groups and include health care facilities, retirement homes, school and playground facilities, and residential areas. As described above, the pipeline alignment is primarily surrounded by golf course residential neighborhoods. As discussed under items (a) and (b) above, the project's construction emissions would not exceed the SCAQMD regional thresholds or LSTs, which are designed to be protective of public health. Furthermore, these emissions would be temporary. Construction activities would install approximately 200 LF of pipeline per day before moving to the next segment of pipeline. Sensitive receptors would therefore only be exposed to local emissions while adjacent construction activities are actively installing pipeline. After nine days, construction activities and their associated emissions would have moved 1,800 feet (i.e., past the maximum receptor distance regulated by LSTs of 500 meters).

Traffic-congested roadways and intersections have the potential for the generation of localized CO levels (i.e., CO hotspots). In general, CO hotspots occur in areas with poor circulation or areas with heavy traffic. As discussed above, the proposed project would only require two vehicle trips per month for operation and maintenance activities. Therefore, the project would not result in CO hotspots on adjacent roadways. In addition, the project area is not located in an area with poor circulation or heavy traffic. Therefore, the program would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of CO, and impacts would be less than significant.

Toxic air contaminants (TACs) are a diverse group of air pollutants that may cause or contribute to an increase in deaths or serious illness, or that may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. TACs generally consist of four types: organic chemicals, such as benzene, dioxins, toluene, and percholorethylene; inorganic chemicals such as chlorine and arsenic; fibers such as asbestos; and metals such as mercury, cadmium, chromium, and nickel. The primary TAC emitted by project implementation would be diesel particulate matter (DPM) generated by heavy-duty equipment used for project construction.

The amount to which the receptors are exposed (a function of concentration and duration of exposure) is the primary factor used to determine health risk (i.e., potential exposure to TAC emission levels that exceed applicable standards). Health-related risks associated with diesel-exhaust emissions are primarily linked to long-term exposure.

The use of diesel-powered construction equipment would be temporary and episodic. The duration of exposure would be short and exhaust from construction equipment dissipates rapidly. Current models and methodologies for conducting health risk assessments are associated with longer-term exposure periods of 9, 30, and 70 years, which do not correlate well with the temporary and highly variable nature of construction activities. DPM emissions from the 24-month construction period would represent 7 percent of the typical exposure duration used in health risk assessments.

The closest sensitive receptors are located adjacent to the site, approximately 25 feet from the project site boundary. Project construction involves phased activities in several areas across the site and the project would not require the extensive use of heavy-duty construction equipment or diesel trucks in any one location over the duration of development, which would limit the exposure of any proximate individual sensitive receptor to TACs.

California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has not identified short-term health effects from DPM. Construction activities would be temporary and transient (i.e., move from location to location), and would not generate emissions in a fixed location for extended periods of time. Construction activities would also be subject to and would comply with California regulations limiting the idling of heavy-duty construction equipment to no more than five minutes to further reduce nearby sensitive receptors' exposure to temporary and variable DPM emissions. As such, project construction DPM impacts to sensitive receptors would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Recycled water pipelines would be placed belowground and would not create objectionable odors. The project would generate oil or diesel fuel odors during construction from equipment as well as odors related to asphalt paving. The odors would be limited to the construction period and would be temporary. As a result, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

3.4 Biological Resources

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

In July and August 2020, Rincon Consultants, Inc. prepared a Biological Resources Technical Study, including a literature review and field reconnaissance survey to document existing site conditions and the potential presence of special-status biological resources, including plant and wildlife

species, plant communities, jurisdictional waters and wetlands, and habitat for nesting birds. The following summarizes the findings of the assessment. The complete Biological Resources Technical Study is contained in Appendix C of this document.

The project site is within the Sonoran Desert Region (DSon) geographic subdivision of California. The DSon subdivision is a component of the larger Desert Province (D) geographic region, which occurs within the even larger California Floristic Province (Baldwin et al. 2012).

One land-cover type occurs within the project study area: Developed land (approximately 144.98 acres). Developed lands include areas that have been constructed upon or are otherwise physically altered to an extent that native vegetation is no longer supported or only exists in very small remnant patches. Typically, developed lands are characterized by ground disturbance, permanent or semi-permanent structures, pavement or hardscape, and landscaped areas that require irrigation. Also included are areas that have been physically disturbed (by previous human activity) and are no longer recognizable as a native or naturalized vegetation association but continue to retain a soil substrate. Developed lands may also contain important stands of native or non-native trees within the developed or altered landscape, such as street trees, residential shade trees, privacy or windbreak trees, and trail/easement or median landscape trees. The Developed land on site includes golf courses, golf course freshwater lakes (ponds), irrigated residential lots, water conveyance facilities, paved roads, and other buildings. Ornamental trees and shrubs within the study area include Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), oleander (*Nerium oleander*), date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), palo verde (*Parkinsonia* sp.), mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), and chitalpa (*Chitalpa tashkentensis*).

One vegetation community occurs in the study area: fourwing saltbush scrub (7.31 acres). This community exists along the roadway shoulders adjacent to the project site on Varner Road (paved roadway). Fourwing saltbush scrub habitat corresponds to natural shrubland stands more recently described by (Sawyer et al. 2009) and is dominated by the native species fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*). Within the study area, this plant community has varying levels of disturbance.

The study area and surrounding areas provide habitat suitable for wildlife species that commonly occur in southern California suburban desert areas. Wildlife observed on or adjacent to the site included bird species commonly encountered in urban areas.

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

The study area is located in the vicinity, but not within, Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) / Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) Conservation Areas and the Whitewater River, which constitute important wildlife habitat and corridors in the region. Direct and indirect impacts to the Whitewater River would not occur given the study area is located over 500 feet from the river at its closest point. The study area along Varner Road is approximately 500 feet southwest of the CVMSHCP/NCCP Thousand Palms Conservation Area, but the project is not adjacent to this or any other Conservation Area. The proposed project would not affect any Conservation Areas as project activities would primarily occur within previously developed and routinely managed areas.

Special-status species are those plants and animals that are: 1) listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service

(USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the FESA; 2) listed or proposed for listing as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under the California Endangered Species Act; 3) recognized as Species of Special Concern by the CDFW; 4) afforded protection under Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and/or California Fish and Game Code (CFGC); and 5) occurring on lists 1 and 2 of the CDFW California Rare Plant Rank system per the following definitions:

- **List 1A** = Plants presumed extinct in California
  - **List 1B.1** = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously endangered in California (over 80 percent of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
  - **List 1B.2** = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; fairly endangered in California (20 to 80 percent occurrences threatened)
  - **List 1B.3** = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere, not very endangered in California (less than 20 percent of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)
  - **List 2** = Rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

In addition, special-status species are ranked globally (G) and subnationally (S) 1 through 5 based on NatureServe's (2010) methodologies:

- **G1 or S1** – Critically Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state)
- **G2 or S2** – Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state)
- **G3 or S3** – Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction Globally or Subnationally (state)
- **G4 or S4** – Apparently secure Globally or Subnationally (state)
- **G5 or S5** – Secure Globally or Subnationally (state)
- **?** – Inexact Numeric Rank
- **T** – Infraspecific Taxon (subspecies, varieties, and other designations below the level of species)
- **Q** – Questionable taxonomy that may reduce conservation priority

Rincon biologists determined that the majority of the study area does not contain suitable habitat for any special-status plant species based on a pedestrian survey of the alignment and various record searches (refer to Appendix C). While 14 special-status plant species have been previously documented within a five-mile radius by the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), the project site does not contain suitable habitat for most of these species based on a variety of factors, including: developed nature of the project site, lack of suitable soils, inappropriate hydrologic conditions, and/or absence of appropriate vegetation communities. Additionally, many of the species' CNDDB occurrences are historical, dating from the early to mid-1900s and no special-status plant species were detected during the survey. Therefore, no impacts to special-status plant species would occur.

The study area does not provide suitable habitat for most special-status wildlife species given their known distributions and habitat requirements relative to existing site conditions that include existing development, low quality habitat relative to species needs, and regular maintenance or other disturbance from frequent human activity. Of the 26 special-status wildlife species evaluated, none have a moderate or high potential to occur.

Specifically, the habitat requirements for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*), including sand hummocks, accretion dunes, or sandy plains, are not located within the Varner Road

right-of-way (ROW) within the study area where it overlaps the species' Critical Habitat. According to the USFWS (2010), this species "is specialized to occupy a specific habitat type consisting of accumulations of wind-blown (aeolian) sand. Deeper sand deposits with more topographic relief are preferred by the species over flatter sand sheets." In addition, "low sand compaction is an important preferred habitat characteristic because it is easier for [this species] to burrow in less compact sand." The unpaved road shoulder of Varner Road that is included in the study area is generally compacted sand with disturbed fourwing saltbush scrub and is not suitable to support Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard due to the compaction and vegetation present. As such, the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard is not expected to occur within the study area and the study area would not be considered suitable habitat for this species (refer to Appendix C).

The project's impacts are limited to previously disturbed areas with high human activity, including within the existing paved Varner Road. As a result, no direct impacts to special-status species are expected. Indirect impacts to special-status species are also not expected given the lack of suitable habitat elements to support special-status species, including the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, adjacent to proposed work areas within the study area. As a result, no indirect impacts to special-status species are expected. No mitigation measures are recommended.

Nesting bird habitat is present within and adjacent to the study area particularly within landscape trees. Nesting bird species are protected by the CFGC 3503, CFGC 3513, and MBTA. If initial ground disturbance and vegetation/tree trimming or removal is required during the nesting bird season, the project may impact nesting birds through injury, mortality, or disruption of normal adult behaviors resulting in the abandonment or harm to eggs and nestlings. Construction occurring within the vicinity of nesting birds may also indirectly impact individuals with construction noise and dust. Implementation of MM BIO-1, *Nesting Birds,* would reduce or avoid potential impacts to nesting birds to a less-than-significant level. Per the CVMSHCP, "adjacent" means to share a common boundary with any parcel in a designated Conservation Area; although the project does not share a common boundary with a Conservation Area, construction of the project could result in various indirect impacts that could have an effect more than 500 feet away, for instance with respect to noise and dust that could disturb species within a Conservation Area. Indirect impacts from any construction or operational noise, dust, or lighting would be addressed through the implementation of MM BIO-2, *CVMSHCP/NCCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines*, to ensure avoidance of indirect impacts to Conservation Areas, thus reducing the potential impact to a less-than-significant level.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following measures, BIO-1, *Nesting Birds,* and BIO-2*, CVMSHCP/NCCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines,* would reduce potential impacts to biological resources to a less-than-significant level:

BIO-1 Nesting Birds

Project-related activities should occur outside of the bird breeding season (typically January 1 to September 15 to account for both passerines and raptors) to the extent practicable. If construction must occur within the bird breeding season, then no more than three days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal, a nesting bird and raptor pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within the disturbance footprint plus a 100-foot buffer (500-for for raptors), where feasible. If the proposed project is phased or construction activities stop

for more than one week during the nesting season, a subsequent pre-construction nesting bird and raptor survey would be required prior to re-initiation of construction during the nesting season.

Pre-construction nesting bird and raptor surveys shall be conducted during the time of day when birds are active and shall factor in sufficient time to perform this survey adequately and completely. A report of the nesting bird and raptor survey results, if applicable, shall be submitted to the lead agency for review and approval prior to ground and/or vegetation disturbance activities.

If nests are found, their locations shall be flagged. An appropriate avoidance buffer of at least 25 feet for passerines, and up to 500 feet for raptors, depending upon the species, proposed work activity, and CDFW approval, shall be determined and demarcated by a qualified biologist with bright orange construction fencing or other suitable flagging. Buffers will be determined in conjunction with CDFW through the development of a nesting bird management plan. Active nests shall be monitored at a minimum of once per week until it has been determined that the nest is no longer being used by either the young or adults. No ground disturbance shall occur within this buffer until the qualified biologist confirms that the breeding/nesting is complete and all the young have fledged. If project activities must occur within the buffer, they shall be conducted at the discretion of the qualified biologist. If no nesting birds are observed during pre-construction surveys, no further actions would be necessary.

BIO-2 CVMSHCP/NCCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines

The following Section 4.5 Land Use Adjacency Guidelines shall be implemented where applicable to minimize edge effects to adjacent Conservation Areas:

- **Drainage.** Proposed development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area shall incorporate plans to ensure that the quantity and quality of runoff discharged to the adjacent Conservation Area is not altered in an adverse way when compared with existing conditions. Stormwater systems shall be designed to prevent the release of toxins, chemicals, petroleum products, exotic plant materials or other elements that might degrade or harm biological resources or ecosystem processes within the adjacent Conservation Area.
- **Toxics.** Land uses proposed adjacent to or within a Conservation Area that use chemicals or generate bioproducts such as manure that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife and plant species, habitat, or water quality shall incorporate measures to ensure that application of such chemicals does not result in any discharge to the adjacent Conservation Area.
- **Lighting.** For proposed development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area, lighting shall be shielded and directed toward the developed area. Landscape shielding or other appropriate methods shall be incorporated in project designs to minimize the effects of lighting adjacent to or within the adjacent Conservation Area in accordance with the guidelines to be included in the Implementation Manual.
- **Noise**. Proposed development adjacent to or within a Conservation Area that generates noise in excess of 75 dBA Leq hourly shall incorporate setbacks, berms, or walls, as appropriate, to minimize the effects of noise on the adjacent Conservation Area in accordance with the guidelines to be included in the Implementation Manual.
- **Invasives.** Invasive, non-native plant species shall not be incorporated in the landscape for land uses adjacent to or within a Conservation Area. Landscape treatments within or adjacent to a Conservation Area shall incorporate native plant materials to the maximum extent feasible; recommended native species are listed in Table 4-112 of the

CVMSHCP/NCCP. The plants listed in Table 4-113 of the CVMSHCP/NCCP shall not be used within or adjacent to a Conservation Area. This list may be amended from time to time through a Minor Amendment with Wildlife Agency Concurrence.

- **Barriers.** Land uses adjacent to or within a Conservation Area shall incorporate barriers in individual project designs to minimize unauthorized public access, domestic animal predation, illegal trespass, or dumping in a Conservation Area. Such barriers may include native landscaping, rocks/boulders, fencing, walls and/or signage.
- **Grading/Land Development.** Manufactured slopes associated with site development shall not extend into adjacent land in a Conservation Area.

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

Plant communities are considered sensitive biological resources if they have limited distributions, have high wildlife value, include sensitive species, or are particularly susceptible to disturbance. CDFW ranks sensitive communities (CDFW 2019). No sensitive vegetation communities or riparian habitat were documented within or adjacent to the study area. Furthermore, project impacts are limited to previously developed areas with high human activity and no impacts to areas outside of those mapped as Developed are anticipated. Therefore, the proposed project would not have the potential to result in direct or indirect impacts to sensitive vegetation communities. No mitigation measures are required.

NO IMPACT

c. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

The proposed pipeline alignments terminate at seven individual artificial lakes within seven individual golf courses. These lakes are classified by the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory as excavated, unconsolidated bottom, permanently-flooded palustrine features (USFWS 2020c). The lakes are surrounded by ornamental vegetation typical of maintained golf courses. No native vegetation was present at these locations. These features do not have connectivity to navigable or other jurisdictional waters. The lakes are used as water storage basins for golf course irrigation with no off-site delivery. Additionally, no obligate (OBL) or facultative wetland (FACW) plant species were observed within the project area at these lakes. No suitable habitat for wildlife is present.

The artificial lakes are not subject the jurisdiction of the USACE given that they are constructed in uplands to supply irrigation, are not jurisdictional impoundments, and have no connection to off-site waters of the U.S. The lakes are also not under the jurisdiction of the CDFW given they are well-maintained and subject to frequent disturbance, free of native vegetation, and do not provide suitable habitat for wildlife in the area. Finally, the lakes are not under the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) considering that they are water storage basins for golf course irrigation that were excavated in uplands and have no off-site delivery into other waters of the State or a local storm drain system (refer to Appendix C).

The project pipelines would be installed below grade within the golf courses, and water would be delivered via an aboveground lake, which would not result in impacts to the lakes. No other features are present within the study area that are jurisdictional. As a result, the proposed project would not

have the potential to result in direct or indirect impacts to jurisdictional areas, wetlands, other waters, or riparian habitats. No mitigation measures are required.

NO IMPACT

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?

Wildlife movement and habitat fragmentation are important issues in assessing impacts to wildlife. Habitat fragmentation occurs when a proposed action results in a single, unified habitat area being divided into two or more areas in such a way that the division isolates the two new areas from each other. Isolation of habitat occurs when wildlife cannot move freely from one portion of the habitat to another or from one habitat type to another, as in the fragmentation of habitats within and around "checkerboard" residential development. Habitat fragmentation also can occur when a portion of one or more habitats is converted into another habitat, as when annual burning converts scrub habitats to grassland habitats.

The study area is located in the vicinity, but not within CVMSHCP/NCCP Conservation Areas and the Whitewater River, which constitute important wildlife habitat and corridors in the region. Direct and indirect impacts to the Whitewater River would not occur given the study area is located over 500 feet from the river at its closest point. The study area along Varner Road is approximately 500 feet southwest of the CVMSHCP/NCCP Thousand Palms Conservation Area. Per the CVMSHCP, "adjacent" means to share a common boundary with any parcel in a designated Conservation Area; although the project does not share a common boundary with a Conservation Area, construction of the project could result in various indirect impacts that could have an effect more than 500 feet away, for instance with respect to noise and dust that could disturb species within a Conservation Area. The proposed project would not directly affect any Conservation Areas because project activities would primarily occur within previously developed and routinely managed areas. However, indirect impacts from construction or operational noise, dust, or lighting could interrupt wildlife use of the Conservation Areas, and MM BIO-2, *CVMSHCP/NCCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines*, is therefore required to minimize or avoid indirect impacts to Conservation Areas, thus reducing the potential impact to a less-than-significant level. As a result, the project is not anticipated to have an incremental effect on localized and urban adapted wildlife movement or create habitat fragmentation in the region, nor is it anticipated to have significant impact on regional wildlife movement. No additional measures are recommended.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, *Nesting Birds,* and BIO-2, *CVMSHCP/NCCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines,* presented above, would reduce potential impacts to biological resources to a less-than-significant level.

