DRAFT
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

STOCKTON RESERVOIR REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Lead Agency:

Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1
6767 Spring Road
Moorpark, California, 93020
Contact: Mr. Jeewoong Kim 805/378-3025

Prepared by:

Padre Associates, Inc.
1861 Knoll Drive
Ventura, CA 93003

November 2020

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The existing Stockton Reservoir is composed of a welded steel tank approximately 60 feet in diameter and 20 feet tall, with a capacity of 0.5 MG. The reservoir is painted gray and is located just south of Stockton Road on APN 108-0-170-09. The reservoir site is fenced with chain-link fencing and includes associated piping and valves.

The proposed project consists of the replacement of the Stockton Reservoir at a site approximately 500 feet southeast of the existing reservoir and includes a pipeline to connect to the District's water pipeline and an access road. Once the replacement reservoir is operational, the existing reservoir would be placed on standby for emergency use. The District plans to acquire a 3.6 acre portion of the parcel surrounding the proposed replacement reservoir.

The District proposes to build a new 1.0 MG reservoir at a new site (see Figure 1) near the existing Stockton Reservoir site. The new reservoir would be an above-ground, welded steel tank, approximately 85-feet in diameter and 30-feet in height. It is anticipated that the reservoir would be founded on a concrete ring wall and soil pad at an approximate elevation of 974 feet. There would be a concrete berm and asphalt road around the perimeter of the reservoir. Other elements of the proposed reservoir replacement include construction/installation of the following project components:

- An approximately 420-foot-long paved access road from Stockton Road to the reservoir.
- Pipeline from the new reservoir to connect with an existing 12-inch water line located in the Stockton Road right-of-way near the site (about 450 linear feet, 12-inch diameter).
- Storm drain between the reservoir site and the Shekell Road Drain to transport storm run-off and flow from an emergency overflow event from the reservoir.
- Fencing around the reservoir perimeter and at the access road entrance (6-feet high chain link with three strands of barbed wire on top).
- Solar-powered supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.
- Solar-powered lighting.
- Seeding of the site for erosion control.

The preliminary construction start date is April 2021 and completion is expected to occur by December 2021. Construction would primarily occur eight hours per day, Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Site preparation would include grubbing and rough grading in accordance with the recommendations of the project-specific geotechnical report (Geotechnical Design Report Alternative Stockton Road Reservoir Site North of Broadway Road, Moorpark, California) prepared by Oakridge Geoscience (June 2020). Cuts and fills up to about 40 feet are anticipated. Benches would be constructed on any fills that exceed 20 feet in height. A concrete ring wall would be constructed, and the welded steel tank assembled on-site. The perimeter access road would be paved, and storm drain installed.

Pipeline construction methods would be conventional trenching which includes cutting and removal of pavement, excavation of a trench, preparation of the pipe bed, installation of the pipeline, backfilling the trench, compacting soils and restoring the surface to original conditions. The pipeline trench would be approximately 4.5 feet deep and 2.0 feet wide.

Traffic control measures would be used when construction activities may affect traffic flow on Stockton Road. Temporary lane closure may be necessary during pipeline installation in Stockton Road and during short periods when heavy equipment and materials are brought to the site. Standard traffic control methods acceptable to the Ventura County Public Works Agency would be implemented.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project site comprises the northern portion of a 24.02-acre parcel (APN 503-0-010-01). The project site is located in unincorporated Ventura County just west of Stockton Road and approximately 1.1 miles northwest of the City of Moorpark.

PROJECT PROPONENT AND LEAD AGENCY

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

Contact: Jeewoong Kim (805) 378-3025

PROPOSED FINDINGS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

In compliance with Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, the District will accept written comments on the adequacy of the information contained in the Draft MND. Please make sure that written comments reach the District's office by 5:00 p.m. on December 16, 2020, the close of the public review period. As a result of this project, potentially significant, but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the areas of biological resources, archeological resources and recreation. After the close of the public comment period, the District will make appropriate changes to the document pursuant to the comments received and will release a Final MND.

Due to the non-complex nature of this project, a separate environmental hearing will not be held. However, public testimony will be accepted at the MND approval hearing before the Board of Supervisors. For information regarding scheduling of this hearing, please contact Mr. Jeewoong Kim at (805) 378-3025.

MITIGATION MEASURES

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

Air Quality

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

- The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation operations shall be minimized to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- Pre-grading/excavation activities shall include watering the area to be graded or excavated before commencement of grading or excavation operations. Application of water (preferably reclaimed, if available) should penetrate sufficiently to minimize fugitive dust during grading activities.
- All trucks shall be required to cover their loads as required by California Vehicle Code §23114.
- All graded and excavated material, exposed soil areas, and active portions of the construction site, including unpaved on-site roadways, shall be treated to prevent fugitive dust. Treatment shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, periodic watering, application of environmentally-safe soil stabilization materials, and/or roll-compaction as appropriate. Watering shall be done as often as necessary and reclaimed water shall be used whenever possible.

- Graded and/or excavated inactive areas of the construction site shall be monitored at least weekly for dust stabilization. Soil stabilization methods, such as water and roll-compaction, and environmentally-safe dust control materials, shall be periodically applied to portions of the construction site that are inactive for over four days. If no further grading or excavation operations are planned for the area, the area shall be seeded and watered until plant growth is evident, or periodically treated with environmentally-safe dust suppressants, to prevent excessive fugitive dust.
- Signs shall be posted on site limiting traffic to 15 miles per hour or less.
- During periods of high winds (i.e., wind speed sufficient to cause fugitive dust to impact adjacent properties), all clearing, grading, earth moving, and excavation operations shall be curtailed to the degree necessary to prevent fugitive dust created by on site activities and operations from being a nuisance or hazard, either off site or on site. The site superintendent/supervisor shall use his/her discretion in conjunction with the APCD in determining when winds are excessive.
- Adjacent streets and roads shall be swept at least once per day, preferably at the end of the day, if visible soil material is carried over to adjacent streets and roads.
- Personnel involved in grading operations, including contractors and subcontractors, shall be advised to wear respiratory protection in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health regulations.
- Material stockpiles shall be enclosed, covered, stabilized, or otherwise treated as needed to prevent blowing fugitive dust off site.
- All project construction and site preparation operations shall be conducted in compliance with all applicable APCD Rules and Regulations with emphasis on Rule 50 (Opacity), Rule 51 (Nuisance), Rule 55 (Fugitive Dust) and Rule 10 (Permits Required).
- Signs displaying the APCD complaint line telephone number (805/645-1400 during business hours; 805/654-2797 after hours) shall be posted in a prominent location visible to the public.

Biological Resources

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

1. Timing of construction: Prohibit affected activities during the migratory bird breeding season February 15 through August 15, in which case the following measure is not required; or

2. Survey and avoidance of occupied nests: Conduct a breeding bird survey prior to any affected activities conducted during the breeding season (February 15 through August 15). The breeding bird survey shall be conducted no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of affected activities. The breeding bird survey shall include the work area and habitat areas within 300 feet of the work area. A nest buffer area (area between construction work and the nest site) shall be identified for any active nests. Construction work within the nest buffer area shall be avoided until the nest is abandoned or juvenile birds have become independent of the nest.

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

Paleontological Resources

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

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

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

Archaeological Resources

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

- Should any buried archaeological materials be uncovered during project activities, such activities shall cease within 100 feet of the find. Prehistoric archaeological indicators include obsidian and chert flakes, chipped stone tools, bedrock outcrops and boulders with mortar cups, ground stone implements, locally darkened midden soils containing previously listed items plus fragments of bone and fire affected stones. Historic period site indicators may include fragments of glass, ceramic and metal objects, milled and split timber, building foundations, privy pits, wells and dumps, and old trails. All earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find shall be temporarily suspended or redirected until the District has been notified and an archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. After the find has been appropriately mitigated, work in the area may resume. The District shall contact the Fernandeno-Tataviam Band of Mission Indians concerning the disposition and treatment of any archaeological and/or tribal materials encountered during project construction.
- If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to the origin and deposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission.

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

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING

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

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

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

1.2 PROJECT PROPONENT AND LEAD AGENCY

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

Contact: Jeewoong Kim (805) 378-3025

1.3 PROJECT LOCATION

The project site comprises the northern portion of a 24.02 acre parcel (APN 503-0-010-01). The project site is located in unincorporated Ventura County just west of Stockton Road and approximately 1.1 miles northwest of the City of Moorpark.

1.4 DISTRICT BACKGROUND

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

1.5 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

Pressure Zone 994, located in the western portion of the District service area, has only one existing reservoir (Stockton Reservoir, 0.5 million gallon [MG] capacity) which is at the end of its useful life. In 2008, the District commissioned the preparation of a Water Service Master Plan update. As a result of this report, it was recommended that the existing reservoir be replaced with a 1.0 MG reservoir in the near-term. An additional future 1.0 MG reservoir was also recommended.

The District proposes to replace the existing Stockton Reservoir which is currently at the end of its useful life with a larger reservoir to meet the water storage requirements for Pressure Zone 994. Since the construction of the existing Stockton Reservoir in 1974, the population within the service area for the reservoir has increased. Fire flow demand within the service area has also increased. Therefore, the proposed replacement reservoir would be larger (1 MG) to safely accommodate this increased need.

Per the District's Master Plan, each pressure zone is to have two reservoirs. For maintenance purposes, one reservoir can be taken out of service without effecting the operation of the system within that particular zone. Therefore, once the new reservoir is constructed the existing Stockton Reservoir would be drained but not be deconstructed until plans for another new reservoir are completed at some undetermined future date.

1.6 PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

A Final Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was prepared by the District in 2015 in support of replacement of the Stockton Reservoir on private property located approximately 300 feet northwest of the existing reservoir. Since that time, the District has abandoned that site and currently proposes to replace the Stockton Reservoir at a site located approximately 500 feet southeast of the existing reservoir (see Section 2.3).

The District has prepared this completely new Draft IS/MND because:

- The environmental setting has changed since it has been over five years since the original IS/MND was finalized.
- The project site has changed.
- The State CEQA checklist has changed.

1.7 PREPARERS OF THE INITIAL STUDY

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

- Padre Associates: Matt Ingamells, Project Manager/Senior Biologist
- Padre Associates: Rachael Letter, Senior Archaeologist
- Padre Associates: Chris Letter, Staff Archaeologist
- Padre Associates: Lucas Bannon, GIS Specialist
- Padre Associates: Pat McClure, Graphics Specialist

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 EXISTING FACILITIES

The existing Stockton Reservoir is composed of a welded steel tank approximately 60 feet in diameter and 20 feet tall, with a capacity of 0.5 MG. The reservoir is painted gray and is located just south of Stockton Road on APN 108-0-170-09. The reservoir site is fenced with chain-link fencing and includes associated piping and valves.

2.2 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The proposed project consists of the replacement of the Stockton Reservoir at a site approximately 500 feet southeast of the existing reservoir and includes a pipeline to connect to the District's water pipeline and an access road. Once the replacement reservoir is operational, the existing reservoir would be placed on standby for emergency use. The District plans to acquire a 3.6 acre portion of the parcel surrounding the proposed replacement reservoir.

2.3 PROJECT COMPONENTS

The District proposes to build a new 1.0 MG reservoir at a new site (see Figure 1) near the existing Stockton Reservoir site. The new reservoir would be an above-ground, welded steel tank, approximately 85-feet in diameter and 30-feet in height. It is anticipated that the reservoir would be founded on a concrete ring wall and soil pad at an approximate elevation of 974 feet. There would be a concrete berm and asphalt road around the perimeter of the reservoir. Other elements of the proposed reservoir replacement include construction/installation of the following project components:

- An approximately 420-foot-long paved access road from Stockton Road to the reservoir.
- Pipeline from the new reservoir to connect with an existing 12-inch water line located in the Stockton Road right-of-way near the site (about 450 linear feet, 12-inch diameter).
- Storm drain between the reservoir site and the Shekell Road Drain to transport storm run-off and flow from an emergency overflow event from the reservoir.
- Fencing around the reservoir perimeter and at the access road entrance (6-feet high chain link with three strands of barbed wire on top).
- Solar-powered supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.
- Solar-powered lighting.
- Seeding of the site for erosion control.

2.4 PROJECT SCHEDULE

The preliminary construction start date is April 2021 and completion is expected to occur by December 2021. Construction would primarily occur eight hours per day, Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 am and 4:00 pm.

2.5 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

2.5.1 Methods

Site preparation would include grubbing and rough grading in accordance with the recommendations of the project-specific geotechnical report (Geotechnical Design Report Alternative Stockton Road Reservoir Site North of Broadway Road, Moorpark, California) prepared by Oakridge Geoscience (June 2020). Cuts and fills up to about 40 feet are anticipated. Benches would be constructed on any fills that exceed 20 feet in height. A concrete ring wall would be constructed and the welded steel tank assembled on-site. The perimeter access road would be paved, and storm drain installed.

Pipeline construction methods would be conventional trenching which includes cutting and removal of pavement, excavation of a trench, preparation of the pipe bed, installation of the pipeline, backfilling the trench, compacting soils and restoring the surface to original conditions. The pipeline trench would be approximately 4.5 feet deep and 2.0 feet wide.

Estimates of cut, fill, import and export volumes for the project are provided in Table 1. It is anticipated that about 669 truck trips would be required for import of concrete, asphalt and other construction material, and import of earth fill materials (Table 2). Additional truck trips would be required for mobilization and demobilization of equipment. Worker vehicle trips would also be generated during the construction period.

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

Parameter	Volume (cubic yards)
Estimated cut volume	1,400
Estimated fill volume	10,800
Import volume (difference)	9,400

Table 2. Estimate of Construction-related Truck Round Trips

Task	Round Trips
Import concrete	12
Import construction materials	30
Import earth materials	627*
Total	**669**

*Average load of 15 cubic yards per truck trip

Traffic control measures would be used when construction activities may affect traffic flow on Stockton Road. Temporary lane closure may be necessary during pipeline installation in Stockton Road and during short periods when heavy equipment and materials are brought to the site. Standard traffic control methods acceptable to the Ventura County Public Works Agency would be implemented.

2.5.2 Equipment

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

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

Equipment likely to be required for pipeline installation includes:

- Backhoe
- End dump truck
- Soil compactor
- Roller compactor (pavement replacement)
- Tracked excavator
- Delivery trucks for material (e.g. pipe, sand, asphalt)
- Air compressor (pavement saw cutting)
- Street sweeper

2.5.3 Manpower

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

2.5.4 Construction Staging Areas

Staging of equipment and materials would be provided within the proposed reservoir site as shown in Figure 1. During the hours of pipeline construction operations, materials (e.g., pipe and earth materials) may be temporarily stored adjacent to the pipeline trench within the Stockton Road right-of-way.