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

No trees within the study area meet the criteria for protection under Riverside County Ordinance 559 for oak woodlands and native trees. In addition, the project would comply with City of Palm Desert Pruning Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 12.32) to prune or remove a public tree. As a

result, the proposed project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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

The proposed project is within the CVMSHCP/NCCP plan area, but not within any specific CVMSHCP/NCCP Conservation Area. However, the project site lies in close proximity to a CVMSHCP/NCCP Conservation Area: approximately 500 feet southwest of the Thousand Palms Conservation Area. As discussed above for threshold (d), according to the CVMSHCP, "adjacent" means to share a common boundary with any parcel in a designated Conservation Area; although the project does not share a common boundary with a Conservation Area, construction of the project could result in various indirect impacts that could have an effect more than 500 feet away, for instance with respect to noise and dust that could disturb species within a Conservation Area. The proposed project would avoid direct impacts to this CVMSHCP/NCCP Conservation Area and would not conflict with the CVMSHCP/NCCP Conservation Objectives. The project would implement MM BIO-2, *CVMSHCP/NCCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines*, to minimize or avoid indirect impacts to the CVMSHCP/NCCP Conservation Area and would not conflict with the CVMSHCP/NCCP Conservation Objectives. Potential impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2, *CVMSHCP/NCCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines,* presented above, would reduce potential impacts to biological resources to a less-than-significant level.

3.5 Cultural Resources

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

A "substantial adverse change" in the significance of a historical resource is defined as "physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired." State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b) states that the significance of an historical resource is "materially impaired" when a project does any of the following:

- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources
- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources or its identification in an historical resources survey, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant
- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 also states that the term "historical resources" shall include the following:

1) A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 5024.1, Title 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR], Section 4850 et. seq.).
2) A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, shall be presumed to be historically or

culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.

3) Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (PRC Section 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852) as follows:
   - Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage
   - Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past
   - Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values
   - Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5)

A Cultural Resources Technical Report was prepared for the project and is provided as Appendix D to this IS-MND. The technical report documents the results of outreach with Native American tribal governments and local historical societies, field surveys of the project site, background research, historical map and aerial photo reviews, and results from a California Historical Resources Information System records search from the Eastern Information Center (EIC).

The EIC records search identified 124 previously recorded cultural resources within a one-mile radius of the project site. The EIC results identified the following resources within this radius:

- 48 prehistoric sites,
- 13 historic sites,
- 5 multicomponent archaeological sites,
- 17 built-environment historic-period resources, and
- 41 isolated artifacts (37 are prehistoric in origin, and four are historic in origin).

Of the resources listed above, one archaeological resource identified as CA-RIV-3008 is present within a portion the pipeline alignment. Resource CA-RIV-3008 consists of a single pot-drop and was fully excavated in 2000 with all sherds collected (Brown 2000) and is therefore no longer present within the project site. Although the EIC results indicate that no other cultural resources are recorded within the project site, a large prehistoric village site and several smaller prehistoric sites are located in the vicinity of the proposed storage reservoir site, suggesting the reservoir site and adjacent pipeline alignment are highly sensitive for archaeological resources.

Results from the Sacred Lands File search obtained from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) did not indicate any known resources in the vicinity of the project site. As part of the Native American outreach effort for the technical report, 19 letters were sent to NAHC-provided contacts.

Although no specific cultural resources were identified within the project alignment by any of the tribes, and through coordination of National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation and Assembly Bill 52 Tribal Cultural Resources consultation, one representative from the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and two representatives from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians requested a copy of the cultural resources technical report. Furthermore, both contacts from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians requested cultural resources monitoring during any project-related ground disturbance.

Additional background research identified the presence of one built-environment historical resource in the project area, the Sunnylands Center and Gardens, which is located within the Annenberg Estate, also known as the Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands Golf Course. As discussed in Chapter 2, the Annenberg Estate is one of the end user connections for the proposed project, and would receive NPW delivered by the project. The project's potential to affect the built-environment historical resource identified as the Sunnylands Center and Gardens is addressed in the impact analysis provided below.

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

Background research completed as part of the Cultural Resources Technical Report confirmed Sunnylands Center and Gardens at 71-800 Frank Sinatra Drive, Rancho Mirage, was previously evaluated and found eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Additionally, it is locally designated as a City of Rancho Mirage historic resource. Thus, the property is a historical resource under CEQA and a historic property under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The approximately 250-acre property was developed between 1963 and 1965 as the residence of Ambassador and Mrs. Walter H. Annenberg. It includes a 32,000-square-foot house designed by prominent architects A. Quincy Jones and Frederick Emmons, and is surrounded by landscaped grounds with nine lakes that provide watering holes for egrets and ducks, and a nine-green, 18-tee, 6,000-yard private golf course designed by noted golf course architect Dick Wilson. Sunnylands is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A as representing significant contributions made to the broad patterns of Rancho Mirage's history by the Annenbergs, and specifically the property's role in the maturation and increased stature of Rancho Mirage. It is eligible under Criterion B for its association with the internationally prominent Annenbergs. Under Criterion C, Sunnylands is architecturally significant as a virtually original and intact example of Jones and Emmons Modern design built on an extraordinarily vast scale. The documentation for the property, however, does not clearly define its boundaries, or contributing or its character-defining features. Rincon assumes the golf course and grounds are contributing features because they were developed at the same time as the residence, and although altered in the 1980s, the golf course was restored to its original configuration in 2011.

A component of the proposed undertaking includes constructing a NPW pipeline through a small portion of Sunnylands Center and Gardens near Frank Sinatra Drive and Tamarisk Lane to deliver water into an existing golf course lake. This would be approximately 1,100 feet south of the Sunnylands residence. The pipeline would be installed below ground surface and the Sunnylands golf course grounds would be returned to their pre-construction condition. The delivery valve, adjacent to one of the golf course lakes, would be integrated into the irrigation infrastructure for the golf course, and with appropriate landscaping, would be screened from view. The project would not materially impair the historical resource such that it would not be able to convey its historical significance. As a minor addition on the large Sunnylands property, the delivery valve would be reversible, and would not directly alter the home designed by Jones and Emmons or significant built

environment features of the property. Thus, the project would not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of the historical resource, as defined by CEQA. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in §15064.5?

One archaeological resource, CA-RIV-3008, is present within a portion the pipeline alignment. Resource CA-RIV-3008 consists of a single pot-drop comprised of 106 Salton buff ware sherds and was fully excavated in 2000 with all sherds collected and is therefore no longer present within the project site. Although the EIC records search identified only one archaeological resource previously within the project site, 84 other prehistoric resources have been recorded within a one-mile radius, one of which is a large habitation site containing human remains. The project site is considered highly sensitive for archaeological resources. According to historical aerial photographs, much of the project site was not developed until after 1972, with increasing development evident by the mid-1990s (NETRonline 2017). Although ground disturbance for trenching is expected to occur up to five feet (1.5 meters) wide and reach depths of eight feet (2.4 meters) below ground surface, much of the project site has been previously disturbed by prior development, including grading, paving, landscaping, and the installation of existing utilities. In this context, due to existing development and pavement throughout the project site, archaeological testing is not feasible prior to project commencement. However, due to the high sensitivity of the project site for archaeological resources, mitigation would be necessary to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Mitigation Measure

Implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1, *Archaeological and Native American Monitoring,* would reduce potential impacts to cultural resources to a less-than-significant level

CR-1 Worker's Environmental Awareness Program

A qualified archaeologist, defined as an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983), shall conduct Worker's Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training on archaeological sensitivity for all construction personnel and the Native American monitor prior to the commencement of any ground-disturbing activities. Archaeological sensitivity training shall include a description of the types of cultural material that may be encountered, cultural sensitivity issues, regulatory issues, and the proper protocol for treatment of the materials in the event of a find. Protocols will include the immediate cessation of all ground disturbing activities in the vicinity of an unanticipated discovery of an archaeological resource, until the sensitivity of the resource has been assessed and subsequent actions are identified by a qualified archaeologist. A sign-in sheet for WEAP training attendees will be documented and maintained on-file.

CR-2 Construction Monitoring

During all project ground disturbance in areas with known sensitivity for cultural resources, project activities shall be observed by a qualified archaeological monitor or a qualified Native American monitor, defined as an individual from a local tribe as listed by the Native American Heritage Commission. Daily monitoring logs with supporting photographic evidence shall be documented and

maintained on-file. The qualified archaeologist or the Native American monitor, in consultation with CVWD, may recommend the reduction or termination of monitoring depending upon observed conditions (e.g., no resources encountered within the first 50 percent of ground disturbance). If archaeological or Native American resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work within a minimum of 50 feet of the find must halt and the find evaluated for CRHR and NRHP eligibility. Should an unanticipated resource be found as CRHR or NRHP eligible and avoidance is infeasible, additional analysis (e.g., testing) may be necessary.

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

The potential for the discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbing activities. Based on the disturbed nature of the project alignment and the lack of any identified cultural resources within the study area, the potential to encounter human remains along the NPW pipeline alignments is considered low. This potential is increased at the project's reservoir location, because construction of the reservoir would require excavation of up to approximately 15 feet, and this area is known to be sensitive for cultural resources. However, existing regulations outlined in the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 address the potential for unanticipated discovery of human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

If human remains are found, the aforementioned regulations require that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has determined the origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner would notify the NAHC, which would determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of being granted access and provide recommendations as to the treatment of the remains to the landowner.

Due to the regulatory requirements described above for the handling of unanticipated human remains encountered during construction, potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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3.6 Energy

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	■

California is one of the lowest per capita energy users in the United States, ranked 48th in the nation, due to its energy efficiency programs and mild climate (EIA 2020). Most of California's electricity is generated in-state with approximately 30 percent imported from the Northwest and Southwest in 2018 (California Energy Commission [CEC] 2020a). In addition, approximately 30 percent of California's electricity supply comes from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar photovoltaic, geothermal, and biomass (CEC 2020a). Adopted on September 10, 2018, Senate Bill (SB) 100 accelerates the state's Renewable Portfolio Standards Program, codified in the Public Utilities Act, by requiring electricity providers to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy resources to 33 percent of total retail sales by 2020, 60 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2045.

California also requires all motorists use California Reformulated Gasoline, which is sourced almost exclusively from in-state refineries. Gasoline is the most used transportation fuel in California with 15.1 billion gallons sold in 2015 and is used by light-duty cars, pickup trucks, and sport utility vehicles (CEC 2020b). Diesel is the second most used fuel in California with 4.2 billion gallons sold in 2015 and is used primarily by heavy duty-trucks, delivery vehicles, buses, trains, ships, boats and barges, farm equipment, and heavy-duty construction and military vehicles (CEC 2020b). Both gasoline and diesel are primarily petroleum-based, and their consumption releases greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

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

Energy use during construction activities would be primarily in the form of fuel consumption to operate heavy equipment, light-duty vehicles, machinery, and generators. Temporary grid power may also be provided to construction trailers or electric construction equipment. Energy use during construction would be temporary in nature, and construction equipment used would be typical of construction projects in the region.

Operation of the project would require approximately 237 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity per

year for operation of the improved WRP10 pump station.[5] However, the project would also reduce existing energy uses associated with pumping groundwater for the project's identified end users, as the project would replace energy-intensive groundwater and CVWD-provided potable water with NPW water from WRP10. Accordingly, although the project would require energy to operate the improved WRP10 pump station, it would reduce existing energy use associated with current water sources for the project's end users. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

As mentioned above, SB 100 mandates 100 percent clean electricity for California by 2045. Because the proposed project would be powered by the existing electricity grid, the project would eventually be powered by renewable energy mandated by SB 100 and would not conflict with this statewide plan. At the time of preparation of this IS-MND, CVWD is seeking support for preparation of a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP); however, at this time CVWD does not currently have any specific renewable energy or energy efficiency plans with which the project could comply. Nonetheless, the project would not conflict with or obstruct the state plan for renewable energy, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

[5] Calculation assumes two operational pumps and uses the following equation for each pump: kWh = (50 horsepower/0.92 efficiency) x (2,920 hours per year) x (0.7457 hp-hour/kilowatt) = 118,339 kWh x 2 = 236,679 kWh ~ 236.679 MWh.

3.7 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	■	☐
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?	☐	☐	■	☐
ii. Strong seismic groundshaking?	☐	☐	■	☐
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 made unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	■	☐
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	■
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	■	☐	☐

The Coachella Valley is flanked on three sides by the Little San Bernardino, Santa Rosa, and San Jacinto Mountains, and is within the Salton Trough of the northern portion of the Colorado Desert Geomorphic Province of Southern California. The Salton Trough is a geologic structural depression resulting from large-scale regional faulting and represents the northward extension of the Gulf of California. The Colorado Desert Geomorphic Province is bounded on the north by the Transverse Ranges (Little San Bernardino and Orocopia Mountains), on the west by the Peninsular Ranges (Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains), and on the east by the Mojave Desert. The Coachella Valley floor ranges in elevation from 1,600 feet above mean sea level (MSL) in the northwest to about 230 feet below MSL at the Salton Sea. The province is a seismically active region characterized by alluvial basins, elevated erosion surfaces, and northwest-trending mountain ranges bounded by northwest-trending strike-slip faults. The most prominent of the nearby fault zones include the San Andreas and San Jacinto fault zones, both of which have been known to be active during Quaternary time (the most recent 2.6 million years of Earth's history) (CVWD 2016).

In Riverside County, seismic events can result in groundshaking, liquefaction, landslides, subsidence, and seiche. The project site is located in the central portion of Riverside County. Earthquake risk in this area is very high due to the presence of three of California's most active faults: the San Andreas, the San Jacinto, and the Elsinore. The nearest known fault zone is the San Andreas fault, located approximately four miles to the northeast of the project area. The most likely earthquake event in Riverside County is considered to be the rupture of the San Jacinto Valley segment of the San Jacinto fault, located approximately 18 miles west of the project site (County of Riverside 2015).

a.i Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?

a.ii Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic groundshaking?

a.iii Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

a.iv Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?

Pursuant to California state law, the California Geological Survey (CGS) has designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones for each of the three fault zones in Riverside County – the San Andreas, the San Jacinto, and the Elsinore. The project site is situated between the San Jacinto Fault Zone and the San Andreas Fault Zone. The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or a County-designated fault zone (County of Riverside 2015).

As described above, the proposed project is located in a seismically active area; accordingly, the project area is inherently subject to strong seismic groundshaking. However, the project itself would not expose people or structures to seismically induced risk, or otherwise affect the existing potential for seismic groundshaking in the project area to occur. The proposed project would not introduce, relocate, or otherwise revise any habitable structures, and the majority of project infrastructure would be below the ground surface. A large seismic event, such as a fault rupture, seismic shaking, or ground failure, could result in breakage of the pipelines, failure of joints, or underground leakage from the pipelines. In such an event, the pipelines would be inspected and repaired. Additionally, geotechnical analysis required as part of the California Building Standards Code (CCR Title 24) during

the design phase would incorporate appropriate standard engineering practices and specifications in the facility design to minimize risk of structural failure in a seismic event and would reduce secondary impacts that may occur as a result.

In the event of a major earthquake, seismically induced landslides or liquefaction would be expected throughout Riverside County, particularly in areas with high slope angles. The County of Riverside (2015) ranks liquefaction susceptibility in the vicinity of the project site as "Moderate". However, the project area is generally flat and project development would consist of minimal aboveground structures, none of which are habitable. Design and construction of the project facilities would adhere to American Water Works Association Standards for protection from thrust and earth movement. Construction activities would include the lining and appropriate backfilling of trenches in order to resist potential effects associated with subsidence. Due to the flat nature of the project area and distance from steep slopes, it is not considered subject to seismic induced liquefaction.

Because the proposed project would not involve development of habitable structures, is not located within an Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone, and does not cross an active fault, it would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, seismic-related ground failure, or landslides. Furthermore, the proposed project would reduce groundwater overdraft, which is expected to subsequently reduce the risk of land subsidence in the Coachella Valley.

Construction workers could be exposed to temporary groundshaking as a result of construction activities; however, construction activities would limit risk by complying with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rules for safety during excavation activities. With adherence to existing regulations, potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

The project area is located in previously disturbed soils, and the majority of the project corridor is paved or developed. Construction activities involving soil disturbance such as excavation, stockpiling, and grading, could result in increased erosion and sediment transport by stormwater to surface waters. Erosion and sediment control measures would be implemented in accordance with standard practice and local requirements. As discussed in Section 1.6.1, *Coachella Valley Water Management Plan 2010 Update*, the proposed project supports the goals of the groundwater source substitution element of the WMP Update. The Subsequent Project Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR) for the WMP Update describes that pipelines and pump stations constructed pursuant to the WMP Update would require measures to control soil erosion by wind and water to protect air quality and runoff quality during storm events (CVWD 2011).

The proposed project is located within the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin RWQCB, as discussed in Section 2, *Project Description.* The Colorado River Basin RWQCB has issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4 Permit) under Order No. R7-2013-0011 (NPDES No. CAS617002). Compliance with the MS4 permit provides compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit (Order Nos. 2009-0009-DWQ and 2010-0014-DWQ), issued by the SWRCB. In cooperation with the County of Riverside and incorporated cities within the Whitewater River Watershed, CVWD is responsible for "implementing that portion of the urban runoff management program for any discharges to and from (its) MS4 facilities". As such, any delivery of stormwater to stormwater facilities within CVWD's jurisdiction,

including the WWRSC/Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, must comply with the MS4 permit (CVWD 2019).

Compliance with the MS4 and Construction General Permit requires the development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to reduce erosion and topsoil loss from storm water runoff. The SWPPP must identify project-specific BMPs that would be implemented during construction activities to prevent substantial soil erosion and the loss of topsoil. These BMPs may include but would not be limited to: use of silt fences or other barriers to prevent erosion and sedimentation into water bodies, covering of stockpiles, use of desilting basins, limitations on work during high-wind events, and post-construction revegetation and drainage requirements. With implementation of the required SWPPP and associated BMPs, potential impacts associated with soil erosion would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Collapsible soils generally occur where Holocene-aged alluvial sediments have been deposited during rapid runoff events. In the event of a major earthquake, seismically induced landslides would be expected throughout Riverside County, particularly in areas with high slope angles. The County of Riverside ranks liquefaction susceptibility in the vicinity of the project site as “Moderate.” Additionally, the area around the site is identified as a Susceptible Subsidence Area (County of Riverside 2015).

The proposed project involves installation of underground pipeline segments through existing developed urban land primarily within public rights-of-way, with the exception of the portions on golf courses, which are privately owned. As discussed previously, although the proposed project would be located in a seismically active area, the project is not anticipated to adversely affect soil stability or increase the potential for local or regional landslides, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Trenching activities would implement BMPs such as shoring during open trenching, in accordance with the project-specific SWPPP described above. Additionally, compliance with CVWD’s professional engineering standards would minimize or avoid potentially significant impacts associated with the characteristics of geologic units or soils. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. *Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?*

The project site is located in the Colorado Desert geomorphic province, between the Mojave Desert and the Peninsular Ranges geomorphic provinces (CGS 2015). Based on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Survey for the Coachella Valley Area, the project corridor contains four primary mapped soil units: Coachella fine sand (CpA), zero to two percent slopes; Gilman loamy fine sand (GbA), zero to five percent slopes; Myoma fine sand (MaD), zero to five percent slopes; and MaD, five to 15 percent slopes. The MaD, which is the prevalent soil map unit within the project site, is listed on the Natural Resources Conservation Service Hydric Soils List within the Coachella Valley area. The MaD unit is somewhat excessively drained alluvium derived from windblown sandy alluvium, situated within alluvial fans (USDA 2020).

The expansion potential for the fine sandy and sandy soil types found on alluvial fans and floodplains in the project area is considered to be very low to low (USDA 2020). The project site is not located on expansive soils and the project would not introduce risk to life or property as a result of expansive soils. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

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

NO IMPACT

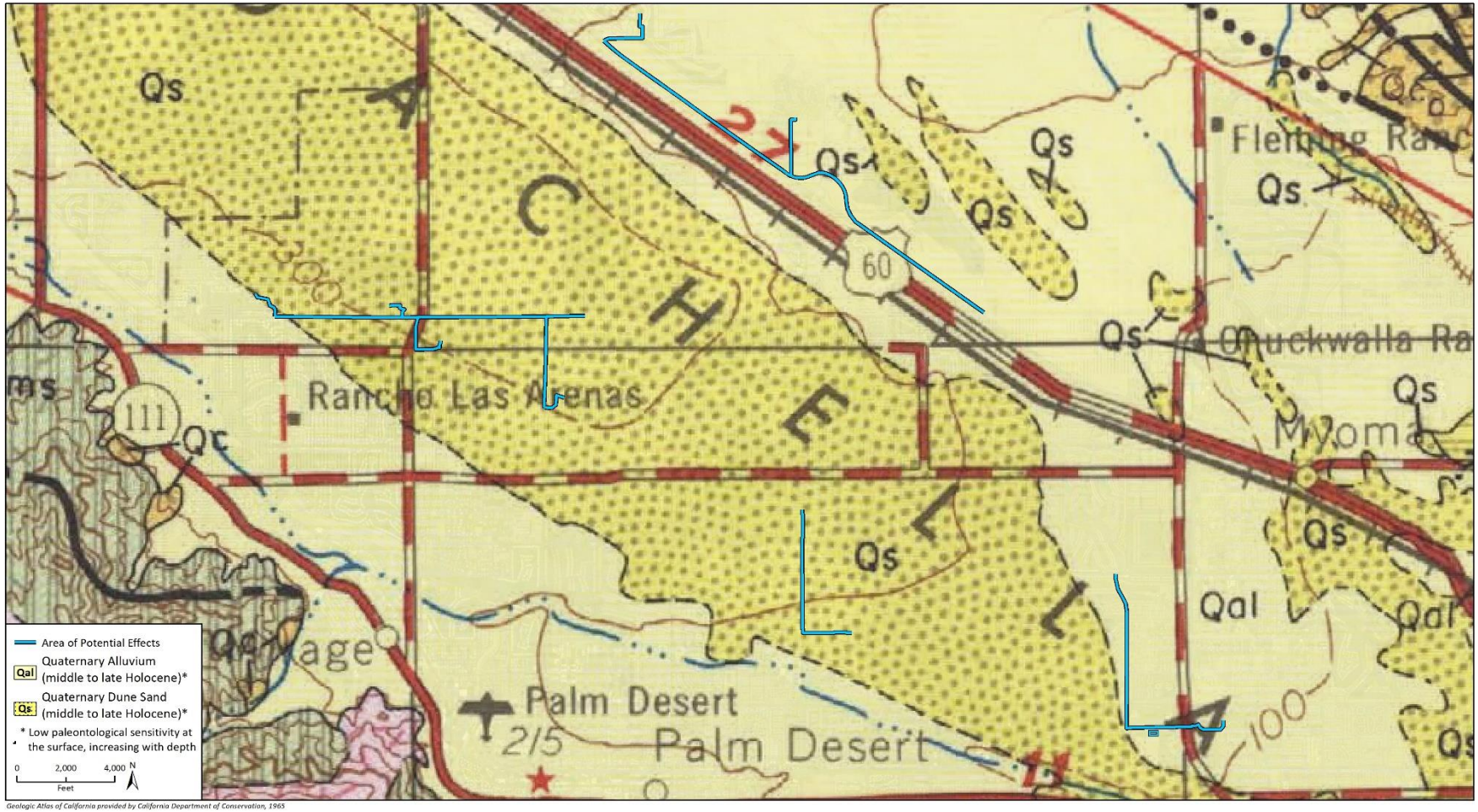
f. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

The paleontological sensitivity of the geologic units underlying the project site was evaluated based on a desktop review of existing data, including geologic maps, published literature, and online fossil locality and collections databases. In addition, a request for a list of known fossil localities from the project site and immediate vicinity (i.e., localities recorded on the United States Geological Survey *La Quinta, Myoma,* and *Cathedral City,* California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles) was submitted to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC). A Paleontological Resources Memorandum was prepared for the project and is provided as Appendix F to this IS-MND. The potential for impacts to significant paleontological resources is based on the potential for ground disturbance to directly impact paleontologically sensitive geologic units.

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) has developed a system for assessing paleontological sensitivity and describes sedimentary rock units as having high, low, undetermined, or no potential for containing significant nonrenewable paleontological resources (SVP 2010). This criterion is based on rock units within which vertebrate or significant invertebrate fossils have been determined by previous studies to be present or likely to be present.

The project area is situated in the Coachella Valley within the Colorado Desert geomorphic province of California (CGS 2002). As shown in Figure 5, the project area includes two (2) geologic units mapped at the ground surface: Quaternary young (middle to late Holocene) alluvium (Qal) and Quaternary young (middle to late Holocene) dune sand (Qs) (Rogers 1965; Dibblee and Minch 2008a and 2008b). Middle to late Holocene dune sand, mapped within the western and southern project areas, is composed of well-sorted, fine-to medium-grained windblown (eolian) sand and silt. Prior to development in the area, the eolian sand accumulated in significant deposits and formed widespread dunes. Middle to late Holocene dune sand overlies younger Quaternary (middle to late Holocene) alluvial deposits composed of unconsolidated to moderately consolidated, silt, sand, and clay, which are mapped at the surface in the northernmost and southernmost portions of the project area. Within the project area, Holocene alluvium is derived primarily as fluvial deposits from the Whitewater River, which flows immediately west. However, late to middle Holocene alluvial and eolian deposits (Qal, Qs) may transition to sediments of older alluvium (Qoa) or lacustrine sediments (Ql), of early Holocene to late Pleistocene age, at unknown depths as discussed in more detail below. Quaternary old alluvium (Qoa), mapped at the surface approximately 5 miles northeast of the project area, is described as moderately consolidated, gravel to fine-grained sand

Figure 5 Geologic Units and Paleontological Sensitivity of the Project Site



and silt by Dibblee and Minch (2008a and 2008b). Quaternary old (Pleistocene) lake deposits (Ql), mapped just southeast of the project area, represent the northernmost shoreline of the ancient Lake Cahuilla (Alles 2011; Deméré 2002; Waters 1983; Whistler et al. 1995). Quaternary Lake Cahuilla deposits are composed of weakly consolidated and interbedded sand, silt and clay, with tufa and travertine rock coatings; coarse alluvial deposits; and beach sands.

- **Holocene Alluvial and Eolian Deposits.** Middle to late Holocene sedimentary deposits (Qal, Qs) in the project area are typically too young (i.e., less than 5,000 years old) to preserve paleontological resources and are determined to have a **low paleontological sensitivity**.
- **Quaternary Lake Cahuilla Deposits.** Quaternary old (Pleistocene) lacustrine deposits (Ql) derived from ancient Lake Cahuilla have yielded scientifically significant mollusk shells within the Salton Trough (Whistler et al. 1995). Fossil specimens of diatoms, spores, pollen, land plants, sponges, ostracods, freshwater gastropods, fresher bivalves, fish, and small terrestrial vertebrates have been recovered from these older Quaternary Lake Cahuilla beds. Therefore, Quaternary old lacustrine (i.e., Ql) deposits are assigned a **high paleontological sensitivity**.
- **Quaternary Old Alluvial Deposits.** Numerous fossil localities have been recorded from early Holocene to Pleistocene alluvial deposits throughout California, which have yielded fossil specimens of mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*), horse (*Equus*), camel (*Camelops*), and bison (*Bison*), as well as various birds, rodents, and reptiles (Agenbroad 2003; Jefferson 1985, 2010; Merriam 1911; Paleobiology Database 2020; Savage et al. 1954; University of California Museum of Paleontology 2020). A search of the paleontological locality records at the NHMLAC resulted in no previously recorded fossil localities in the project area; however, the NHMLAC reports a vertebrate locality near the project area from early Holocene to late Pleistocene age deposits. LACM 1269 yielded a fossil specimen of horse (*Equus*) approximately seven miles north-northwest of the project area near Seven Palms Valley (McLeod 2020). The depth of recovery for this fossil locality was unreported (McLeod 2020). Therefore, Early Holocene to Pleistocene alluvial deposits (Qoa) are assigned a **high paleontological sensitivity.**

Accurately assessing the boundaries between younger and older units within the project area is generally not possible without site-specific stratigraphic data, some form of radiometric dating or fossil analysis, so conservative estimates of the depth at which paleontologically sensitive units may occur reduces potential for impacts to paleontological resources. According to a geochronological analysis by Waters (1983), evidence of 4,000-year-old core sample, consisting of Quaternary old (Pleistocene) lake deposits (Ql), was reported approximately five miles south of Indio, at a depth of 20 feet below ground surface. Based on existing site conditions, available geochronological data, and the project area's proximity to exposures of older alluvial and lacustrine deposits (i.e., Qoa and Ql), Rincon estimates the transition between younger and older units in the project area likely occur at approximately 20 feet below ground surface. Therefore, the paleontological sensitivity of the alluvial deposits within the project area is determined to be low to high, increasing at a depth of approximately 20 feet below ground surface, as defined by SVP (2010) standards.

Construction activities may result in the destruction, damage, or loss of undiscovered paleontological resources. As proposed, project ground disturbance would reach a maximum depth of eight feet for trenching associated with the NPW pipeline segments and approximately 15 feet for excavations associated with the new water storage reservoir. In the project area, late to middle Holocene deposits overlie the paleontologically-sensitive Quaternary old sediments at an indeterminate depth but may be as extensive as 20 feet below ground surface (Waters 1983).

Although fossiliferous deposits are unlikely to occur at depths above 20 feet, the possibility cannot be excluded in the context of a fluvial deposition system. The potential for encountering fossil resources during project-related ground disturbance is low, but there remains a low potential for impacts to paleontological resources. Implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1 and GEO-2 during project construction would reduce potential impacts related to paleontological resources to a less-than-significant level by providing for the recovery, identification, and curation of previously unrecovered fossils. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following measures would reduce potential impacts to paleontological resources to a less-than-significant level:

GEO-1 Worker's Environmental Awareness Program

Prior to any project ground disturbance, CVWD shall retain a qualified, professional paleontologist to prepare a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP), which shall be used to train all site personnel prior to the start of work. The WEAP training will include at a minimum the following information:

- Review of local and state laws and regulations pertaining to paleontological resources
- Types of fossils that could be encountered during ground disturbing activity
- Photos of example fossils that could occur on site for reference
- Instructions on the procedures to be implemented should unanticipated fossils be encountered during construction, including stopping work in the vicinity of the find and contacting a qualified professional paleontologist

GEO-2 Unanticipated Discovery of Paleontological Resources

In the event an unanticipated fossil discovery is made during the course of project development, the worker shall immediately notify CVWD's construction inspector to request temporary halting of construction activity in the immediate vicinity of the fossil, and the qualified professional paleontologist will be notified to evaluate the discovery, determine its significance, and determine if additional mitigation or treatment is warranted. Work in the area of the discovery will resume once the find is properly documented and authorization is given to resume construction work. Any significant paleontological resources found during construction monitoring will be prepared, identified, analyzed, and permanently curated in an approved regional museum repository under the oversight of the qualified paleontologist.

3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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

Background

Climate change is the observed increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans along with other substantial changes in climate (such as wind patterns, precipitation, and storms) over an extended period of time. Climate change is the result of numerous, cumulative sources of GHGs contributing to the "greenhouse effect," a natural occurrence which takes place in the Earth's atmosphere to help regulate the temperature of the planet. The majority of radiation from the sun hits the Earth's surface and warms it. The surface, in turn, radiates heat back towards the atmosphere in the form of infrared radiation. Gases and clouds in the atmosphere trap and prevent some of this heat from escaping into space and re-radiate it in all directions, but anthropogenic activities since the beginning of the industrial revolution (approximately 250 years ago) are adding to the natural greenhouse effect by increasing the gases in the atmosphere which trap heat. Emissions resulting from human activities thereby contribute to an average increase in the Earth's temperature.

GHGs occur both naturally and as a result of human activities, such as fossil fuel burning, methane generated by landfill wastes and raising livestock, deforestation activities, and some agricultural practices. GHGs produced by human activities include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. Since 1750, estimated concentrations of CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O in the atmosphere have increased over by 36 percent, 148 percent, and 18 percent, respectively, primarily due to human activity. Potential climate change impacts in California may include loss of snowpack, sea level rise, more extreme heat days per year, more high ozone days, more large forest fires, and more drought years.

In response to climate change, California implemented Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the "California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006." AB 32 required the reduction of statewide GHG emissions to 1990 emissions levels (essentially a 15 percent reduction below 2005 emission levels) and the adoption of rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective GHG emissions reductions. On September 8, 2016, the governor signed SB 32 into law, extending AB 32 by requiring the State to further reduce GHGs to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 (the other provisions of AB 32 remain unchanged). On December 14, 2017, CARB adopted the 2017 Scoping Plan, which provides a framework for achieving the 2030 target. As with the 2013 Scoping Plan Update, the 2017 Scoping Plan does not provide project-level thresholds for land use development.

Instead, it recommends local governments adopt policies and locally-appropriate quantitative thresholds consistent with a statewide per capita goal of six metric tons (MT) of CO_2e by 2030 and two MT of CO_2e by 2050 (CARB 2017).

Significance Thresholds

The majority of individual projects do not generate sufficient GHG emissions to influence climate change directly. Physical changes caused by a project can contribute incrementally to significant cumulative effects, even if individual changes resulting from a project are limited. The issue of climate change typically involves an analysis of whether a project's contribution towards an impact would be cumulatively considerable. "Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064[h][1]).

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b), projects can tier from a qualified GHG reduction plan, which allows for project-level evaluation of GHG emissions through the comparison of the project's consistency with the GHG reduction policies included in a qualified GHG reduction plan. This approach is considered by the Association of Environmental Professionals (2016) in its white paper, Beyond Newhall and 2020, to be the most defensible approach presently available under CEQA to determine the significance of a project's GHG emissions. CVWD does not yet have an approved GHG reduction plan in place; however, as of the summer 2020, CVWD is preparing a Climate Action and Adaption Plan.

To evaluate whether a project may generate a quantity of GHG emissions with the potential to have a significant impact on the environment, local air districts developed a number of bright-line significance thresholds. Significance thresholds are numeric mass emissions thresholds that identify the level at which additional analysis of project GHG emissions is necessary. If project emissions are equal to or below the significance threshold, with or without mitigation, the project's GHG emissions would be less than significant. SCAQMD's thresholds of significance were established based on achieving the 2020 GHG emission reduction targets set forth in the AB 32 Scoping Plan. Because the proposed project would not be operational until after 2020, SCAQMD's bright-line threshold (3,000 MT of CO_2e per year) would not apply. Therefore, this analysis evaluates the proposed project's compliance and consistency with the 2017 Scoping Plan and other applicable GHG reduction plans. The project's GHG emissions are disclosed for informational purposes.

a. *Would the project generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*

b. *Would the project conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

Project construction would generate GHG emissions from the operation of heavy machinery for pipeline installation, motor vehicles, and worker trips to and from the site. Construction GHG emissions would be temporary, however, and would cease upon completion of construction. During project operation, electricity used to operate the motor-actuated valves and the upgraded WRP10 pump station would result in indirect GHG emissions from the generation of electricity by the electric service provider. These quantities would be minimal and would be at least partially offset by the reduction in electricity used by current groundwater pumping and potable water delivery from WRP10. As the project would reduce consumption of potable water, it would also reduce electricity used to treat water to potable standards. Therefore, project operation would not result in a substantial net increase in power consumption or greenhouse gas emissions. For informational

purposes, RCEM results indicate the proposed project's total construction GHG emissions would be approximately 775 MT CO_2e generated over the two-year construction period, or approximately 388 MT CO_2e per year. The mobile emissions associated with operation and maintenance trips would generate approximately 0.3 MT CO_2e per year (Appendix A). Amortized over a 30-year operational lifespan, the proposed project would contribute approximately 26 MT CO_2e per year.