2.6 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Long-term operations and maintenance requirements for the project would be minimal as the operation of the new reservoir would be automated. The exterior of the reservoir and the site in general would be inspected on a weekly basis by District staff. Any necessary maintenance (e.g., weed abatement, painting of the reservoir, repair of the access road) would be conducted when needed. The interior would be inspected once every five years by a consulting specialist. No new permanent employees would be required as a result of the project. The existing reservoir would be taken out of service and maintained only as needed to minimize deterioration and corrosion of the reservoir and associated components.

2.7 RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES AND PERMITS

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

- Reservoir construction and pipeline installation activities would require coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region. However, this is not a discretionary action and the Regional Board would not be considered a responsible agency under CEQA.
- Pipeline installation within the Stockton Road right-of-way may require a roadway encroachment permit from the Ventura County Public Works Agency. However, this is not a discretionary action and the Public Works Agency would not be considered a responsible agency under CEQA.
- Reservoir construction activities may require a grading permit from the Ventura County Public Works Agency. However, this is not a discretionary action and the Public Works Agency would not be considered a responsible agency under CEQA.

LEGEND:

Proposed Reservoir Easement — Limits of Grading — Proposed Reservoir

MAP EXTENT:

0 50 100
FEET

Source: Esri Online Imagery Basemap, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants 2019
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet
Notes: This map was created for informational and display purposes only.

padre associates, inc.
ENGINEERS, GEOLOGISTS & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS

PROJECT NAME: STOCKTON RESERVOIR REPLACEMENT PROJECT
VENTURA COUNTY, CA

PROJECT NUMBER: 2002-6401

DATE: June 2020

PROJECT SITE LOCATION MAP

FIGURE 1

Z:\GIS Projects\GIS Maps\Map Project\Stockton Reservoir Replacement Project\Project Site Location Map.mxd 6/9/2020

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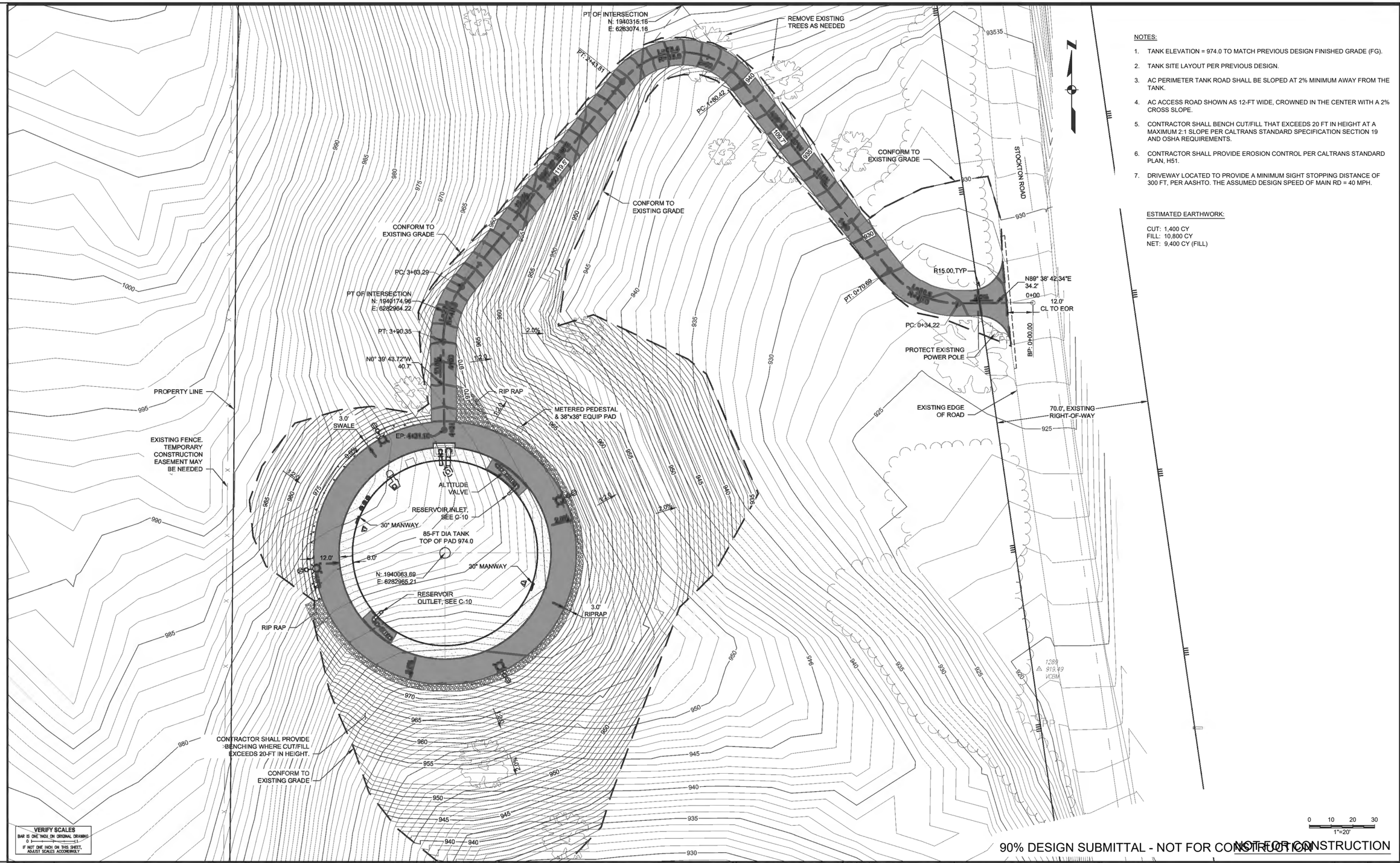

NOTES:

1. TANK ELEVATION = 974.0 TO MATCH PREVIOUS DESIGN FINISHED GRADE (FG).
2. TANK SITE LAYOUT PER PREVIOUS DESIGN.
3. AC PERIMETER TANK ROAD SHALL BE SLOPED AT 2% MINIMUM AWAY FROM THE TANK.
4. AC ACCESS ROAD SHOWN AS 12-FT WIDE, CROWNED IN THE CENTER WITH A 2% CROSS SLOPE.
5. CONTRACTOR SHALL BENCH CUT/FILL THAT EXCEEDS 20 FT IN HEIGHT AT A MAXIMUM 2:1 SLOPE PER CALTRANS STANDARD SPECIFICATION SECTION 19 AND OSHA REQUIREMENTS.
6. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE EROSION CONTROL PER CALTRANS STANDARD PLAN, H51.
7. DRIVEWAY LOCATED TO PROVIDE A MINIMUM SIGHT STOPPING DISTANCE OF 300 FT, PER AASHTO. THE ASSUMED DESIGN SPEED OF MAIN RD = 40 MPH.

ESTIMATED EARTHWORK:

CUT: 1,400 CY
FILL: 10,800 CY
NET: 9,400 CY (FILL)

VERIFY SCALES
BAR IS ONE INCH ON ORIGINAL DRAWING
IF NOT ONE INCH ON THIS SHEET, ADJUST SCALES ACCORDINGLY

90% DESIGN SUBMITTAL - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

NO.	DATE	REVISIONS	APPD.

Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
Engineers & Scientists
2775 N. VENTURA DRIVE, SUITE 100
OXNARD, CA 93036

DRAWN BY:
DESIGNED BY: CLS
CHECKED BY:

PROJECT MANAGER DATE
DIRECTOR, WATER AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT DATE
AGENCY DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY DATE

Notes: This map was created for informational and display purposes only.

padre associates
ENGINEERS, GEOLOGISTS & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS

PROJECT NAME: VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 1
PROJECT NUMBER: 2002-6401
SPEC. NO.: WW16-62
PROJ. NO.: 31803
DATE: August 2020

STOCKTON RESERVOIR REPLACEMENT PROJECT
PRELIMINARY SITE LAYOUT AND GRADING

SHEET FIGURE
OF 38
DRAWING NO. 2

PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN

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Z:\GIS Projects\GIS Maps\Map Project\Stockton Reservoir Replacement Project\Reservoir Site Plan.mxd 8/14/2020

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View of the reservoir site (ridgeline) from Stockton Road, facing west

View of Stockton Road from the reservoir site, facing east

View to the south from the reservoir site

View to the northwest from the reservoir site

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
FIGURE 3

Back of Figure 3

3.0 LAND USE SETTING

The project site comprises a proposed 3.6 acre easement on Assessor's Parcel Number 503-0-010-01. This 24.02 acre parcel is zoned AE-40 ac (Agricultural Exclusive, 40 acre minimum parcel size) with a Ventura County General Plan designation of Agriculture. The purpose of the Agricultural Exclusive zone is to preserve and protect commercial agricultural lands as a limited and irreplaceable resource, to preserve and maintain agriculture as a major industry in Ventura County and to protect these areas from the encroachment of nonrelated uses which, by their nature, would have detrimental effects upon the agriculture industry.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

This section evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. The analysis of potential impacts is consistent with methodology and impact threshold criteria presented in the Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 2011). Impact analysis is organized by environmental topic (e.g., air quality, water resources, etc.). The determinations of significance for project-level and cumulative impacts are summarized in the Initial Study Checklist, which is attached to this document. Cumulative impacts were assessed to determine if the project's incremental contribution would be considerable, such that an environmental impact report would be required. Cumulative impacts were considered significant if project-specific impacts would be significant. Growth inducement is discussed in a separate section following cumulative impacts. In addition, a summary of project consistency with the policies of the Ventura County General Plan is provided as Table 5.

ISSUE 1: AIR QUALITY

Setting. Ventura County is located in the South-Central Coast Air Basin. The topography and climate of Southern California combine to make the basin an area of high air pollution potential. Ozone and particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM_{10}) are of particular interest in Ventura County because State air quality standards for these pollutants are periodically exceeded. The air quality of Ventura County is monitored by a network of six stations, operated by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (APCD). The Thousand Oaks monitoring station is the nearest station to the project site, located approximately 8.1 miles to the south.

Table 3 lists the monitored maximum concentrations and number of exceedances of air quality standards for the years 2017 through 2019. As shown in Table 3, ozone concentrations monitored at the Thousand Oaks station did not exceed the State 1-hour standard and rarely exceeded the State 8-hour ozone standard from 2017 through 2019. PM_{10} concentrations exceeded the State 24-hour standard at the Simi Valley station (not monitored at the Thousand Oaks station) on 19 sampling days from 2017 through 2019. $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations exceeded the Federal 24-hour standard at the Thousand Oaks station during one sampling event from 2017 through 2019.

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

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

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

Table 3. Air Quality Summary

Parameter	Standard	Year		
		2017	2018	2019
Ozone (O_3) – parts per million (Thousand Oaks station)				
Maximum 1-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		0.090	0.080	0.082
Number of days exceeding State standard	0.095 ppm	0	0	0
Maximum 8-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		0.074	0.073	0.074
Number of days exceeding State & Federal 8-hour standard	0.070 ppm	6	1	1
Particulate Matter less than 10 microns (PM_{10}) – micrograms per cubic meter (Simi Valley station)				
Maximum sample ($\mu g/m^3$)		149.8	107.6	124.3
Number of samples exceeding State standard	50 $\mu g/m^3$	9	6	4
Number of samples exceeding Federal standard	150 $\mu g/m^3$	0	0	0
Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns ($PM_{2.5}$) – micrograms per cubic meter (Thousand Oaks station)				
Maximum sample ($\mu g/m^3$)		32.0	41.5	24.5
Number of samples exceeding Federal 24-hour standard	35 $\mu g/m^3$	0	1	0

Part 1.a Regional

Impacts (LS). Air pollutant emissions would be generated by replacement reservoir construction and pipeline installation. No long-term air pollutant emissions would be generated by the project. The existing reservoir would be taken out of service and existing operational and maintenance activities would be directed to the new reservoir.

Project emissions were estimated using the OFFROAD 2017 and EMFAC 2017 emissions estimation models developed by the CARB. Peak day project emissions (during earthwork) would be 59.2 pounds NO_X and 5.1 pounds ROC. Although peak day NO_X emissions would exceed the 25 pounds per day threshold established by the APCD, due to the temporary, short-term nature of demolition and construction emissions, the APCD does not apply the quantitative emissions thresholds for ROC and NO_X to construction activities. The APCD does require that emission reduction measures be implemented during construction-type activities to reduce exhaust emissions and fugitive dust generation.

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

The combustion of diesel fuel in truck engines (as well as other internal combustion engines) produces exhaust containing a number of compounds that have been identified as hazardous air pollutants by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and toxic air contaminants by the CARB. Particulate matter (PM) from diesel exhaust has been identified as a toxic air contaminant, which has prompted CARB to develop a Final Risk Reduction Plan (released October 2000) for exposure to diesel PM. Based on CARB Resolution 00-30, full implementation of emission reduction measures recommended in the Final Risk Reduction Plan would result in a 75 percent reduction in the diesel PM Statewide inventory and the associated cancer risk by 2010, and an 85 percent reduction by 2020 in the diesel PM inventory and potential cancer risk.

The project area is agricultural and supports few residences in proximity to the project site. However, reservoir replacement would involve diesel exhaust emissions from heavy equipment and heavy-duty trucks as close as 1,950 feet from a residence. This residence is currently exposed to regional diesel exhaust emissions from motor vehicle traffic on Broadway Road, Stockton Road and State Route 118, and rail traffic on the Union Pacific Railroad/Metrolink tracks. The proposed project would have a small, short-term contribution to existing diesel PM emissions associated with reservoir and pipeline construction activities, and impacts are considered less than significant.

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

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

- All project construction and site preparation operations shall be conducted in compliance with all applicable APCD Rules and Regulations with emphasis on Rule 50 (Opacity), Rule 51 (Nuisance), Rule 55 (Fugitive Dust) and Rule 10 (Permits Required).
- Signs displaying the APCD complaint line telephone number (805/645-1400 during business hours; 805/654-2797 after hours) shall be posted in a prominent location visible to the public.

Part 1.b Local

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

The number of temporary construction-related vehicle trips that would be generated by the project (about 84 one-way trips on a peak day) would not substantially add to traffic volumes on Stockton Road or adjacent roadways. Considering the above, the project would not be expected to create or contribute substantially to the violation of CO standards.

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

ISSUE 2: WATER RESOURCES

Part 2.a Groundwater Quantity

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

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

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

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

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

The FCGMA is one of three groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that have jurisdiction over portions of the LPVB. The Camrosa Las Posas Valley GSA manages the Camrosa Water District Service area in the Las Posas Valley, and the Las Posas Outlying Areas GSA manages portions of the LPVB not within FCGMA or Camrosa jurisdiction. The FCGMA completed a Final Groundwater Sustainability Plan in December 2019 which covers the entire LPVB, including all areas of the LPVB outside of FCGMA's jurisdiction (FCGMA, 2019). The Final Groundwater Sustainability Plan was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources on January 13, 2020.

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

- Any land use or project that will directly or indirectly decrease, either individually or cumulatively, the net quantity of groundwater in a groundwater basin that is overdrafted or creates an overdrafted groundwater basin shall be considered to have a significant groundwater quantity impact.

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

Impacts (LS). The project would require a small amount of water for dust control and soil compaction purposes during reservoir construction and pipeline installation. No increase in water usage from areas served by the replacement reservoir would occur as a result of the proposed project. Construction water needs would be met by Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1 from the pipeline serving the existing reservoir or adjacent sources.

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

Part 2.b Groundwater Quality

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

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

- Any land use or project proposal that will individually or cumulatively degrade the quality of groundwater and cause groundwater to exceed groundwater quality objectives set by the Basin Plan shall be considered to have a significant impact.

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

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

Part 2.c Surface Water Quantity

Setting. The project site is located approximately 50 feet west of an ephemeral drainage located immediately east of and parallel to Stockton Road. South of Broadway Road, this drainage is considered the Shekell Road Drain by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District. For the purposes of this Initial Study, the drainage located east of the project site is also considered the Shekell Road Drain. This Drain empties into the Grimes Canyon drainage about 1.9 stream miles downstream (south) of the project site. The Grimes Canyon drainage empties into Arroyo Las Posas about 2.2 stream miles south of its confluence with the Shekell Road Drain. Arroyo Las Posas is nearly perennial due to rising groundwater and discharge from dewatering wells upstream (Simi Valley) and periodic discharge of treated wastewater from the Moorpark Wastewater Treatment Plant. A stream flow gauge (No. 841A) measures surface flow rates in Arroyo Las Posas upstream of Hitch Boulevard. The largest flow event recorded at this gauge was 9,520 cubic feet per second on March 12, 1995.

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

- Any project that will increase surface water consumptive use (demand), either individually or cumulatively, in a fully appropriated stream reach as designated by the State Water Resources Control Board or where unappropriated surface water is unavailable, shall be considered to have a significant adverse impact on surface water quantity.

- Any project that will increase surface water consumptive use (demand) including but not limited to diversion or dewatering downstream reaches, either individually or cumulatively, resulting in an adverse impact to one or more of the beneficial uses listed in the Basin Plan is considered a significant adverse impact.
- Any project that is inconsistent with any of the policies or development standards relating to surface water quantity of the Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs or applicable Area Plan may result in a significant environmental impact.

Impacts (NI). The project would require a small amount of water for dust control and soil compaction purposes during reservoir construction and pipeline installation. Water would be supplied by the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1 which includes local groundwater and imported water provided by the Calleguas Municipal Water District. Imported water (in part) originates as surface flows in the Sacramento River delta. The environmental impacts associated with obtaining this water have been fully addressed in CEQA documents prepared for the State Water Project. The proposed project would not result in any consumptive use of local surface water. The proposed project would be consistent with the Ventura County General Plan with regard to surface water uses.

Part 2.d Surface Water Quality

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

Beneficial uses established for surface water in Arroyo Las Posas are municipal supply (potential), industrial supply (potential), process supply (potential), agricultural supply (potential), groundwater recharge, warm freshwater habitat, cold freshwater habitat (potential), water contact recreation, non-water contact recreation and wildlife habitat (LARWQCB 1994, revised 2013).

Surface water of Arroyo Las Posas is considered impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, due to elevated levels of indicator bacteria, ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, chlordane, toxicity, chlorpyrifos, chloride, sedimentation/siltation, diazinon, DDT (sediment), dieldrin, sulfates and total dissolved solids (SWRCB 2017). A water body is impaired when data indicate that adopted water quality objectives are continually exceeded or that beneficial uses are not protected.

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

- Any land use or project proposal that is expected to individually or cumulatively degrade the quality of surface water causing it to exceed water quality objectives of the Basin Plan may have a significant impact.

- Any land use or project development that directly or indirectly causes stormwater quality to exceed water quality objectives or standards in the County's Municipal Stormwater MS4 Permit or any other NPDES Permits may have a significant impact.

Impacts (LS). Storm water run-off from the project site during reservoir construction and pipeline installation may degrade surface water quality. The project would disturb over one acre of land such that it would require coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ). As required by the conditions of the General Permit, a SWPPP would be prepared, which would include best management practices to be implemented and a monitoring program. The intent of the SWPPP would be to prevent project-related pollutants from contacting surface water and prevent products of erosion from moving off site into receiving waters. The project would also be subject to the Development Construction Program requirements of the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (Order no. R4-2010-0108). Implementation of the SWPPP, monitoring required under the General Permit and compliance with the County's MS4 Permit would prevent significant impacts to surface water quality.

ISSUE 3: MINERAL RESOURCES

Part 3.a Aggregate Resources

Setting. Aggregate resources are defined as construction grade sand and gravel. The project site is located in an area designated as MRZ-4 by the State of California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG 1993). This designation indicates the significance of aggregate deposits cannot be evaluated based on available data. The nearest aggregate mining operation in the project area is the Grimes Rock quarry, located approximately 1.1 miles northeast of the project site.

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

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

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

Part 3.b Petroleum Resources

Setting. Petroleum resources are defined as oil and gas deposits. Known petroleum fields are mapped by the State of California Geologic Energy Management Division of the Department of Conservation (CalGEM). According to CalGEM's on-line mapping system, the nearest petroleum wells to the project site are two plugged wells (one in 1937 and one in 1957), located approximately 0.6 miles north of the project site. The nearest active oil or gas wells (Thompco Inc. Wells 1 and 2) are located approximately 1.5 miles to the south. There are no oil or gas processing facilities in the immediate project area.

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

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

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

ISSUE 4: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Part 4.a Species

Setting. The project site is undeveloped and appears to have been historically used for grazing. Based on inspection of aerial photographs dating back to 1947, the site has not been cultivated. Vegetation at the site may be classified as California sagebrush scrub (*Artemisia californica* Shrubland Alliance) and upland mustard stands consistent with the vegetation classification system developed by Sawyer et al. (2009). California sagebrush scrub at the project site is dominated California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*).

Upland mustard stands at the project site are dominated by weedy species including summer mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), red brome (*Bromus madritensis var. rubens*) and tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), with scattered California sagebrush. A linear patch of blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea*) is located along the western side of Stockton Road. The adjacent Shekell Road Drain is densely vegetated with black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*).

A total of 27 vascular plant species were observed at the project site during a June 8, 2020 botanical survey, including 17 native species (63 percent). The large proportion of non-native plant species found on the project site (37 percent) reflects the disturbance history of the site, possibly including overgrazing and repeated wildfire. Of the 10 non-native species identified, eight are considered invasive by the California Invasive Plant Council, including one species rated as highly invasive, four species rated as moderately invasive and three species rated as limited invasiveness.

Wildlife observed in proximity to the project site during the June 8, 2020 biological survey includes red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), cliff swallow (Petroc*helidon pyrrhonota*), California towhee (*Melozone crissalis*), hooded oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*), pacific slope flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), California ground squirrel (*Ostospermophilus beecheyi*), brush rabbit (scat) (*Sylvilagus bachmani*) and coyote (tracks) (*Canis latrans*).