One of the primary sources of GHG emissions associated with the pumping, conveyance, treatment, and distribution of water and wastewater is the use of energy. The 2017 Scoping Plan acknowledges that "the water-energy nexus provides opportunities for conservation of these natural resources as well as reductions of GHG emissions" (CARB 2017). The 2017 Scoping Plan also points to recycled water as a potential way to reduce GHG emissions by replacing higher-carbon water supplies. Statewide emissions reduction strategies for the water sector are aimed at reducing the energy intensity of water, which is "the amount of energy required to take a unit of water from its origin (such as a river or aquifer) and extract and convey it to its end use" (CARB 2017).

The following goals from the 2017 Scoping Plan would be applicable to the proposed project:

- Develop and support more reliable water supplies for people, agriculture, and the environment, provided by a more resilient, diversified, sustainably managed water resources system with a focus on actions that provide direct GHG reductions.
- Make conservation a California way of life by using and reusing water more efficiently through greater water conservation, drought tolerant landscaping, stormwater capture, water recycling, and reuse to help meet future water demands and adapt to climate change.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of water systems and water uses for both surface and groundwater supplies through integrated strategies that reduce GHG emissions while meeting the needs of a growing population, improving public safety, fostering environmental stewardship, aiding in adaptation to climate change, and supporting a stable economy.

The proposed project would construct NPW pipelines to deliver recycled water supplies as a replacement for potable water use in landscaping. In doing so, the proposed project would stabilize and protect the existing local water supply and would reduce the need for end users to pump and treat local groundwater supplies. As a result, the project would be consistent with the State's long-term climate goals and strategies as outlined in the 2017 Scoping Plan. CVWD has not adopted any plans, policies, or regulations for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. The City of Palm Desert's (2010) *Environmental Sustainability Plan* identifies city-wide water management principles and goals for improving regional sustainability and efficiency. Specifically, the *Environmental Sustainability Plan* calls for 100 percent of city golf courses to be irrigated with recycled water. The proposed project involves the construction of NPW pipeline and up to 5,200 AFY of recycled water for outdoor irrigation, including golf courses. The project therefore actively supports the City of Palm Desert's *Environmental Sustainability Plan*.

The County of Riverside's *Climate Action Plan* (2019) establishes GHG reduction measures to be incorporated at the county level. Measure R2-W2 calls for an increase in recycled water use to exceed water efficiency standards. The proposed project would convey NPW to water users within Riverside County, thereby supporting this GHG reduction measure. The proposed project therefore promotes the principles and goals of the County of Riverside's *Climate Action Plan*.

The proposed project would be consistent with all applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. The GHG impacts of the proposed project would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	■	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	■
e. For a project located 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?	☐	☐	☐	■

Construction of the proposed project would temporarily increase the transport and routine use of hazardous materials during construction activities through the operation of construction vehicles and equipment. Hazardous substances that would be transported, used, and stored during construction include diesel fuel, engine oil, solvents, and other similar materials required to operate and maintain construction vehicles and equipment. In addition, ground-disturbing activities during construction could cause an accidental upset condition that could result in a release of hazardous materials into the environment. Ground-disturbing activities would include trenching up to approximately eight feet to install the NPW pipeline connections, and excavating up to approximately 15 feet to install the proposed reservoir. Appropriate equipment and machinery would be used to conduct these excavations, and standard safety protocols would be implemented to avoid accidental spill or upset conditions. However, should accidental upset conditions occur, they could result in the unanticipated spill or release of hazardous materials such as vehicle and equipment fuels, potentially introducing a hazard to the public or the environment.

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

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?*

A project-specific Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan (HMMSCP) will be prepared by the construction contractor prior to the beginning of construction, for compliance with applicable codes and regulations, including but not limited to the California Building and Fire Codes, United States Department of Labor OSHA, and California OSHA regulations. The HMMSCP will include a project-specific contingency plan for hazardous materials and waste operations, and articulate hazardous materials handling practices to prevent the accidental spill or release of hazardous materials. All excess or waste hazardous materials produced during construction activities would be disposed of off site in accordance with applicable laws pertaining to the handling and disposal of hazardous waste. Project construction activities would comply with relevant regulations, including the enforcement of hazardous materials transportation regulations and implementation of BMPs. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Gerald R. Ford Elementary School is located along the proposed project alignment, at 44-210 Warner Trail, in Indian Wells. In addition, the Montessori School of the Valley Preschool Campus is also located near the project site, at 43250 Warner Trail in Palm Desert, but is outside of the 0.25-mile buffer zone for impact analysis.

As with most construction projects, there is potential for an accidental spill or release of hazardous or potentially hazardous materials such as construction-related vehicle and equipment fuels could occur during project construction. However, project activities (fueling or maintenance of equipment) would not occur on a school site. In addition, as discussed above for threshold (b), the construction contractor will implement a project-specific HMMSCP for compliance with California Building and Fire Codes, United States Department of Labor OSHA, and California OSHA regulations. The HMMSCP will include a project-specific contingency plan for unanticipated spills or release of hazardous or potentially hazardous materials.

Construction of the project would temporarily increase emissions from construction vehicles and equipment in the vicinity of Gerald R. Ford Elementary School while NPW pipeline is being installed in the Indian Wells portion of the project site; however, such emissions are consistent with standard construction vehicles and equipment typically used in the area, and would be temporary and of short duration, limited to the construction period. In addition, Section 3.17, *Transportation*, identifies Mitigation Measure TRA-4, *Notification of Construction to Service Providers and Educational Institutions*, which requires the written notification of project construction to schools in the project area, as well as police and fire departments, so that detour routes for emergency response can be planned for the project's construction period.

Potential impacts associated with emissions or release of hazardous materials or wastes in proximity to a school would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Government Code section 65962.5 requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to develop an updated Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List; the Cortese List is a planning document used by the State, local agencies, and developers to comply with CEQA requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) is responsible for a portion of the information contained in the Cortese List. Other State and local government agencies are required to provide additional hazardous material release information for the Cortese List (DTSC 2018). The analysis for this section included a review of the following resources to provide hazardous material release information:

- SWRCB GeoTracker database
- DTSC EnviroStor database

There are no known active hazardous materials sites located within the project corridor. SWRCB's GeoTracker database lists a number of closed case cleanup sites in the vicinity of the project area. In 1990, CVWD identified and investigated a Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) at the WRP10 site with potential diesel fuel leakage; the County of Riverside closed the case as of July 10, 1992 (SWRCB 2020; DTSC 2018). No additional cases have occurred in the project area.

Table 12 lists the hazardous waste cleanup sites near the project area.

Table 12 Hazardous Waste Cleanup Sites Located in Vicinity of Project Site

Name	Address	Type of Site	Potential Contaminant of Concern	Clean-up Status	Date
Eisenhower Medical Center (T0606501072)	39000 Bob Hope Drive	LUST Cleanup Site	Diesel	Completed - Case Closed	9/17/1999
Tamarisk Country Club (T0606501066)	70968 La Paz	LUST Cleanup Site	Gasoline	Completed - Case Closed	6/3/1996

Name	Address	Type of Site	Potential Contaminant of Concern	Clean-up Status	Date
Mobile SS #18 AYG (T0606501012)	73001 Country Club	LUST Cleanup Site	Gasoline	Completed - Case Closed	10/21/1999
Avondale Country Club	75800 Clubhouse Drive	LUST Cleanup Site	Gasoline	Completed - Case Closed	7/20/1992
SOCO (T0606501001)	77999 Ave 42	LUST Cleanup Site	Gasoline	Completed - Case Closed	8/11/1992
GTE Washington (T0606500663)	42140 Washington	LUST Cleanup Site	Gasoline	Completed - Case Closed	8/24/1992
Shell Washington (T0606511469)	77920 Avenue of the States, Palm Desert	LUST Cleanup Site	Gasoline	Completed - Case Closed	9/9/2005
Chevron #9-2968	77920 Ave of the States, Palm Desert	LUST Cleanup Site	Gasoline	Completed - Case Closed	9/14/2005

Source: SWRCB Geotracker 2020

All identified hazardous waste cleanups have been completed and closed. According to the environmental database review, the project corridor is not included on any lists of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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

The closest public airport to the project area is the Bermuda Dunes Airport, a privately-owned public-use airport located approximately 1.9 miles northeast of the project site. The proposed pipeline would be installed belowground, and construction and operation of the pipeline would not represent incompatible uses in the vicinity of the airport. The project corridor does not extend onto airport property, and the project would not result in hazards or noise associated with an airport land use plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Construction of the proposed NPW pipeline may require temporary lane or road closures to accommodate the passage of construction vehicles and equipment. The Traffic Control Plan required in Mitigation Measure TRA-2, *Traffic Control Plan and Notification of Construction to Service Providers and Educational Institutions*, which is presented in Section 3.17, *Transportation*, would implement safe and effective traffic control measures at all construction sites and would address potential interference with emergency response and/or evacuation plans. With the Traffic Management Plan in place, the impact would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

Construction and operation of the project would not introduce potentially flammable activities in fire-prone areas. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has identified the project area as located within the "Non-Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone" in the Local Responsibility Area for incorporated cities which indicates the site is not subject to wildfire hazards (CAL FIRE 2017). As discussed in Section 3.20, *Wildfire,* although the proposed project is not located within a designated State Responsibility Area (SRA), components in the cities of Rancho Mirage and Indian Wells are located near lands classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA). However, the proposed project would not introduce structures or alter wildfire hazards to existing structures in the project area. The nearest fire station, Riverside County Fire Station 71, is located approximately 0.9 mile southwest of the proposed NPW pipeline segment on Monterey Avenue, and approximately 1.75 miles east of the proposed NPW pipeline segment on Varner Road. The project corridor is located within existing streets and golf course lands within an urban area. The area does not contain wildlands and is not adjacent to wildlands. Therefore, no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater 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 alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or offsite?	☐	☐	■	☐
iii) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	■	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	■

The federal Clean Water Act establishes the framework for regulating discharges to Waters of the U.S. in order to protect their beneficial uses. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act regulates water quality within California and establishes the authority of the SWRCB and the nine RWQCBs. The SWRCB requires construction projects to provide careful management and close monitoring of runoff during construction, including on-site erosion protection, sediment management, and prevention of non-storm discharges. The SWRCB and RWQCBs issue NPDES permits to regulate specific discharges. The NPDES Construction General Permit regulates stormwater discharges from construction sites that disturb more than one acre of land.

The project site overlies the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin, Indio Subbasin (also known as the Whitewater River Subbasin). The Indio Subbasin underlies the major portion of the Coachella Valley floor, and is bound by the Garnet Hill and San Andreas faults and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains. Thick layers of silt and clay, remnants of ancient lake beds, impede percolation of water into the Indio Subbasin. CVWD began importing water for source substitution in 1949 to begin addressing groundwater overdraft. In 1973, CVWD and the Desert Water Agency began implementing large-scale recharge activities that have benefited groundwater levels in the Indio and Mission Creek Subbasins. Although the Palm Desert area as a whole continues to experience declining groundwater levels, the rates of decline have generally been decreasing (CVWD 2016a).

The proposed project is part of a larger effort by CVWD as part of the WMP to provide an alternate source of irrigation/recycled water to reduce groundwater extraction and allow groundwater to remain in storage, thus reducing overdraft. Additionally, the project is an effort by CVWD to implement water conservation by using recycled water for golf course irrigation. (CVWD 2016a and 2016b; CVWD 2012a and 2012b; CVWD 2011)

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

Construction activities associated with the proposed project would result in soil disturbance that could cause water quality violations through potential erosion and subsequent sedimentation of receiving water bodies. Construction activities could also cause water quality violations in the event of an accidental fuel or hazardous materials leak or spill. If precautions are not taken to contain contaminants, construction activities could result in contaminated stormwater runoff that could enter nearby waterbodies. Construction activities resulting in ground disturbance of one acre or more are subject to the permitting requirements of the NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ). The Construction General Permit requires the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP, which must be prepared before construction begins. The SWPPP includes specifications for BMPs to be implemented during project construction to minimize or prevent sediment or pollutants in stormwater runoff.

Project construction would comply with the requirements of the Construction General Permit. In addition, the contractor would be required to implement BMPs identified in the SWPPP to prevent construction pollution via stormwater and minimize erosion and sedimentation into waterways as a result of construction.

According to the SPEIR for the 2010 WMP Update, no adverse impacts to water quality were identified in association with the use of NPW for golf course irrigation in CVWD's service area, as would occur during operation of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, including those set forth in the

current version of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin RWQCB (Colorado River Basin RWQCB 2017). Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

The project site overlies the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin, Indio Subbasin. In 2014, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) published ranked prioritizations of the state's groundwater basins to help identify, evaluate, and determine the need for additional groundwater level monitoring. DWR ranked the Indio Subbasin as a "Medium" priority basin (DWR 2014).

The proposed project would not involve the extraction or use of groundwater; rather, the project is designed to reduce the use of groundwater for irrigation purposes. The project would include approximately 12 miles of new NPW pipeline connections as well as the construction of a lined surface water storage reservoir with a capacity of approximately one million gallons. The proposed project would have a beneficial effect on groundwater recharge by providing NPW for irrigation use as a substitute for groundwater and potable water. By decreasing demand for groundwater, the proposed project would reduce groundwater overdraft in the CVWD service area. Therefore, potential impacts to groundwater are considered beneficial, and no adverse impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

c. 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:

i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

ii) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or offsite?

iii) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Neither construction nor operation and maintenance of the proposed project would result in alteration of the course of a stream or river, or introduce substantial new impervious areas.

The proposed project would temporarily alter site-specific drainage patterns during the construction period, primarily during construction of underground pipelines and the storage reservoir in Indian Wells. Construction activities would include trenching to install the new NPW pipeline segments, and construction activities would disturb both paved and unpaved areas. However, this disturbance would be temporary and limited to the construction period for each 200-LF section of NPW pipeline. During construction, a project-specific SWPPP would be implemented to minimize or avoid potentially adverse effects associated with ground disturbing activities during construction, as discussed above. After construction-related ground disturbance, all disturbed areas would be restored to pre-construction conditions, and no permanent alterations to the drainage patterns along the pipeline alignments would occur.

The project would install a one-million-gallon storage reservoir on a developed site in Indian Wells. Accordingly, the project would alter site-specific drainage patterns on the reservoir site by

permanently introducing the new reservoir. There are no formal drainage improvements currently in place on the proposed reservoir site. Implementation of the new storage reservoir would include site-specific drainage improvements around the reservoir to guide surface stormwater flows away from the reservoir itself and to maintain existing surface flow patterns across the proposed reservoir site. Following completion of the construction period, drainage patterns on the proposed reservoir site would be comparable to existing conditions. Therefore, implementation of the new reservoir would not substantially alter existing drainage patterns and would not result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site.

Further, because the pipelines would be constructed underground within developed areas, and the ground surface would be returned to existing conditions following completion of construction, the project would not increase the rate or amount of surface stormwater runoff due to increased impermeable areas. Accordingly, the project would not result in surface runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned drainage systems. Potential water quality impacts are addressed above; as discussed, construction would be conducted in compliance with the State's Construction General Permit (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ). Preparation of the SWPPP in accordance with the Construction General Permit would require erosion-control BMPs at the construction areas. The project would not result in additional sources of polluted runoff. Potential impacts associated with drainage pattern alterations would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. Is the project located in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, and risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps, the project site is not located within a 100-year Flood Hazard Area (FEMA 2017). Due to distance from the ocean and lack of large water bodies within the project area, the project area is not subject to tsunamis or seiche. Further, the area is generally flat and would not be subject to inundation by mudflow. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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

In September 2002, CVWD adopted the WMP, which was compiled to reliably "meet current and future water demands in a cost-effective and sustainable manner." An update to the WMP was completed in 2010 which addressed changing conditions such as increased water demands and evolving federal and state laws and regulations. Updates to the WMP include five elements: water conservation (urban, golf course, and agricultural); increasing surface water supplies for the Coachella Valley from outside sources; substitution of surface water supplies for groundwater (source substitution); groundwater recharge; and monitoring and evaluation of subsidence and groundwater levels and quality to provide the information needed to manage the Coachella Valley's groundwater resources. CVWD submitted the 2010 WMP to DWR as a GSP Alternative Plan in accordance with SGMA, and DWR accepted the 2010 WMP as such.

The proposed project aligns with all of these elements as the project would create an alternate source of water for existing users that currently rely on groundwater and/or potable water. Therefore, the project is consistent with the WMP, as it would reduce reliance on groundwater supplies and thereby reduce groundwater overdraft and increase the rate of groundwater recharge. The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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3.11 Land Use and Planning

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

The project alignment would be located in the cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, and La Quinta, and the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms. The applicable land use and planning documents and policies for these jurisdictions are discussed below.

a. Would the project physically divide an established community?

Once constructed, project facilities would consist of a belowground NPW pipeline, valves, and appurtenances and one belowground reservoir, which do not have the potential to physically divide an established community. The proposed project would include the extension and installation of NPW pipeline in developed, primarily residential urban areas. The presence of construction-related equipment and workers would temporarily change the existing character of the construction zone. Construction staging would maintain local access for businesses and residences along the proposed alignment to the extent practicable throughout construction of the proposed project; in addition, pipeline construction would occur in 200-LF sections to limit the presence of open trenches in the work area. Therefore, the project would not displace or divide an established community and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

As discussed in Section 3.10, *Hydrology and Water Quality,* the project is consistent with CVWD's WMP, the goal of which is to reliably meet current and future water demands and reduce groundwater overdraft. Other land use plans applicable to the project area include General Plans of the jurisdictions traversed by the project alignments. As discussed below, the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project.

The City of Palm Desert General Plan identifies objectives to implement and expand the use of recycled water within the city (City of Palm Desert 2016):

Policy 1.5. Work with the CVWD to encourage existing golf courses to connect to its recycled water system.