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

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

Common Name *(Scientific Name)*	Status	Nearest Reported Location to the Project Site
Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*)	List 4	Observed at the project site
Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata var. puberula*)	List 1B	Happy Camp Canyon, 3.1 miles to the east (CNDDB, 2020)
Payne's bush lupine (*Lupinus paynei*)	List 1B	Near State Route 23, 1.8 miles to the northeast (CNDDB, 2020)
Gerry's curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella sinuata ssp. gerryi*)	List 1B	Las Posas Hills, 4.7 miles to the south (CNDDB, 2020)
Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*)	FE, SE, List 1B	Near Arroyo Simi, 4.9 miles to the southeast (CNDDB, 2020)
Southern California legless lizard (*Anniella stebbinsi*)	CSC	Near Santa Clara River, 4.6 miles to the north (CNDDB, 2020)
California legless lizard (*Anniella* sp.)	CSC	Happy Camp Canyon, 3.3 miles to the east (CNDDB, 2020)
Southern California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss)*	FE	Sespe Creek, 4.8 miles to the north (CNDDB, 2020)
Unarmored three-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*)	FE, SE, FP	Santa Clara River, 4.9 miles to the north (CNDDB, 2020)
Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*)	FT	Santa Clara River, 4.9 miles to the north (CNDDB, 2020)
Arroyo chub (*Gila orcuttii*)	CSC	Sespe Creek, 4.8 miles to the north (CNDDB, 2020)
Western spade-foot toad (*Spea hammondii)*	CSC	Near Roseland Avenue, 2.7 miles to the northeast (CNDDB, 2020)
Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*)	CSC	Sespe Creek, 4.8 miles to the north (CNDDB, 2020)
Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*)	CSC	Big Mountain, 4.0 miles to the east-northeast (CNDDB, 2020)
Coastal western whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*)	CSC	Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park, 3.0 miles to the east (Padre, 1999)
San Bernardino ring-neck snake (*Diadophis punctatus modestus*)	SA	Las Posas Hills, 4.8 miles to the south (CNDDB, 2020)
California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*)	CSC	Happy Camp Canyon, 2.9 miles to the east (CNDDB, 2020)
Two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondii*)	CSC	Arroyo Las Posas, 3.6 miles to the south (Z. Abbey, personal observation)
Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)	CSC	Near Santa Clara River, 4.9 miles to the north (CNDDB, 2020)

Common Name *(Scientific Name)*	Status	Nearest Reported Location to the Project Site
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)	FE, SE	Santa Clara River, 4.9 miles to the north (CNDDB, 2020)
Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)	FE, SE	Arroyo Las Posas, 3.6 miles to the south (CNDDB, 2020)
White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*)	FP	Near Santa Clara River, 4.9 miles to the north (CNDDB, 2020)
California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*)	FT, CSC	Near Gabbert Road, 2.4 miles to the south-southeast (CNDDB, 2020)
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila rufisceps canescens*)	WL	Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park, 3.0 miles to the east (Padre, 1999)
San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*)	CSC	Near State Route 118, 2.7 miles to the south (CNDDB, 2020)
American badger (*Taxidea taxus*)	CSC	Near Walnut Canyon Road, 2.6 miles to the southeast (CNDDB, 2020)

Status Notes:

CSC	California Species of Special Concern (CDFW)
FE	Federal Endangered (USFWS)
FP	Fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code
FT	Federal Threatened (USFWS)
List 1B	Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere (CNPS)
List 4	Plants of limited distribution (CNPS)
SA	Special animal (CDFW)
SE	California Endangered (CDFW)
WL	Watch list (CDFW)

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

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

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

Impacts (PS-M). Proposed reservoir construction and pipeline installation would avoid southern California black walnut trees on the project site and would not adversely affect any other special-status species. However, removal of vegetation (primarily blue elderberry and a Peruvian pepper tree) and heavy equipment activity adjacent to other habitat areas may result in take of migratory birds protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and Section 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code.

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

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

Part 4.b Ecological Communities

Setting. Native plant communities at the project site are limited to California sagebrush scrub, a common plant community. Sensitive ecological communities do not occur at or near the project site.

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

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

Impacts (NI). Proposed reservoir construction and pipeline installation would occur within areas lacking sensitive ecological communities.

Part 4.c Waters and Wetlands

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

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

Arroyo Las Posas is located approximately 4.1 stream miles downstream of the project site and is considered waters of the U.S. under the Clean Water Act. Arroyo Las Posas is also considered "waters of the State" as defined in Section 13050 of the California Water Code. However, the Shekell Road Drain located across Stockton Road from the project site is not considered a water of the U.S. due to its ephemeral nature (see 33 CFR 328.3.b.3).

The Corps and EPA define wetlands as:

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

Ventura County defines wetlands as (General Plan Goals Policies and Programs glossary):

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

Ventura County defines wetland habitat (General Plan Goals Policies and Programs glossary) as "*plant communities that are associated with wetlands*."

Federal-defined wetlands, County-defined wetlands and wetland habitat do not occur within the adjacent Shekell Road Drain, but do occur within Arroyo Las Posas which is located 3.3 miles south of the project site.

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

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

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

Part 4.d Coastal Habitat

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

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

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

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

Part 4.e Habitat Connectivity

Setting. Wildlife migration corridors are generally defined as connections between habitat patches that allow for physical and genetic exchange between otherwise isolated animal populations. Migration corridors may be local such as between foraging and nesting or denning areas, or they may be regional in nature. Migration corridors are not unidirectional access routes; however, reference is usually made to source and receiver areas in discussions of wildlife movement networks. "Habitat linkages" are migration corridors that contain contiguous strips of native vegetation between source and receiver areas. Habitat linkages provide cover and forage sufficient for temporary inhabitation by a variety of ground-dwelling animal species. Wildlife migration corridors are essential to the regional ecology of an area as they provide avenues of genetic exchange and allow animals to access alternative territories as fluctuating dispersal pressures dictate.

The South Coast Wildlands Missing Linkages Project (Penrod et al., 2006) has identified the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Landscape Linkage which connects the Santa Monica Mountains to the south and the Sierra Madre Ranges of the Los Padres National Forest to the north. The project site is located near the western end of Big Mountain. The western-most strand of the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Landscape Linkage is located at least 3.2 miles east of the site. The project area is dominated by row crops and orchards and is not part of a habitat connectivity or wildlife corridor as designated by the Ventura County Planning Division.

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

- A habitat connectivity feature (e.g., a linkage, corridor, chokepoint or stepping stone) would be severed, substantially interfered with, or potentially blocked.
- Wildlife access to foraging habitat, breeding habitat, water sources, or other areas necessary for their reproduction would be prevented or substantially interfered with.
- Wildlife would be forced to use routes that endanger their survival. For example, constraining a corridor for mule deer or mountain lion to an area that is not well-vegetated or that runs along a road instead of through a stream corridor or along a ridgeline.
- Lighting, noise, domestic animals, or other indirect impacts that could hinder or discourage fish and/or wildlife movement within habitat connectivity feature (e.g., a linkage, corridor, chokepoint or steppingstone) would be introduced.

- The width of linkage, corridor or chokepoint would be reduced to less than the sufficient width for movement of the target species (the species relying upon the connectivity feature). The adequacy of the width shall be based on the biological information for the target species; the quality of the habitat within and adjacent to the linkage, corridor, or chokepoint; topography; and adjacent land uses.
- For wildlife relying on visual cues for movement, visual continuity (i.e., lines-of-sight) across highly constrained wildlife corridors, such as highway crossing structures or steppingstones, would not be maintained.

Impacts (NI). The proposed project would include perimeter fencing around the replacement reservoir but would not hinder wildlife movement in the area. The proposed project would not introduce any incompatible land uses that would involve lighting, noise or domestic animals. In addition, wildlife crossing structures or steppingstones would not be adversely affected.

ISSUE 5: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Part 5.a Agricultural Soils

Setting. Agriculture is the leading industry in the County. The gross dollar value of Ventura County's agricultural products was estimated as $2.1 billion for 2018. Total irrigated farmland acreage in Ventura County is approximately 91,350 (Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner, 2019). Ventura County agriculture focuses on production of fruits and vegetables, including field crops. The Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's Annual Crop & Livestock Report for 2018 indicates strawberries are the leading single commodity with a value of $671 million, with lemons ranked second at $244 million. The most valuable crop group is fruits and nuts with a year 2018 value of $1.27 billion.