Policy 3.1. Coordinate on an ongoing basis with the CVWD, and other agencies when responsible for supplying water to the region.

Policy 3.2. Provide a clean, reliable citywide water supply sufficient to serve existing and planned development.

Policy 3.3. Maintain an existing water infrastructure to protect the supply, quality, and planned development.

Policy 3.5. Expand use of recycled water in existing and new development.

The City of Indian Wells General Plan also identifies goals and policies relating to the application of recycled water in the region (City of Indian Wells 1996). The proposed project would be consistent with the following identified policy:

Policy IIIA5.2. Encourage water-intensive land uses, such as golf courses, to utilize treated effluent for landscaping and irrigation needs.

The City of Rancho Mirage identifies goals and policies encouraging expanded use of recycled water in the city (City of Rancho Mirage 2017):

Policy PS&F 2.2. The City shall encourage the expanded use of tertiary treated water by supporting the efforts of CVWD to expand the capacity and distribution of such treatment facilities.

The City of La Quinta encourages coordination with CVWD to ensure adequate water supply to existing and future development (City of La Quinta 2013). In addition, the portion of proposed pipeline alignment within the city of La Quinta (and Palm Royale Country Club) is the only portion of the proposed project located within the Bermuda Dunes Airport Influence Area.

Policy UTL-1.1. The City should coordinate with the CVWD to assure that sufficient water supplies are available to sustain current and future development.

Program UTL-1.1a. Work with the Coachella Valley Water District to expand the availability of tertiary treated water, non-potable canal water, and encourage its use for landscape irrigation purposes, especially for irrigating golf courses and other large landscaped areas.

The community of Thousand Palms is located in an unincorporated part of Riverside County within the Western Coachella Valley Area Plan (WCVAP) under the County of Riverside General Plan (County of Riverside 2012). WCVAP encourages all communities to coordinate with local agencies for all development that occurs within the Policy Area.

Policy UTL-1.1. Coordinate with local agencies to ensure adequate service provision for all development within the Policy Area.

The County of Riverside's General Plan also identifies policies to expand the use of recycled water in the county. The proposed project would be consistent with the following policy:

Policy LU-18.5. Emphasize and expand the use of recycled water in conjunction with local water agencies.

Therefore, there would be no conflicts with land use plans, policies, or regulations of the cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, La Quinta, and the County of Riverside.

NO IMPACT

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3.12 Mineral Resources

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

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

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

Mineral resources in the region include clay, iron, sand, gravel, and limestone. CGS maps indicate that the project corridor is located in Mineral Resource Zone 1 (MRZ-1; DOC 2018). The Riverside County General Plan EIR also designates the area as MRZ-1. In MRZ-1 areas, the available geologic information indicates no significant mineral deposits are present or that there is little likelihood for their presence (County of Riverside 2015).

It should be noted that although CGS mapping and the Riverside County General Plan EIR identify Palm Desert as being located in an MRZ-1 area, the City of Palm Desert General Plan designates the entire city as being in an MRZ-3 classification (City of Palm Desert 2016). MRZ-3 areas are considered to have a moderate potential for the discovery of economic mineral resources. There are no mines or quarries within the project corridor.

Sand and gravel are considered important mineral resources in the project area (City of Rancho Mirage 2017). Construction of the proposed project would include the import of backfill material for the pipeline trenches; such material would be comprised of asphalt and other common materials in the project area, and would not result in the loss of availability of mineral resources of value or importance. Additionally, implementation of the proposed project would not directly or indirectly affect access to known mineral resources. Since there are no known mineral resources or mineral resource recovery sites in the vicinity of the project corridor, no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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3.13 Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in the 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. Result in 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, expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	■

Noise Background

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

Noise levels are commonly measured in decibels (dB) using the A-weighted sound pressure level (dBA). The A-weighting scale is an adjustment to the actual sound pressure levels so that they are consistent with the human hearing response, which is most sensitive to frequencies around 4,000 Hertz and less sensitive to frequencies around and below 100 Hertz (Hz). Decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale that quantifies sound intensity in a manner similar to the Richter scale used to measure earthquake magnitudes. A doubling of the energy of a noise source, such as doubling of traffic volume, would increase the noise level by 3 dB; dividing the energy in half would result in a 3 dB decrease (Crocker 2007).

Human perception of noise has no simple correlation with sound energy. The perception of sound is not linear in terms of dBA or in terms of sound energy. Two sources do not “sound twice as loud” as one source. It is widely accepted that the average healthy ear can barely perceive changes of 3 dBA,

increase or decrease (i.e., twice the sound energy); that a change of 5 dBA is readily perceptible (eight times the sound energy); and that an increase (or decrease) of 10 dBA sounds twice (half) as loud ([10.5x the sound energy] Crocker 2007).

Sound changes in both level and frequency spectrum as it travels from the source to the receiver. The most obvious change is the decrease in level as the distance from the source increases. The manner by which noise reduces with distance depends on factors such as the type of sources (e.g., point or line, the path the sound will travel, site conditions, and obstructions). Noise levels from a point source typically attenuate, or drop off, at a rate of 6 dBA per doubling of distance (e.g., construction, industrial machinery, ventilation units). Noise from a line source (e.g., roadway, pipeline, railroad) typically attenuates at about 3 dBA per doubling of distance (Caltrans 2013a). The propagation of noise is also affected by the intervening ground, known as ground absorption. A hard site, such as a parking lot or smooth body of water, receives no additional ground attenuation and the changes in noise levels with distance (drop-off rate) result from simply the geometric spreading of the source. An additional ground attenuation value of 1.5 dBA per doubling of distance applies to a soft site (e.g., soft dirt, grass, or scattered bushes and trees) (Caltrans 2013a). Noise levels may also be reduced by intervening structures; the amount of attenuation provided by this "shielding" depends on the size of the object and the frequencies of the noise levels. Natural terrain features such as hills and dense woods, and man-made features such as buildings and walls, can significantly alter noise levels. Generally, any large structure blocking the line of sight will provide at least a 5-dBA reduction in source noise levels at the receiver (Federal Highway Administration [FHWA] 2011). Structures can substantially reduce exposure to noise as well. The FHWA's guidelines indicate that modern building construction generally provides an exterior-to-interior noise level reduction of 20 to 35 dBA with closed windows.

The impact of noise is not a function of loudness alone. The time of day when noise occurs, and the duration of the noise are also important factors of project noise impact. Most noise that lasts for more than a few seconds is variable in its intensity. Consequently, a variety of noise descriptors have been developed. One of the most frequently used noise metrics is the equivalent noise level (L_{eq}); it considers both duration and sound power level. L_{eq} is defined as the single steady A-weighted level equivalent to the same amount of energy as that contained in the actual fluctuating levels over time. Typically, L_{eq} is summed over a one-hour period. L_{max} is the highest root mean squared (RMS) sound pressure level within the sampling period, and L_{min} is the lowest RMS sound pressure level within the measuring period (Crocker 2007).

Noise that occurs at night tends to be more disturbing than that occurring during the day. Community noise is usually measured using Day-Night Average Level (DNL), which is the 24-hour average noise level with a +10 dBA penalty for noise occurring during nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) hours; it is also measured using Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL), which is the 24-hour average noise level with a +5 dBA penalty for noise occurring from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and a +10 dBA penalty for noise occurring from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. (Caltrans 2013a). Noise levels described by DNL and CNEL usually differ by about 1 dBA. The relationship between the peak-hour L_{eq} value and the DNL/CNEL depends on the distribution of traffic during the day, evening, and night. Quiet suburban areas typically have CNEL noise levels in the range of 40 to 50 dBA, while areas near arterial streets are in the 50 to 60-plus CNEL range. Normal conversational levels are in the 60 to 65-dBA L_{eq} range; ambient noise levels greater than 65 dBA L_{eq} can interrupt conversations (Federal Transit Administration [FTA] 2018).

Vibration Background

Groundborne vibration of concern in environmental analysis consists of the oscillatory waves that move from a source through the ground to adjacent structures. The number of cycles per second of oscillation makes up the vibration frequency, described in terms of Hz. The frequency of a vibrating object describes how rapidly it oscillates. The normal frequency range of most groundborne vibration that can be felt by the human body starts from a low frequency of less than 1 Hz and goes to a high of about 200 Hz (Crocker 2007).

While people have varying sensitivities to vibrations at different frequencies, in general they are most sensitive to low-frequency vibration. Vibration in buildings, such as from nearby construction activities, may cause windows, items on shelves, and pictures on walls to rattle. Vibration of building components can also take the form of an audible low-frequency rumbling noise, referred to as groundborne noise. Groundborne noise is usually only a problem when the originating vibration spectrum is dominated by frequencies in the upper end of the range (60 to 200 Hz), or when foundations or utilities, such as sewer and water pipes, physically connect the structure and the vibration source (FTA 2018). Although groundborne vibration is sometimes noticeable in outdoor environments, it is almost never annoying to people who are outdoors. The primary concern from vibration is that it can be intrusive and annoying to building occupants and vibration-sensitive land uses.

Vibration energy spreads out as it travels through the ground, causing the vibration level to diminish with distance away from the source. High-frequency vibrations diminish much more rapidly than low frequencies, so low frequencies tend to dominate the spectrum at large distances from the source. Discontinuities in the soil strata can also cause diffractions or channeling effects that affect the propagation of vibration over long distances. When a building is impacted by vibration, a ground-to-foundation coupling loss will usually reduce the overall vibration level. However, under rare circumstances, the ground-to-foundation coupling may actually amplify the vibration level due to structural resonances of the floors and walls.

Vibration amplitudes are usually expressed in peak particle velocity (PPV) or root mean squared (RMS) vibration velocity. The PPV and RMS velocity are normally described in inches per second (in/sec.). PPV is defined as the maximum instantaneous positive or negative peak of a vibration signal. PPV is often used in monitoring of blasting vibration because it is related to the stresses that are experienced by buildings (Caltrans 2020).

Project Site Setting

The project site is located in a developed, predominantly residential/country club urban area extending through the cities of Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, Palm Desert, and La Quinta, as well as the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms north of Interstate 10 (I-10). The nearest residential communities and country clubs to the project alignment include the Tamarisk Country Club, Rancho Mirage Country Club, and Desert Island Country Club in Rancho Mirage; Palm Desert Greens Country Club, Suncrest Country Club, Palm Desert Country Club and single-family homes along Warner Trail in Palm Desert; The Village at Indian Wells and residences west of Warner Trail in Indian Wells; Palm Royale Country Club in La Quinta; and Tri-Palm Estates and Country Club and Ivey Ranch Country Club in unincorporated Riverside County. The nearest highway is I-10, located immediately southwest of the proposed pipeline alignment along Varner Road. The project would include construction along the following roadways: Frank Sinatra Drive, Halper Lake Drive, Tamarisk Lane, Bob Hope Drive, Kavenish Drive, Monterey Avenue, Warner Trail, Washington Street, Emerald

Drive, Varner Road, Boca Chica Trail, and Laura Drive. Noise levels at the project site are typical of residential and commercial areas. Primary sources of noise can be attributed to the generally free-flowing roadway traffic along the aforementioned roadways. Traffic in these areas ranges from infrequent in the residential neighborhoods in the country clubs and on golf course properties and moderate frequencies along arterial corridors, such as Frank Sinatra Drive, Monterey Avenue, and Bob Hope Drive. The public roadways have speed limits up to 55 miles per hour.

There are three airports in a 10-mile radius of the project site, including Palm Springs International Airport (approximately 4.6 miles to the northwest), Bermuda Dunes Airport (approximately 1.9 miles to the northeast), and Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport (approximately 9.6 miles to the southeast). The proposed pipeline alignment within the city of La Quinta and Palm Royale Country Club is the only portion of the proposed project located within the Bermuda Dunes Airport Influence Area. According to the Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, this portion of the proposed project alignment is not within the existing (2003) 65, 60, or 55 CNEL average peak season day noise contours, or the 70, 65, 60, or 55 dB CNEL noise contours for future (2023) average peak daily season day noise at the Bermuda Dunes Airport (Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission 2004). No other project components are located within airport influence areas, including for Bermuda Dunes Airport, Palm Springs International Airport, or Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport, and airport noise is not expected to contribute to noise levels along the proposed project alignment.

Rincon Consultants collected five noise measurements at various points along the project alignment on July 14, 2020. Noise Measurement (NM) 1 was collected north of residences in the Mountain View Villas development in Indian Wells, south of the NPW pipeline extending east from Warner Trail. NM 2 was collected along Warner Trail near Fred Waring Drive in Indian Wells, near Gerald R. Ford Elementary School and residences in The Village at Indian Wells development. NM 3 was collected along Monterey Avenue in Palm Desert near residences in the Suncrest Country Club, the JPL Bible Church, and Saint Garabed Armenian Apostolic Church. NM 4 was collected along Frank Sinatra Drive in Rancho Mirage, near residences in the Tamarisk Country Club. Finally, NM 5 was collected along Laura Drive in the Tri-Palms Estates and Country Club development in unincorporated Riverside County. Figure 6 shows the locations of the measurements and Table 13 shows the recorded noise measurements.

Figure 6 Noise Measurement Locations

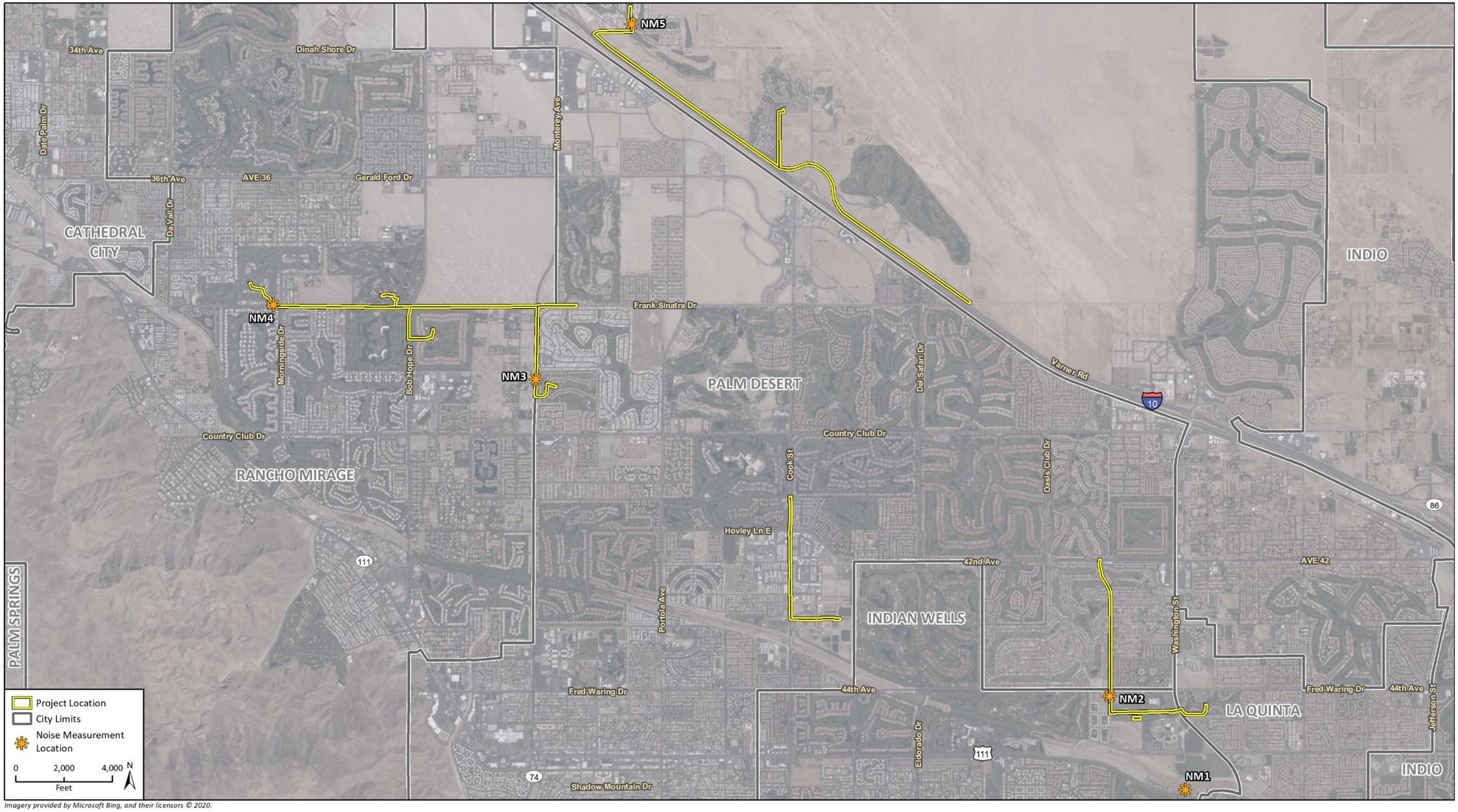

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Table 13 Noise Measurements

Measurement Number	Measurement Location	Sample Times[1]	Leq (dBA)[2]	Lmin (dBA)[3]	Lmax (dBA)[4]
NM 1	North of Mountain View Villas residences (Indian Wells)	1:46 p.m. – 2:01 p.m.	57.3	38.3	62.4
NM 2	Warner Trail near Fred Waring Drive (Indian Wells)	2:22 p.m. – 2:37 p.m.	64.9	45.8	81.9
NM 3	Monterey Avenue (Palm Desert)	3:10 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.	72.4	37.5	88.9
NM 4	Frank Sinatra Drive near Tamarisk Country Club (Rancho Mirage)	4:22 p.m. – 4:37 p.m.	66.8	34.3	80.7
NM 5	Laura Drive in Tri-Palm Estates and Country Club (Unincorporated Riverside County)	3:46 p.m. – 4:01 p.m.	47.0	43.0	61.0

[1] All measurements collected July 14, 2020.

[2] A-weighted decibel (dBA) is defined as a decibel (dB) adjusted to be consistent with human response. The equivalent noise level (Leq) is defined as the single steady A-weighted level that is equivalent to the same amount of energy as that contained in the actual fluctuating levels over a period of time (essentially, the average noise level).