The project site is located in an area mapped as "grazing land" by the California Department of Conservation. The soils of the project site have been mapped as Chesterton coarse sandy loam (5-10 percent slopes, eroded) and San Benito clay loam (30-50 percent slopes, eroded) (Edwards et al. 1970).

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

Impacts (NI). Important farmlands do not occur at the project site and would not be displaced or disturbed by proposed reservoir and pipeline construction and operation.

Part 5.b Land Use Incompatibility

Setting. The project site is surrounded by orchards to the north, east and south. Most of these areas have been designated as Statewide Importance or Prime farmlands by the California Department of Conservation and zoned as agricultural land (AE 40 ac).

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

Impacts (LS). The proposed project involves the construction and operation of a replacement water reservoir serving surrounding agricultural land uses (in part). The proposed project would be located within 300 feet of classified farmland; however, the site would not be occupied (periodic maintenance only). Therefore, the project qualifies for a waiver (h.) from the 300-foot distance standard.

The project would not interfere with the existing cultivation practices, zoning or designated land uses for this area or adjacent properties. In addition, construction-related dust would be suppressed as discussed under Issue 1 (Air Quality). Storage of firewood would not occur on the site, and the project would not consume agricultural water supplies. Therefore, the project would not result in significant impacts to agricultural operations due to land use incompatibilities.

ISSUE 6: SCENIC RESOURCES

Setting. There are no County-designated Scenic Resource Areas or scenic resource protection areas in the project area. The Ventura County General Plan Resources Appendix (Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 1988d) designates State Route 118, State Route 23 and Grimes Canyon Road as eligible County scenic highways. The project site is not visible from any of these eligible County scenic highways. Public views of the project site are limited to motorists on Stockton Road. These views consist of a mixture of orchards to the east, grazing land and native scrub to the west, as well as black locust woodland within the Shekell Road Drain.

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

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

Impacts (LS). The project would not adversely affect any designated scenic resources or eligible scenic highway or be inconsistent with General Plan Policies (see Section 5). The proposed above-ground replacement water reservoir would be approximately 30 feet tall and 85 feet wide and painted olive green. The proposed cut slope west of the reservoir would form the background for views from Stockton Road, and blend the reservoir into the local topography. The proposed reservoir would not significantly degrade public views from Stockton Road.

ISSUE 7: PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Setting. The project site is underlain by the Saugus Formation (Dibblee, 1992), which is composed of non-marine fluviatile, weakly consolidated material of the Pleistocene and possibly Pliocene ages and is ranked as a geologic formation of paleontological importance in the Ventura County area as identified in the Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. The comparatively large number of fossil sites, the abundance of vertebrate taxa (particularly terrestrial vertebrates), and the moderate local site densities indicate that the Saugus Formation has a high paleontological sensitivity. This formation has the potential to yield additional scientifically significant paleontological resources of great importance to the understanding of the evolution of mammals in the early Tertiary Eocene and Oligocene times (BonTerra Consulting, 2002).

Marine invertebrates are well known from Saugus Formation deposits in the Moorpark and Simi Valley areas. A diverse assemblage of marine and non-marine vertebrates, including extinct horses, large cats, dogs, elephants, turtles, peccaries, deer, and sharks are known from exposures of the Saugus formation in Simi Valley. Other fossil remains that have been recovered from this formation include rodents, rabbits and lizards (United States Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Game, 2009). In 2005, a nearly intact fossilized mammoth skeleton was discovered in Saugus formation at a residential development construction site in Moorpark (Valencia-Martinez, 2005).

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

Impacts (PS-M). About 0.5 acres of Saugus Formation materials would be affected by construction of slopes above and below the reservoir site. Due to the potential for reservoir construction to adversely affect scientifically important fossils within the Saugus Formation, impacts to paleontological resources are considered significant.

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

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

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

ISSUE 8: CULTURAL RESOURCES

Part 8.a Archaeological Resources

Setting. The project site lies within the historic territory of the Native American Indian group known as the Chumash. The Chumash occupied the region from San Luis Obispo County to Malibu Canyon on the coast, and inland as far as the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley, and the four northern Channel Islands (Grant 1978). Chumash society developed within its historic boundaries for over 7,500 years based on the continuity of mortuary practices, as well as the development of artifacts used in social activities.

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

Early Period (~8,000 to 3,350 years ago). Reliable evidence of Holocene (post-10,000 years ago) settlement in Ventura County begins circa 8,000 years ago. The earliest sites were located on terraces and mesas; however, settlement gradually shifted to the coast (Wlodarski, 1988). Site assemblages dating to this period often contained large amounts of milling stones and manos, crude choppers, and core tools (W & S Consultants, 1997). Prehistoric peoples used

these tools to harvest terrestrial and sea mammals, shellfish, and fish. Mortars and pestles appear toward the end of the period, suggesting a shift towards a greater reliance on acorns (Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 1988d).

Middle Period (~3,350 to 800 years ago). Archaeological material dating to the Middle Period represents a significant evolution in hunter-gatherer technology. The presence of chipped stone tools increases and diversifies, projectile points became more common, and fishhooks and plank canoes (*tomol*) appear (Wlodarski, 1988; W & S Consultants, 1997). Burials dating to this period provide evidence of wealth and social stratification indicating a transition to ranked society (Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 1988d). Excavation data from the Santa Monica Mountains demonstrate expansion to the inland region allowing trade and ceremonial exchange patterns to develop (Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 1988d).

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

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

The chiefly offices were normally inherited through the male line with a primogeniture rule, i.e., the custom of the firstborn inheriting the office, in effect (Hoover, 1986). Chiefs had several bureaucratic assistants to help in political affairs and serve as messengers, orators, and ceremonial assistants. A number of status positions were associated with specialized knowledge and rituals such as weather prophet, ritual poisoner, herbalist, etc. (Bean, 1974).

The Chumash were a non-agrarian culture and relied on hunting and gathering for their sustenance. Archaeological evidence indicates that the Chumash exploited marine food resources from the earliest occupation of the coast at least 9,000 years ago (Greenwood, 1978). Much of their subsistence was derived from pelagic fish, particularly during the late summer and early fall (Hoover, 1986). Shellfish were also exploited, including mussel and abalone from rocky shores and cockle and clams from sandy beaches. Acorns were a food staple; they were ground into flour using stone mortars and pestles and then leached to remove tannic acid. In addition, a wide variety of seeds, including *chia* from various species of sage, was utilized. The Chumash harvested a number of plants for their roots, tubers, or greens (Hoover, 1986).

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

The coastal Chumash practiced regular seasonal dispersal and aggregation in response to the location and seasonal availability of different food resources (Landberg, 1965). In this way, large coastal villages would have been fully populated only in the late summer when pelagic fishing was at its peak. Through winter, the Chumash depended largely on stored food resources. During the spring and summer, the population dispersed through inland valleys to harvest wild plant resources (Landberg, 1965).

The Chumash lived in large, hemispherical houses constructed by planting willows or other poles in a circle and bending and tying them together at the top. These structures were then covered with tule mats or thatch. Structures such as this housed 40 to 50 individuals, or three-to-four member family groups. Dance houses and sweathouses are also reported for the Chumash (Kroeber, 1925). Archaeological evidence supports observations that twin or split villages existed on opposite sides of streams or other natural features, possibly reflecting the moiety system of native California (Greenwood, 1978).