[3] Lmin is the minimum sound level experienced within the recorded measurement with A-weighted frequency response.

[4] Lmax is the maximum sound level experienced within the recorded measurement with A-weighted frequency response.

Source: Rincon Consultants, field visits on June 14, 2020 using ANSI Type 2 Integrating sound level meter. See Appendix G for noise monitoring data

Sensitive Receptors

Noise exposure goals for various types of land uses reflect the varying noise sensitivities associated with those uses. Noise-sensitive land uses identified in the Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, and County of Riverside General Plans include residences, schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, destination resort areas, hotels and motels, mental care facilities, and parks (City of Rancho Mirage 2017; City of Palm Desert 2016; City of Indian Wells 2016; City of La Quinta 2013; County of Riverside 2015). The noise sensitive land uses nearest to the proposed project components are residences/country clubs located within approximately 25 feet of the proposed pipeline alignments, as well as JPL Bible Church (located along Monterey Avenue in Rancho Mirage), United Church of the Desert and First Baptist Church/The Journey Baptist Church (located along Warner Trail in Palm Desert), and Gerald R. Ford Elementary School (located along Warner Trail in Indian Wells). The nearest sensitive receptors to the reservoir site are the Southwest Community Church main building located approximately 730 feet to the northeast and the Gerald R. Ford Elementary School main building located approximately 760 feet to the northwest.

Regulatory Setting

City of Rancho Mirage

Approximately 16,000 LF of new NPW pipeline is proposed in Rancho Mirage, predominantly along Frank Sinatra Drive and Bob Hope Drive, and serving the following connections: Tamarisk Country Club, the Annenberg Estate aka Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands Golf Course, and Rancho Mirage Country Club.

NOISE ORDINANCE (MUNICIPAL CODE)

Chapter 8.45, *Noise*, of the Rancho Mirage Municipal Code describes exterior noise level limits, noise measurement protocols, enforcement procedures, and exemptions to the noise ordinance. Section 8.45.030, *Exterior noise level limits,* provides sound level limits for identified zones within the city, as summarized in Table 14.

Table 14 City of Rancho Mirage Sound Level Limits

Zone	Time	Noise Level (dBA)[1,2]
Residential – Low Density (R-E, H-R, R-L-2, R-L-3)	7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	55
	6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	50
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	45
Residential – Medium and High Density, Hospital, Open Space (OS, R-M, R-H, MHP)	7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	60
	6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	55
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	50
Commercial Office, Resort Commercial, Mixed Use, Institutional (O, P, RS-H, M-U)	7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	65
	6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	60
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	55
Commercial Neighborhood, General Commercial, Commercial Recreation, Light Industrial (C-N, C-G, I-L)	7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	70
	6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	65
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	60

Notes: dBA = a-weighted decibel

[1]Noise level limit shall not be exceeded for a cumulative period of more than 30 minutes in any hour of the applicable time period.

[2] If the measured ambient noise level exceeds the noise level limits, the noise level limits shall be increased in five dBA increments as needed to encompass or reflect said ambient noise levels.

Source: City of Rancho Mirage 2020.

Additionally, Section 8.45.050, *Special Provisions and Exemptions*, states that construction, alteration, repair, grading, or improvement of any building, structure, road, or improvement of real property for which a permit has been issued by the City between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. is exempted from the provisions of the noise ordinance (hours specified in Section 15.04.030(A)(11) of the Rancho Mirage Municipal Code).

GENERAL PLAN

Chapter 7 of the City of Rancho Mirage General Plan contains the Noise Element. The Noise Level and Land Use Compatibility exhibit describes acceptable noise levels for different land uses in the city. The Noise Element also reiterates the exterior noise standards for different land use zones specified in the Noise Ordinance.

Additionally, the General Plan Noise Element provides goals, policies, and programs for land use planning and design, in relation to noise. The applicable goals and policies to the proposed project are summarized below (City of Rancho Mirage 2017):

Goal N 1 A noise environment providing peace and quiet that complements and is consistent with Rancho Mirage's resort residential character.

Policy N 1.1 Land use patterns, associated traffic and its distribution, and individual developments shall be assessed for their potential to generate adverse and incompatible noise impacts. Noise exceeding normally acceptable levels shall be appropriately mitigated.

Policy N 1.3 Project designs shall be required to include measures that assure that interior noise levels for residential development do not exceed 45 dBA CNEL.

CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE TRUCK ROUTES

The City of Rancho Mirage has a Designated Truck Route Map that identifies designated truck routes and time restricted truck routes in the city. In the vicinity of the project alignment, designated truck routes include Monterey Avenue, Bob Hope Drive north of Gerald Ford Drive, and SR 111. Truck traffic is permitted on Bob Hope Drive south of Gerald Ford Drive between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. (City of Rancho Mirage 2013).

City of Palm Desert

Approximately 21,000 LF of new NPW pipeline is proposed in Palm Desert, along Monterey Avenue and Warner Trail, serving the Suncrest Country Club. WRP10 is also located in Palm Desert, and includes the existing pump stations that will be used to convey NPW under the proposed project.

NOISE ORDINANCE (MUNICIPAL CODE)

Chapter 9.24, *Noise Control*, of the Palm Desert Municipal Code provides sound level limits, a list of prohibited noises, exemptions to the noise ordinance, and hour limitations to specific uses and activities. Section 9.24.030, *Sound Level Limits,* provides the 10-minute average sound level limits for identified zones within the city, as summarized in Table 15.

Table 15 City of Palm Desert Sound Level Limits

Zone	Time	Applicable 10-Minute Average Decibel Limit (dBA)[1,2]
Residential – All Zones	7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	55
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	45
Public Institutional	7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	65
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	55
Commercial	7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	65
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	55
Manufacturing Industrial	7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	70
Agricultural	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	55

Notes: dBA = a-weighted decibel

[1]If the measured ambient noise level exceeds the applicable limit, the allowable average sound level shall be the ambient noise level.

[2]The sound level limit between two zoning districts shall be measured at the higher allowable district.

Source: City of Palm Desert 2020

Pursuant to Section 9.24.060, *Special Provisions – Exemptions,* the provisions of the noise ordinance shall not preclude the construction, operation, maintenance and repairs of equipment, apparatus, or facilities of public work projects or essential public services and facilities, including those of public utilities subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission. Additionally, Section 9.24.060, *Special Provisions – Exemptions,* states, under subsection K, that noise sources associated with construction activities are exempt from the provisions of the Noise Ordinance; and Section 9.24.070, *Construction Activities*, sets hours of construction in the city, as summarized in Table 16.

Table 16 Permitted Construction Hours in the City of Palm Desert

Applicable Dates	Permitted Hours
October 1st through April 30th	
Monday through Friday	7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	None
Government code holidays[1]	None
May 1st through September 30th	
Monday through Friday	5:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	None
Government code holidays[1]	None

[1]Per Section 6700 of the Government Code, California holidays include: every Sunday, January 1st, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (third Monday in January), Lincoln Day (the third Monday in February), Cesar Chavez Day (March 31st), the last Monday in May, July 4th, the first Monday in September, Admission Day (September 9th), Native American Day (fourth Friday in September), Columbus Day (second Monday in October), Veterans Day (November 11th), December 25th, and Good Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and every day appointed by the President or Governor for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday, except for the Thursday in November appointed as Thanksgiving Day.

Source: City of Palm Desert 2020

GENERAL PLAN

The Noise Compatibility Matrix in the City of Palm Desert General Plan defines the acceptable noise levels for different land uses in the City. This matrix is identical to the State's land use compatibility guidelines, as provided in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research General Plan Guidelines (2017).

Additionally, the General Plan Noise Element provides goals and policies for land use planning and design, in relation to noise. The applicable goals and policies to the proposed project are summarized below (City of Palm Desert 2016):

Goal 2 Stationary Sources of Noise. A city with minimal noise from stationary sources.

Policy 2.1 Noise Ordinance. Minimize noise conflicts between neighboring properties through enforcement of applicable regulations such as the City's Noise Control Ordinance.

Policy 2.4 **Industrial Uses.** Ensure that industrial uses engage in responsible operational practices that minimize noise impacts on adjacent residences and other noise-sensitive receptors, and require mitigation as needed for development of industrial uses near noise-sensitive receptors.

Policy 2.5 **Noise Barriers for Industrial/Commercial Sources.** If necessary, and after implementation of measures utilizing architectural features and building design and construction consistent with Policy 1.2, require certain industrial and heavy commercial uses to use absorptive types of noise barriers or walls to reduce noise levels generated by these uses. To be considered effective, the noise barrier should provide at least a 5-dBA-CNEL noise reduction.

CITY OF PALM DESERT TRUCK ROUTES

The City of Palm Desert has a Truck Routes Map that identifies designated roadways for trucks as well as hours restrictions. In the vicinity of the project alignment, Monterey Avenue, Frank Sinatra Drive, Country Club Drive, Portola Avenue, Fred Waring Drive, and Cook Street are designated truck routes; commercial truck traffic is permitted on Fred Waring Drive between Monterey Avenue and Cook Street to between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. (City of Palm Desert n.d.).

City of Indian Wells

The proposed project includes approximately 4,000 LF of new NPW in Indian Wells, generally north of the Indian Wells Tennis Garden and along Warner Trail. Additionally, the proposed project would introduce a new one-million-gallon storage reservoir in Indian Wells, as shown on Figure 2 and described in detail in Section 2.2.3, *Storage Reservoir*.

NOISE ORDINANCE (MUNICIPAL CODE)

Chapter 9.06, *Noise*, of the Indian Wells Municipal Code provides noise standards, exceptions to those standards, specific noise regulations regarding schools, hospitals, churches, and residential stationary sources (e.g., pumps, fans, and air conditioners), off-road vehicles, waste disposal vehicles, construction or landscape maintenance noise, and golf courses. Additionally, restrictions and waivers to the noise ordinance, including special conditions permits, and general noise regulations are also provided.

Section 9.06.040, *Noise Standards,* provides the exterior and interior sound limits for residential properties. These standards include sound level limits for all land uses, when noise generated is in proximity to residential uses. These standards as summarized in Table 17 below.

Table 17 City of Indian Wells Noise Standards

Land Use	Time/Cumulative Period	Applicable Decibel Limit (dBA)
Exterior		
Residential Properties	7:01 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	55
	10:01 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	50
Land Uses in Proximity to Residential Uses	30 minutes/hour	+3[1]
	15 minutes/hour	+5[1]
	5 minutes/hour	+10
	1 minute/hour	+15
	Not to be exceeded	+20[2]
Interior		
Residential Properties	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m./more than 5 minutes/hour	45[3]
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m./more than 1 minute/hour	50[3]
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m./any period of time	55[4]

Notes: dBA = a-weighted decibel

[1]If the measured ambient noise level exceeds the applicable limit, the allowable noise limit shall be increased in 5 dBA increments in each category to encompass the ambient noise level.

[2]If the measured ambient noise level exceeds the applicable limit, the maximum allowable noise level shall be the ambient noise level plus 20 dBA.

[3]If the measured ambient noise level exceeds the applicable noise limit, the cumulative period applicable shall be increased to reflect said ambient noise level.

[4]In the event the ambient noise level exceeds the noise limit of 55 dBA, the maximum allowable noise level shall be increased to reflect the maximum ambient noise level.

Source: City of Indian Wells 2020

Exceptions to the noise standards in Table 17 that are applicable to the project include "noise sources associated with construction or landscape maintenance activities during the hours specified by Section 9.06.047(b); provided, however, that the operation of an internal combustion engine shall not be exempt pursuant to this subsection if such engine is not equipped with suitable exhaust and intake silencers which are in good working order. The Planning Director may permit work to be done during the hours not exempt by this subsection in the case of urgent necessity and in the interest of public health and welfare for a period not to exceed three (3) days. Application for this exemption may be made in conjunction with the application for the work permit or during progress of the work."

Section 9.06.047, *Construction or Landscape Maintenance Noise*, sets hours of construction and landscape maintenance in the city, as summarized in Table 18. Section 9.06.049, *Restrictions and waivers,* states example waivers that can be issued. However, the waiver that the Planning Director may issue is not to allow the operation of heavy equipment, internal combustion engines, pneumatic tools, or power equipment before 7:00 a.m.

Table 18 Permitted Construction and Landscape Maintenance Hours in Indian Wells

Applicable Days	Permitted Hours
Monday through Friday	7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	None
Holidays[1]	None

[1]Per Section 9.06.047 of the City's Municipal Code, holidays include: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Source: City of Indian Wells 2020

GENERAL PLAN

The Noise Compatibility Matrix in the City of Indian Wells General Plan defines the acceptable noise levels for different land uses in the city. This matrix is the same as State guidelines and those of the City of Palm Desert, described above. The Noise Element also references construction noise hours limitations included in the City's Noise Ordinance. However, the hours described in the City's Noise Ordinance, as shown in Table 18, are more restrictive than those discussed in the General Plan and, therefore, these hours are referenced for the purpose of this analysis.

Additionally, the General Plan Circulation Element and Noise Element provide goals and policies for land use planning and design, in relation to noise. The applicable goals and policies to the proposed project are summarized below (City of Indian Wells 2016).

Goal IVB1 Minimize the impact of traffic-generated noise on residential and other noise sensitive land uses.

Policy IVB1.3 Truck traffic shall be limited to specific routes and designated hours of travel, as defined by the City Planning and Engineering Departments.

Goal IVB2 Minimize the impacts of noise from commercial development and other noise-generating activities.

Policy IVB2.1 Require mitigation at the property line if new or an expansion of existing noise-generating land uses results in noise levels that exceed 65 dBA CNEL in areas containing residential or other noise-sensitive land uses.

Policy IVB2.3 Enforce the City's noise ordinance which specifies restrictions on construction noise and other short-term noise events (i.e., concerts, sporting events) and mitigation measures for development in noise-sensitive areas.

Additionally, the City of Indian Wells General Plan Noise Element (2016) provides implementation procedures to help achieve the goals and policies listed above. The procedures applicable to the proposed project include the following:

1 All projects and activities shall conform to the City's Noise Ordinance

CITY OF INDIAN WELLS TRUCK ROUTES

As described in Policy IVB1.3 of the Indian Wells General Plan, the City has a Truck Route Map that identifies restricted roadways and time restricted roadways for trucks. Fred Waring Drive, Miles Avenue, Cook Street, and El Dorado Drive are limited to trucks on the road between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. SR 111 and Washington Street have no time limitations (City of Indian Wells 2010). All other routes are limited to local deliveries only.

City of La Quinta

Approximately 2,000 LF of new NPW pipeline is proposed in La Quinta, serving the Palm Royale Country Club.

NOISE ORDINANCE (MUNICIPAL CODE)

Chapter 9.100.210, *Noise Control*, of the La Quinta Municipal Code provides land use compatibility standards, exterior noise standards, exemptions to the noise ordinance, and enforcement procedures. Table 19 summarizes exterior noise standards for noise sensitive and other non-residential land uses.

Table 19 City of La Quinta Noise Standards

Zone	Time	Exterior Noise Standard (dBA)
Noise Sensitive[1]	7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	65
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	50
Other Non-residential	7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	75
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	65

Notes: dBA = a-weighted decibel

[1]Noise sensitive receptors are defined by the La Quinta Municipal Code as residential property, schools, hospitals, and churches.

Source: City of La Quinta 2020

Pursuant to Section 9.100.210(E)(3), construction activities regulated by Section 6.08.050 of the La Quinta Municipal Code are exempt from the noise restrictions in the Noise Ordinance. Additionally, Section 6.08.050, *Disturbances by Construction Noises,* sets hours of construction permitted in the city, as summarized in Table 20.

Table 20 Permitted Construction Hours in the City of La Quinta

Applicable Dates	Permitted Hours
October 1st through April 30th	
Monday through Friday	7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	None
Holidays[1]	None
May 1st through September 30th	
Monday through Friday	6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	None
Holidays[1]	None

[1]The La Quinta Municipal Code identifies the following holidays during which construction activities are not permitted: New Year's Day, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Source: City of La Quinta 2020.

GENERAL PLAN

The La Quinta General Plan Noise Element identifies noise sources in the city, noise sensitive receptors, and references the State's land use compatibility noise matrix.

Additionally, the General Plan Noise Element provides goals and policies for land use planning and design, in relation to noise. The applicable goals and policies to the proposed project are summarized below (City of La Quinta 2013):

Goal N-1 A healthful noise environment which complements the City's residential and resort character.

Policy N1.5 All noise impact analysis will include, at a minimum, short-term construction noise and noise generated by the daily operation of the project at build out.

CITY OF LA QUINTA TRUCK ROUTES

The City of La Quinta Public Works Department has a Designated Truck and Weight Restricted Routes Map that identifies restricted roadways for trucks. In the vicinity of the project alignment, Washington Street, Fred Waring Drive, and Miles Avenue are designated truck routes (City of La Quinta 2011).

County of Riverside

The proposed project would include approximately 25,000 LF of NPW pipeline in the community of Thousand Palms in unincorporated Riverside County. Consistent with State law, the County of Riverside has adopted noise policies in its General Plan Noise Chapter, as well as the County of Riverside's noise ordinance, codified under Chapter 9.52, *Noise Regulation* (County of Riverside

2020). The County's noise ordinance identifies noise standards for typical sources of noise in the county.

NOISE ORDINANCE (MUNICIPAL CODE)

Chapter 9.52, *Noise Regulation*, of the Riverside County Municipal Code provides sound level limits, a list of prohibited noises, exemptions to the noise ordinance, and hour limitations to specific uses and activities. Capital improvement projects of a governmental agency are exempted from the provisions of the noise ordinance; therefore, the County's noise ordinance would not apply to the proposed project.

Impact Analysis

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

Construction Noise

Construction activities associated with the project would result in temporary and intermittent noise increases at sensitive receptors near construction activities. The project area is almost entirely surrounded by sensitive receptors (residences) that would generally be within 25 feet of where construction would occur. In addition, Montessori School of the Valley Preschool Campus is located approximately 95 feet east of the proposed pipeline alignment along Warner Trail. The Southwest Community Church and Gerald R. Ford Elementary School are located approximately 730 feet and 760 feet from the reservoir site, respectively. Construction of the project would involve the use of heavy equipment that could create occasional noise levels above applicable regulations if construction activities occur outside exempt hours, as listed in the noise ordinance tables above. Construction noise primarily arises from the use of equipment, such as excavators, compactors, trucks, and other machinery. Noise would also be introduced in the form of trucks transporting excavated material from the construction site to staging areas and/or disposal sites. All of these noise sources would be intermittent and temporary, spanning the project's two-year construction period. Approximately 200 LF of pipeline would be installed per day for construction activities, including excavation, pipe installation, and backfilling, as construction continues along the alignment path. Noise-generating construction activities would occur adjacent to a given sensitive receptor for only a few days at most, after which time the active construction area would progress along the proposed alignment, providing added distance for noise attenuation. Residences near the disturbed areas would generally be exposed to construction activities for a couple or few days in total, limited to Monday through Friday.

The potential for temporary construction noise impacts are determined by the proximity of sensitive receptors to construction activities, estimated noise levels associated with construction activities, the potential for construction noise to interfere with daytime and nighttime activities, and whether construction noise at nearby receptors would exceed local noise ordinance standards. Construction noise levels were quantified using the FHWA's Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM) for each phase of construction activities based on equipment consistent with the air quality modeling described in Section 3.3, *Air Quality*. Typical construction activities associated with pipeline installation and construction of the storage reservoir (e.g., the use of earthmoving equipment) would generate maximum noise levels (without noise controls) ranging from 56 dBA to 92 dBA at

the nearest sensitive receptors. Table 21 provides the estimated noise levels for each phase of construction at the nearest sensitive receptor locations. As described in the noise setting above, the rate of attenuation (i.e., reduction) from point sources of noise is approximately 6 dBA for every doubling of distance. As described in Section 3.3, *Air Quality*, pump station and valve improvements are not anticipated to require substantial use of heavy equipment, and construction equipment noise associated with these project components was not modeled.

Table 21 Estimated Noise Levels Generated during Construction Phases

Construction Phase	Combined Leq (dBA)[1]
Single Family Residential (25 feet from pipeline alignment)	
Grubbing/Land Clearing	92
Grading and Excavation	90
Drainage/Sub-Grade	88
Paving	85
Montessori School of the Valley Preschool Campus (95 feet from pipeline alignment)	
Grubbing/Land Clearing	80
Grading and Excavation	79
Drainage/Sub-Grade	76
Paving	74
Gerald R. Ford Elementary School (145 feet from pipeline alignment)	
Grubbing/Land Clearing	77
Grading and Excavation	75
Drainage/Sub-Grade	73
Paving	70
Single-Family Residential (625 feet from storage reservoir)[2]	
Grubbing/Land Clearing	56
Grading	58

[1]A-weighted decibel (dBA) is defined as a decibel (dB) adjusted to be consistent with human response

[2]The precise location of the proposed storage reservoir within the identified reservoir site in Indian Wells is not currently known, and will be determined during final engineering design of the project. Therefore, it was conservatively assumed that construction would occur at point on the parcel closest to the nearest sensitive receptors.

Source: Federal Highway Administration 2006

Substantial portions of the project alignment are located within 25 feet of residential property lines in the cities of Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Rancho Mirage, and unincorporated Riverside County. It is possible that construction noise from pipeline installation could temporarily increase noise exposure to more than 65 dBA in residential areas, which exceeds the daytime exterior noise standards for residences in the cities of Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, and the County of Riverside. As shown in Table 13, ambient noise levels near the sensitive receptors identified range between 47.0 dBA (in unincorporated Riverside County) and 72.4 dBA (in Palm

Desert). In most locations along the project alignment, it is anticipated that the temporary construction noise may exceed the ambient noise level as measured at the nearest sensitive receptor. However, the noise ordinances for each of the five jurisdictions spanning the project alignment include noise ordinance exemptions for public utility work and/or construction work conducted during specified daytime hours.

Construction would occur primarily during daytime hours, and the rate of pipeline installation would limit the duration of pipeline construction along each approximately 200-LF section of pipeline, limiting the length of exposure of any particular noise receptors to a few days at most. Due to the range of equipment noise levels and the proximity to sensitive receptors, construction activities would subject sensitive receptors to a temporary increase in noise during daytime hours. However, construction noise would be exempt in Riverside County (Section 9.52.020 of the County of Riverside Code of Ordinances) and Palm Desert (Section 9.24.060 of the Palm Desert Municipal Code), and generally would occur during exempt hours in Indian Wells, La Quinta, and Rancho Mirage. Therefore, due to the temporary and generally exempt noise increases associated with construction of the proposed project, impacts would be less than significant.

Operational Noise

Proposed pipelines would be located belowground, generally within existing roadways, and, therefore, would not be expected to result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project alignment. Motor-actuated valves would be located in a belowground vault and, similarly, would not be expected to generate substantial operational noise.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Construction Vibration

Vibration limits used in this analysis to determine a potential impact to local land uses are based on information contained in Caltrans' (2013b) *Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual* and the FTA (2018) *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual.* Because construction activity would occur in close proximity to sensitive receptors for a short period of time as construction progresses along the proposed alignment, a threshold of vibration intended to avoid structural damage to nearby buildings is most appropriate. Generally, a PPV vibration threshold of approximately 0.3 in/sec is sufficient to avoid physical damage to engineered structures (FTA 2018), while residential buildings in good repair with gypsum board walls may encounter physical damage at a PPV of 0.4 to 0.5 in/sec. Based on these guidelines, a PPV vibration threshold of 0.3 in/sec is applied for this analysis in order to avoid potential damage to structures in proximity to construction activities.

Construction of the project could potentially increase groundborne vibration in the vicinity of the project site, but any effects would be temporary. The project site is almost entirely surrounded by sensitive receptors, many of which would be within 25 feet of where construction would occur. Table 22 shows typical vibration levels associated with standard construction equipment that could be used for the project.

Table 22 Typical Vibration Levels Generated by Construction Equipment

Equipment[1]	Approximate PPV (in/sec) 25 Feet from the Source
Vibratory Roller	0.21
Large Bulldozer	0.089
Hoe Ram	0.089
Loaded Trucks	0.076
Jack Hammer	0.035

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

[1]List not comprehensive of all equipment that would be used for the proposed project

Source: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 2018

Based on the information presented in Table 22, residences at 25 feet from construction activities could be exposed to a maximum PPV of approximately 0.21 in/sec during construction, which would not exceed the 0.3 in/sec threshold at which physical damage to buildings may occur. Furthermore, the project would not include construction activities known to generate substantial vibration, such as pile-driving. Vibration during construction activities may be perceptible to building occupants, including Gerald R. Ford Elementary School, which is located along the proposed project alignment, at 44-210 Warner Trail in Indian Wells. However, construction activities would be temporary in nature and generally be limited to daytime hours (outside of normal sleeping hours) minimizing disruption to residents. Pipeline installation would occur in segments of 200 LF each; accordingly, construction activities that could affect nearby sensitive receptors would be transitory and limited to a small portion of the construction period. Therefore, construction-generated groundborne vibration impacts would be less than significant.

Operation Vibration

Project components, including the NPW pipelines, valves, meters, pump station improvements, and storage reservoir, would not generate significant stationary sources of vibration during operation, such as routine and regular use of heavy equipment. Therefore, operational vibration impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT

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

The project site is located approximately 1.9 miles southwest of the Bermuda Dunes Airport, which is the only airport within two miles of project components. As stated in the *Project Site Setting* section above, the project site is not within the noise impact area for the airport (Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission 2004). There are no private airstrips near the project alignment. Construction of the proposed project would not expose workers to excessive noise levels. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

3.14 Population and Housing

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

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

b. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The proposed project would provide non-potable irrigation water to seven existing golf courses, one community church, and one sports and entertainment venue; recycled water used for golf course irrigation would supplant existing groundwater production and use. Provision of recycled water would not directly induce population growth, as it would not produce additional water supply for residential or commercial use. The proposed project would not result in the construction of new homes, new commercial or industrial uses, or a need for CVWD to hire additional employees. The proposed project also would not include the addition of residential development and would not include any features that would displace any existing housing or people. Therefore, no impact associated with direct or indirect population growth would occur.

NO IMPACT

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3.15 Public Services

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
1. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	■
2. Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	■
3. Schools?	☐	☐	☐	■
4. Parks?	☐	☐	☐	■
5. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	■

a.1-5 Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and/or other public facilities?

The proposed project would not include any features or facilities that would require additional or unusual fire or police protection resources. It is expected that construction workers would be local to the surrounding Coachella Valley area, and construction would not generate new population growth. The existing CVWD workforce would operate the proposed project. In addition, the proposed project would not change existing demand for public services (e.g., schools, parks, or libraries) because population growth would not result from construction of the proposed project (see Section 3.14, *Population and Housing)*. Furthermore, the proposed project would reduce demands on groundwater, thus furthering the region's ability to meet peak load water supplies during an emergency. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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3.16 Recreation

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

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

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

As discussed in Section 3.14, *Population and Housing*, the proposed project would not directly or indirectly support population growth; therefore, the 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. Additionally, the proposed project would not include recreational facilities and would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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3.17 Transportation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing a measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation, including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways, and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	■	☐	☐
b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	■	☐	☐
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 design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	■
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	■	☐	☐
f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bikeways, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise substantially decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	■

a. *Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing a measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation, including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways, and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?*

b. *Would the project conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?*

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is the designated Congestion Management Agency responsible for the development and implementation of the Congestion Management Program (CMP) in the project area. According to the current (2011) CMP, all regional roadways within the project area are operating at acceptable levels of service (RCTC 2011).

Construction staging would occur primarily within existing roadways and public rights-of-way within the cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, and La Quinta, as well as the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms in Riverside County. Construction activities would install approximately 200 LF of pipeline at a time before moving to the next segment of pipeline; installation of each 200-LF segment of pipeline would be limited to a few days at most. Potential roadway lane closures would be temporary and phased as construction progresses along the pipeline alignment. Construction-related vehicle trips during construction would include passenger trucks for workers traveling to and from the project work areas, haul trucks (including for import and export of excavated materials, as needed), and other trucks associated with equipment and material deliveries. During peak construction months, construction-related vehicle trips would number approximately 24 one-way trips per day. Potential local traffic impacts from this increase in vehicle traffic would be temporary, as construction activities would move along the alignment.

Due to the short-term nature of construction activities, and due to impacts moving along the project corridor as work progresses with each 200-LF segment of pipeline installation, construction-related traffic impacts would not be substantial. However, mitigation measures have been provided for consistency with the 2010 WMP Update SPEIR, and to require the implementation of appropriate traffic controls during construction. Accordingly, potential impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Mitigation Measures

TRA-1 Emergency Service Providers

Prior to construction, CVWD's Project Manager shall notify emergency service providers (fire and police departments within a 0.5-mile radius of the alignment) with construction contact names, locations, schedules, and traffic plans, if applicable.

TRA-2 Traffic Control Plan and Notification of Construction to Service Providers and Educational Institutions

To mitigate temporary traffic disruption and ensure public safety, the construction contractor shall prepare a traffic control plan for construction areas located in or near roadways whose traffic volumes exceed Riverside County Acceptable Levels of Service or the affected city's criteria. The construction contractors will provide the traffic control plans to CVWD's Construction Inspector. In

addition, fourteen days prior to commencement of project construction, construction notifications will be sent to police departments, fire departments, hospitals, and schools located within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site so that detour routes for emergency responses can be planned for the construction period.

TRA-3 High Volume Intersections

High volume intersections (those in which traffic volumes exceed city or county acceptable levels of service criteria) will be avoided if possible and identified in the Traffic Control Plan.

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?

As discussed in Section 3.9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, the project corridor would be located approximately 1.9 miles southwest of the Bermuda Dunes Airport. The proposed project would extend into Zones D and E, south of the airport (County of Riverside 2004). The proposed NPW pipeline segments would be installed below ground, and would therefore have no potential to conflict with air traffic. In addition, project features that would have aboveground components, including the delivery valves, meters, and the new storage reservoir, would have a very low profile and similarly would not have potential to conflict with air traffic. Although the storage reservoir would be designed to store water below the ground surface, there would be minimal above ground features associated with monitoring and maintaining the reservoir; all such features would be contained within the reservoir site and would have no potential to affect air traffic. Construction and operation of the proposed project would not include incompatible uses in the vicinity of the airport. The proposed project would not involve any direct or indirect changes to air traffic patterns or frequency, runway alignments, or flight approach zones. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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

The proposed project would not realign existing roadways, or introduce sharp curves or dangerous intersections to the existing roadway network. Project facilities consist of NPW facilities that would be primarily underground and would have no impact on street design. Potential transportation-related impacts of the project would be limited to the short-term construction period, and would not introduce unsafe or incompatible uses to the project area. The proposed project would therefore not create or substantially increase a traffic hazard due to a design feature.

NO IMPACT

e. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

Temporary lane closures and other potential traffic impacts caused by construction activities would have potential to impede emergency response to those areas, or to areas accessed via those routes. To ensure that project construction would not interfere with emergency response times or other public service performance objectives, the proposed project would implement Mitigation Measures TRA-1, TRA-2, and TRA-3, provided above. With implementation of these mitigation measures to address emergency access during project implementation, potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures are presented in full above for significance criteria 3.17(a) and 3.17(b), and would be implemented to reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level:

- TRA-1: Emergency Service Providers
- TRA-2: Traffic Control Plan and Notification of Construction to Service Providers and Educational Institutions
- TRA-3: High Volume Intersections

f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bikeways, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise substantially decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

The proposed project involves construction and operation of NPW conveyance and storage infrastructure that would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, or bicycle or pedestrian facilities. The project corridor would be located in existing roadways, public rights-of-way, and private golf courses; project facilities would be located primarily underground. Construction-related impacts would be temporary and roadways would be restored to match the surrounding road type once construction is complete. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in a Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, 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 2024.1. 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.	☐	■	☐	☐

a., b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074 that is (a) 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 2024.1?

Tribal cultural resources are defined in PRC 21074 as sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either:

- Included or determined to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources
- Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1

As of July 1, 2015, California Assembly Bill 52 of 2014 (AB 52) was enacted and expands CEQA by defining a new resource category, "tribal cultural resources." AB 52 establishes that "A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (Public Resources Code Section 21084.2). AB 52 further states that the lead agency shall establish measures to avoid impacts that

would alter the significant characteristics of a tribal cultural resource, when feasible (Public Resources Code Section 21084.3).

AB 52 establishes a formal project consultation process for California Native American tribes and lead agencies regarding tribal cultural resources, referred to as government-to-government consultation. Per Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1(b), the AB52 consultation process must begin prior to release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report. Native American tribes to be included in the formal consultation process are those that have requested notice of projects proposed within the jurisdiction of the lead agency. AB 52 provides dedicated timeframes for inquires and responses regarding consultation and information sharing. AB 52 also provides for confidential information sharing between the governments involved for a meaningful consultation process.

Pursuant to AB 52, Native American tribes have 30 days to respond and request formal consultation. In June 2020, CVWD distributed AB 52 consultation letters for the proposed project; including project information, map, and contact information to each of the eight (8) Native American tribes previously requesting to consult on CVWD projects (a copy of the letter can be found in Appendix E). The tribal governments that were provided an AB 52 consultation letter include the following:

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- La Posta Band of Mission Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

AB 52 consultation is complete and consisted of communication with one Native American Tribe whose recommendations have been acknowledged by Mitigation Measures CR-1 and CR-2 (please see Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*).

In addition, Section 106 consultation with local Native American tribes conducted for the project indicated that the project alignment is of interest to and within the Traditional Use Area of several Native American groups. However, no specific tribal cultural resources have been identified within the project alignment based on the records search completed at the Eastern Information Center, a records search of the Sacred Lands File through the NAHC, and consultation with Native American groups under Section 106.

Ground disturbance associated with the proposed project has the potential to unearth previously unknown cultural resources of Native American origin that could be considered tribal cultural resources. However, the project site is located in an area of high archaeological sensitivity and there is potential for Native American resources or human remains to be present in the project area. With project adherence to the standard permit conditions and mitigation measure outlined in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1, *Worker's Environmental Awareness Program*, and

Mitigation Measure CR-2, *Construction Monitoring,* presented in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*, would reduce potential impacts to tribal cultural resources to a less-than-significant level.

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3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

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

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

The proposed project itself would expand CVWD's existing water infrastructure, by extending underground NPW pipeline from the WRP10 facility to water irrigation customers in the Coachella Valley. The proposed NPW pipeline segments that would be placed in public roadways may be collocated with other utility infrastructure that is commonly placed in roadways, such as but not limited to gas lines, electricity lines, and telecommunications infrastructure. The proposed project is

not expected to require the relocation of existing utilities, as the project's pipeline segments would be collocated with existing utility infrastructure. Therefore, the project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of utility infrastructure such that significant environmental effects would occur. As assessed herein, construction of the project itself is anticipated to result in less than significant environmental impacts. Therefore, potential impacts resulting from the construction of new or expanded water infrastructure would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

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?

The proposed project consists of the construction and operation of NPW pipeline and associated facilities for conveyance and storage of NPW. Given that the proposed project is designed to serve existing irrigation demands with currently available recycled water, and the proposed project itself includes expansion of infrastructure to meet those demands, there would be adequate capacity to serve the demands of the project area in normal, dry, and multiple dry years. Additionally, the construction of the storage reservoir would hold the capacity of approximately one million gallons of water, to support distribution of NPW through CVWD's system for the three end user connections in Indian Wells and La Quinta. During construction activities, water requirements would be associated with standard dust abatement practices and equipment washing; and, construction water requirements would be met via CVWD's existing supplies and facilities.

The proposed project would not introduce a need for potable water or wastewater treatment, nor would it require new or expanded entitlements. Moreover, the proposed project would have a beneficial effect on potable water demands by providing NPW for irrigation use as a substitute for groundwater and potable water. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

d. Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

e. Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Burrtec Waste and Recycling Services provides solid waste and recycling collection services for the project area. The closest landfill in Riverside County to the project site is the Lamb Canyon Landfill located approximately 33.4 miles northwest of the project site. According to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), the Lamb Canyon Landfill has a permitted capacity of approximately 39 million cubic yards and a maximum disposal capacity of 5,000 tons per day. As of January 2015, the remaining capacity at the landfill was approximately 19.2 million cubic yards. The landfill solid waste permit lists an estimated closure date of 2029. Lamb Canyon Landfill accepts a variety of materials, including construction and demolition materials, contaminated soil, agricultural waste, wood waste, and mixed municipal waste (CalRecycle 2019).

Construction activities would generate limited quantities solid waste, associated with unusable materials excavated from the pipeline trenches in preparation for installing the NPW pipeline

connections. Construction-related waste materials would be disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, State, and local statutes and regulations. As described above, Lamb Canyon Landfill has the capacity to accept solid waste generated by project construction activities. Once constructed, project operation would not generate solid waste. Potential impacts would therefore be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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3.20 Wildfire

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

A State Responsibility Area (SRA) is the land where the State of California is financially responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfires (CAL FIRE 2017). The SRA is comprised of over 31 million acres across the state and does not include lands within incorporated city boundaries or in federal ownership (CAL FIRE 2017). The proposed project is located within the incorporated cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, and La Quinta; by nature of being incorporated, these areas are not included within an SRA. A portion of the proposed project is located within the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms; the community of Thousand Palms is also not identified within an SRA.

Portions of the cities of Rancho Mirage and Indian Wells are within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) identified as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ). An LRA is the area of land where local governments have financial responsibility for wildland fire protection (CAL FIRE 2007). Very High FHSZs are only identified for LRAs, based upon a variety of factors which contribute to the severity of fire hazard, including vegetation fuel over a 50-year horizon, topography, weather, and likelihood of an area burning over a 30- to 50-year timeline. Very High FHSZs are established without consideration to proactive fire management efforts such as fuel/vegetation maintenance.

Although the proposed project is not located within a designated SRA, components in the cities of Rancho Mirage and Indian Wells are located near lands classified as Very High FHSZ in the LRA; potential impacts associated with this proximity to a Very High FHSZ are discussed below.

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

Potential impacts of the proposed project associated with emergency response and evacuation plans are discussed in Section 3.17, *Transportation.* Specifically, criterion 3.17(e) characterizes the temporary construction period impacts of project trucks, vehicles, and equipment traveling to and from the project site, and determines that potential impacts associated with the potential for project construction to interfere with emergency response times or other public service performance objectives would be less than significant with mitigation implemented to notify emergency service providers of project activities (Mitigation Measure TRA-1), develop and implement a Traffic Control Plan, and establish detour routes for emergency response during construction activities (Mitigation Measure TRA-2). With the implementation of these mitigation measures, potential impacts associated with impairment of an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures are presented in full in Section 3.17, *Transportation*. No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this criterion.

- TRA-1: Emergency Service Providers
- TRA-2: Traffic Control Plan and Notification of Construction to Service Providers and Educational Institutions

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

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

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

The proposed project would not include hillside construction or activities near hillside areas where project activities could exacerbate wildfire hazards. Implementation of the project would not require the installation or maintenance of new access facilities that could exacerbate fire risk; rather, project construction and operational vehicles and equipment would use the existing roadways throughout the project area, and would not require improvements to roadways. Due to the project alignments being located within existing public rights-of-way and previously developed and maintained golf course properties, implementation of the project would not expose people or structures to post-fire hazards such as slope instability or drainage changes. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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3.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self- sustaining levels, eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	■
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?	☐	☐	■	☐

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

The majority of the proposed alignment is within previously developed urban area. The proposed project consists primarily of the construction of underground NPW pipelines and appurtenant facilities, as well as a new NPW storage reservoir in Indian Wells. As a result, and as discussed in Section 3.4, *Biological Resources,* the project would not have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of fish and wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. In addition, the project would not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory as no known resources are present in the project area. Therefore, no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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)?

As described in the discussion of environmental checklist Sections 3.1 through 3.20, with respect to all environmental issues, the proposed project would result in: no impact; a less than significant impact; or a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

Construction activities are anticipated over the course of two years, installing approximately 12 miles of NPW pipeline segment connections to nine end users, installing one reservoir, and improvements to an existing pump station. The project would install approximately 200 LF of pipeline per day before moving to the next segment of pipeline, and potential construction-related effects would be temporary and phased as construction progresses along the pipeline alignment. If other unforeseen projects happen to occur at the same time as the proposed project within the project corridor, adjacent sensitive receptors may be exposed to greater levels of impact from construction activities (e.g., noise). However, if other construction projects are occurring at the same time in the immediate area, any cumulative effects would also be short-term and temporary. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a considerable contribution to any cumulative impact, significant or otherwise.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

As detailed in the preceding sections, the proposed project would not result, either directly or indirectly, in substantial adverse effects. Where potential environmental impacts would occur, mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce or avoid an impact. With adherence to the mitigation program, the proposed project would not result in substantial adverse effects on either the environment or human beings.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Chapter 4 Federal Cross-Cutting Environmental Regulations Evaluation

The proposed project may receive funding under a state program that also has a federal funding component. Therefore, to assist in compliance with the federal environmental requirements for the funding program, this document includes analysis pertinent to several federal cross-cutting regulations (also referred to as federal cross-cutters or CEQA-Plus). The basic rules for complying with cross-cutting federal authorities are set-out in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund regulations at 40 CFR § 35.3145 and in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund regulations at 40 CFR § 35.3575.

This section describes the status of compliance with relevant federal laws, executive orders, and policies, and the consultation that has occurred to date or will occur in the near future. The topics are based in part on the SWRCB's CWSRF Program Federal Cross-cutting Environmental Regulations Evaluation Form for Environmental Review and Federal Coordination. The CWSRF Program is partially funded by the USEPA. Therefore, the SWRCB must document that projects meet the federal cross-cutters requirements.

4.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

Section 7 of the FESA requires federal agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of these species. Under Section 7, a project that could result in incidental take of a listed threatened or endangered species must consult with the USFWS to obtain a Biological Opinion (BO). If the BO finds that the project could jeopardize the existence of a listed species ("jeopardy opinion"), the agency cannot authorize the project until it is modified to obtain a "nonjeopardy" opinion. For the purpose of this project, the SWRCB would act as the federal lead or responsible agency.

Section 3.4, *Biological Resources*, describes that the project site does not contain suitable habitat for special status plant or wildlife species. The project's APE is located within Critical Habitat for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard where the NPW pipeline alignment runs parallel to Varner Road. The USFWS Critical Habitat mapper locates the habitat within the existing paved Varner Road right-of-way (USFWS 2020a). The proposed construction activities would take place within the Varner Road right-of-way and not adjacent open lands. As discussed in Section 3.4, *Biological Resources*, preferred habitat for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, including sand hummocks, accretion dunes, or sandy plains, are not located within the right-of-way. The unpaved road shoulder of Varner Road that is included in the APE is generally compacted sand with disturbed fourwing saltbush scrub (refer to Attachment B, Photograph 1, of the Biological Resources Technical Study provided as Appendix C); this is not suitable to support Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard. As a result, the APE in this area, though it overlaps the species' Critical Habitat, does not provide sufficient habitat elements to support the species. Thus, the project would not jeopardize listed species and the lead agency would be in compliance with the FESA.

4.2 National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106

The purpose of the NHPA is to protect, preserve, rehabilitate, or restore significant historical, archaeological, and cultural resources. Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account effects on historic properties. Section 106 review involves a step-by-step procedure described in detail in the implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800).

As described in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*, a cultural resource assessment for the proposed project was conducted. The analysis includes a Section 106 evaluation for the proposed project and can be submitted as part of the consultation process with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Concurrence by SHPO would ensure compliance with the NHPA.

The project includes NPW pipeline connections to existing end users that currently rely on groundwater and/or potable water provided by CVWD; one of these connections is the Annenberg Estate aka Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands Golf Course located at 71-800 Frank Sinatra Drive in Rancho Mirage. This site was evaluated and found eligible for listing in the NRHP. Additionally, it is locally designated as a City of Rancho Mirage historic resource. Thus, the property is a historical resource under CEQA and a historic property under Section 106 of the NHPA.

With implementation of the proposed project, landscape vegetation consistent with the existing site would be established around the delivery point to provide a visual screening effect. Following project construction, the NPW connection site would be visually consistent with existing conditions. Neither construction nor operation of the project would result in long-term impacts to the property, with exception to the type of water used on the project site. As discussed in Section 3.5, Cultural Resources, the project would not materially impair the historical resource such that it would not be able to convey its historical significance. Thus, the project would not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of the historical resource, as defined by CEQA. Additionally, the undertaking does not meet the Criteria of Adverse Effect – it would not alter the characteristics of the historic property in a manner that would diminish its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling or association such that the property would no longer qualify for inclusion in the NRHP (36 CFR §800.5).

Therefore, the project would result in less than significant impacts to historical resources under CEQA and no effects to historic properties under the NHPA. With adherence to existing regulations concerning the unanticipated discovery of human remains and cultural resources, potential impacts to cultural resources would be less than significant.

4.3 Clean Air Act

The 1990 Amendment to FCAA Section 176 requires USEPA to promulgate rules to ensure that federal actions conform to the appropriate SIP. These rules, known as the General Conformity Rule (40 CFR Parts 51.850–51.860 and 93.150–93.160), require any federal agency responsible for an action in a federal nonattainment/maintenance area to demonstrate conformity to the applicable SIP, by either determining that the action is exempt from the General Conformity Rule requirements or subject to a formal conformity determination. Actions would be exempt, and thus conform to the SIP, if an applicability analysis shows that the total direct and indirect emissions of nonattainment/maintenance pollutants from project construction and operation activities would be less than specified emission rate thresholds, known as *de minimis* levels. If not determined exempt, an air quality conformity analysis would be required to determine conformity.

The proposed project site is located within the SSAB, which is a federal nonattainment area for 8-hour ozone, and a maintenance area for CO based on violation of the applicable NAAQS. Therefore, the General Conformity Rule is applicable to the project emissions of PM_{10} and ozone precursors (ROG and NO_X). A FCAA Conformity Analysis was prepared for the proposed project in July 2020 (Appendix B). Table 11 summarizes the project's total annual construction emissions and compares those to the applicable *de minimis* rates for the SSAB. As discussed in Section 3.3, *Air Quality,* the project's criteria air pollutant emissions would not exceed the applicable *de minimis* rates. Therefore, the general conformity requirements do not apply to the project, and a formal conformity determination is not applicable to the project. Accordingly, the lead agency would be in compliance with the FCAA.

4.4 Coastal Zone Management Act

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), passed by Congress in 1972 and managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, is designed to balance completing land and water issues in coastal zones. It also aims to "preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance the resources of the nation's coastal zone." Within California, the CZMA is administered by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the California Coastal Conservancy, and the California Coastal Commission.

No portion of the proposed project is within the coastal zone. The project area is located approximately 70 miles east of the Pacific Coast. Therefore, the CMZA does not apply to the proposed project.

4.5 Farmland Protection Policy Act

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) requires a federal agency to consider the effects of its actions and programs on the nation's farmlands. The FPPA is intended to minimize the impact of federal programs with respect to the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. It assures that, to the extent possible, federal programs are administered to be compatible with State, local, and private programs and policies to protect farmland.

As described in Section 3.2, *Agriculture and Forestry Resources*, the project corridor is not currently in agricultural production and does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or land with a Williamson Act contract (DOC 2016). Therefore, the proposed project would not adversely affect any farmland areas and the lead agency would be in compliance with the FPPA.

4.6 Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management

Executive Order (EO) 11988 requires federal agencies to recognize the values of floodplains and to consider the public benefits from restoring and preserving floodplains.

As described in Section 3.10, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the project corridor is not located within a 100-year Flood Hazard Area (FEMA 2017). As the proposed pipelines would be located underground, they would not interfere with floodplain management or expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding. As such, the lead agency would be in compliance with this EO.

4.7 Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and Executive Order 13168

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act prohibit the take of migratory birds (or any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird) and the take and commerce of eagles. EO 13168 (Sep 22, 2000) requires that any project with federal involvement address impacts of federal actions on migratory birds.

As described in Section 3.4, *Biological Resources*, the proposed project would have less than significant impact on nesting birds with implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 if construction cannot be avoided during nesting season. Thus, the lead agency would be in compliance with this EO.

4.8 Executive Order 11990 – Protection of Wetlands

Under EO 11990 (May 24, 1977), federal agencies must avoid affecting wetlands unless it is determined that no practicable alternative is available.

As described in Section 3.4, *Biological Resources*, the project site does not support federally protected wetlands as defined by CWA Section 404 and therefore no impacts would occur. Thus, the lead agency would be in compliance with EO 11990.

4.9 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968 to preserve and protect designated rivers for their natural, cultural, and recreational value.

There are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers within the project area, nor would any designated rivers be adversely affected by the proposed project. As a result, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act does not apply to the proposed project.

4.10 Safe Drinking Water Act – Source Water Protection

Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act established the USEPA's Sole Source Aquifer Program. This program protects communities from groundwater contamination from federally-funded projects.

Within USEPA's Region 9, which includes California, there are nine sole source aquifers. None of these sole source aquifers are located within the project area. Therefore, the Sole Source Aquifer Program does not apply to the proposed project, and the lead agency would be in compliance with Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

4.11 Executive Order on Trails for America in the 21st Century

The EO on Trails for America (January 18, 2001) requires federal agencies to protect, connect, promote, and assist trails of all types throughout the United States. According to the City of Palm Desert's trail maps, no trails exist in the vicinity of the project corridor (City of Palm Desert 2018).

No other trail plans are applicable to the project area, and no trails have been identified within the project corridor in unincorporated Riverside County. As a result, no adverse effects on trails would occur and the lead agency is in compliance with this EO.

4.12 Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites

Sacred sites are defined in Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996) as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site."

The proposed project would not be located on or impact any federal lands and therefore would not affect any Native American sacred sites under this EO.

4.13 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) of 1976 as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1801 et seq.), is the primary act governing federal management of fisheries in federal waters, from the 3-nautical-mile state territorial sea limit to the outer limit of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. It establishes exclusive U.S. management authority over all fishing within the Exclusive Economic Zone, all anadromous fish throughout their migratory range except when in a foreign nation's waters, and all fish on the continental shelf. The Act also requires federal agencies to consult with NMFS on actions that could damage Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as defined in the 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act (Public Law 104-297).

The proposed project would not be located in or impact any U.S. federal waters regulated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. EFH includes those habitats that support the different life stages of each managed species. A single species may use many different habitats throughout its life to support breeding, spawning, nursery, feeding, and protection functions. EFH can consist of both the water column and the underlying surface (e.g., streambed) of a particular area. The project area is located primarily within existing roadways. As described in Section 3.4, *Biological Resources*, the project is not expected to have adverse effect on resident or migratory fish, wildlife species, or fish habitat in the project area.

4.14 Environmental Justice

This section describes the existing socioeconomic resources in the proposed project area and the regulatory setting pertaining to environmental justice-related issues. This section also evaluates the potential for the proposed project to disproportionately affect minority or low-income groups. The USEPA defines environmental justice as: "The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or economic groups should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial,

municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, State, local, and tribal programs and policies" (USEPA 2016).

Minority and Low Income Communities

According to USEPA guidelines, a minority population is present in a study area if the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent, or if the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis. The project alignment would traverse the cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, and La Quinta, as well as the community of Thousand Palms in unincorporated Riverside County. Demographics for these jurisdictions, as provided in the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, indicate that all jurisdictions traversed by the project are approximately 61.3 percent white (non-minority). Therefore, the area surrounding the project corridor does not have a minority population exceeding 50 percent.

USEPA guidelines recommend that analyses of low-income communities consider the United States Census Bureau's poverty level definitions, as well as applicable State and regional definitions of low-income and poverty communities. Poverty statistics for the jurisdictions traversed by the project, as provided in the United States Census Bureau, are below.

- City of Palm Desert: 12.5 percent in poverty
- City of Rancho Mirage: 11.8 percent in poverty
- City of Indian Wells: 4.4 percent in poverty
- City of La Quinta: 11.2 percent in poverty
- Community of Thousand Palms: 13.6 percent in poverty

The percentage of persons in poverty for the entire State of California was 13.3 percent for the same time period (United States Census Bureau 2017). In comparison with the poverty statistics provided above for jurisdictions traversed by the project, the community of Thousand Palms has a poverty rate that is slightly above the State average (13.6 percent for Thousand Palms versus 13.3 percent for the State). This difference is considered within the margin of error and therefore negligible.

The DWR defines a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) as a community with a median household income (MHI) less than 80 percent of the California MHI. The MHI for each jurisdiction traversed by the project, as provided in the U.S. Census Bureau's ACS estimates, is $63,783. According to ACS data, the statewide MHI was also $63,783 for the same time period. A DAC would therefore be a community with an MHI of $51,026 or less. Therefore, the project jurisdictions' MHI are greater than the threshold for a DAC, according to DWR's definition of low income/disadvantaged communities. (United States Census Bureau 2017)

Conclusion

For the purposes of this analysis, an impact related to environmental justice would be significant if the proposed project would cause impacts to minority or low-income populations that are disproportionately high and adverse, either directly, indirectly, or cumulatively.

The proposed pipelines would deliver NPW from WRP10 to new NPW users in Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Rancho Mirage, and the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms. Although

the construction of the pipelines has the potential for short-term effects, the provision of recycled water for outdoor irrigation would have the long-term benefit of increasing the reliability of groundwater and potable water supplies for all CVWD customers.

Although construction would generate impacts (e.g., dust, traffic, and noise), such activities would be intermittent and temporary, and would cease upon completion of work activities. Where potential impacts could occur, mitigation measures have been identified to reduce such effects to less-than-significant levels. The proposed project would therefore not result in any disproportionately high impacts on minority or low-income communities. Thus, no adverse environmental justice impacts would occur.

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