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

Records Search. A records search by the South-Central Coast Information Center was ordered on June 10, 2020. The records search included a review of all recorded historic-era and prehistoric archaeological sites within a 0.25-mile radius of the project site as well as a review of known cultural resource surveys and technical reports. The State Historic Property Data Files, National Register of Historic Places, National Register of Determined Eligible Properties, California Points of Historic Interest, and the California Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility also were analyzed. The records search did not identify any previously recorded cultural resources within the project site or within a 0.25-mile radius of the project site.

Field Survey Results. On August 10, 2020, Padre Staff Archaeologist Christopher J. Letter surveyed the project site for archaeological resources. Parallel transects spaced at 15-meter (49.2 foot) intervals were used to ensure complete survey coverage of the entire project site. Mr. Letter documented the project site with color digital photographs. No cultural materials were observed during the survey.

Tribal Consultation. On June 10, 2020, the District formally notified Ms. Julie Tumamait-Stenslie of the Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians and Mr. Rudy Ortega of the Fernandeno-Tataviam Band of Mission Indians via certified mail of the decision to undertake the proposed project to allow the tribes to request consultation under Section 21080.3.1(d) of the Public Resources Code. These two tribal representatives are the only traditionally and culturally affiliated contacts that have requested consultation notification from Ventura County. The District received an e-mail from Mr. Jairo Avila of the Fernandeno-Tataviam Band of Mission Indians on June 16, 2020 requesting a cultural resource assessment report or cultural resource records search for the project. The Phase I Archaeological Survey Report prepared for the project was provided to Mr. Avila on August 20, 2020. Mr. Avila requested a conference call to discuss the project, which was held on October 1, 2020 with the District's director (Joseph Pope) and project manager and Padre Associates Senior Archaeologist, Rachael Letter. During this call, Mr. Avila requested the Fernandeno-Tataviam Band of Mission Indians be contacted concerning the disposition and treatment of any tribal resources encountered during project construction. This request has been included in the mitigation measures.

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

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

Impacts (PS-M). The record search did not identify any archaeological resources within the project's area of potential effect. The record search and notification of affiliated tribal contacts did not identify any tribal cultural resources near the project site. Ground disturbance associated with the construction of the replacement reservoir may extend up to 25 feet below the current ground surface. Therefore, disturbance of intact cultural deposits (burials, middens, Native American occupied sites) may occur. In addition, unknown buried cultural resources (such as isolated artifacts) may be encountered during excavation at the project site.

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

- Should any buried archaeological materials be uncovered during project activities, such activities shall cease within 100 feet of the find. Prehistoric archaeological indicators include obsidian and chert flakes, chipped stone tools, bedrock outcrops and boulders with mortar cups, ground stone implements, locally darkened midden soils containing previously listed items plus fragments of bone and fire affected stones. Historic period site indicators may include fragments of glass, ceramic and metal objects, milled and split timber, building foundations, privy pits, wells and dumps, and old trails. All earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find shall be temporarily suspended or redirected until the District has been notified and an archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. After the find has been appropriately mitigated, work in the area may resume. The District shall contact the Fernandeno-Tataviam Band of Mission Indians concerning the disposition and treatment of any archaeological and/or tribal materials encountered during project construction.
- If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to the origin and deposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission.

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

Part 8.b Historical Resources

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

In 1776, Juan Bautista de Anza traveled through Ventura County as leader of the San Francisco colonists, stopping near the outlet of the Santa Clara River. This route, known today as the Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic Trail, runs from near Nogales, Arizona, to San Francisco, California, and crosses through Ventura County (Center for Advanced Education, 2000).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The nearest Ventura County designated landmarks are the Methodist Church and High Street Pepper Trees, located in Moorpark approximately 3.3 miles southeast of the project site.

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

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

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

ISSUE 9: COASTAL BEACHES AND SAND DUNES

Setting. The nearest coastal beach (at the Ventura-Los Angeles County line) is located approximately 19 miles to the south of the project site. The nearest sand dunes are located at Point Mugu State Park, approximately 17.7 miles south-southwest of the project site.

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

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

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

ISSUE 10: FAULT RUPTURE HAZARD

Setting. The entire Southern California region, including the Ventura County area, is located within a seismically active area. The nearest fault (Oak Ridge) is located approximately 2.8 miles north of the project site (Dibblee, 1992). Several recorded earthquake epicenters in the offshore and mainland areas during historic time may have been associated with the Oak Ridge Fault System, and it is considered active (Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 1988c). No faults are known to pass through the project site, and it is not located within a designated Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone.

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

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

ISSUE 11: GROUND-SHAKING HAZARD

Setting. Ground-shaking is the cause of most damage during earthquakes. The project area has a 10 percent chance of exceeding a peak ground acceleration of 0.71 g (alluvium conditions) in 50 years (California Department of Conservation 2000). The maximum magnitude earthquake to be expected in the project area is 7.5 from the San Cayetano Fault (Oakridge Geoscience, 2020).

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

- Proposed structures not designed to be built in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Ventura County Building Code, which has the potential to expose people or other structures to potential significant adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving ground shaking hazards.
- Significant impacts from ground-shaking hazards would result for projects involving high-rise structures, critical facilities, and projects of unique design not covered by ordinary provisions of the Uniform Building Code. Such projects may subject persons and property to greater risk of loss of life or substantial damage during strong ground-shaking events.

Impacts (NI). The proposed replacement reservoir would be designed and constructed to current California Building Code seismic design standards. The proposed project would not affect off-site ground-shaking hazards, and would not increase the number of persons exposed to ground-shaking hazards.

ISSUE 12: LIQUEFACTION HAZARDS

Setting. Liquefaction occurs when strong, cyclic motions during an earthquake cause water-saturated soils to lose their cohesion and take on a liquid state. Liquefied soils are unstable and can subject overlying structures to substantial damage. The occurrence of liquefaction is highly dependent on local soil properties, depth to groundwater, and the strength and duration of a given ground-shaking event. The project site is not located within a liquefaction hazard zone as designated by the California Department of Conservation (2000). The project site not considered susceptible to liquefaction (Oakridge Geoscience, 2020).

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

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

ISSUE 13: SEICHE AND TSUNAMI HAZARDS

Setting. Tsunamis are seismically induced sea waves that can be of sufficient size to cause substantial damage to coastal areas. The last major tsunami in Southern California was in 1812, generated by an earthquake in the Santa Barbara Channel. The largest tsunami wave amplitude recorded by modern instrumentation in Ventura County was 8.8 feet, associated with the Chilean earthquake of 1960. The most recent tsunami was in 2010, caused by an earthquake in Chile which caused minor damage to structures and vessels in the Ventura Harbor. The nearest tsunami inundation hazard area is located approximately 18.8 miles south of the project site near Nicholas Meyer State Beach (California Emergency Management Agency 2009).

Seiches are oscillating waves that occur in enclosed or semi-enclosed bodies of water such as lakes and bays. Seiches are commonly caused by earthquakes. There is no record of a seiche occurring in Ventura County. The nearest body of water that may be subject to seiches is Lake Bard, located approximately 7.5 miles southeast of the project site.

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

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

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

ISSUE 14: LANDSLIDES/MUDFLOW HAZARD

Setting. Areas of high landslide or mudflow potential are typically hillside areas with slopes of greater than 10 percent. The project site is not located within a seismically-induced landslide hazard area (California Department of Conservation 2000).

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

Impacts (NI). The project site includes slopes exceeding 10 percent. Earthwork required to create the reservoir pad would include benches for cut and fill slopes exceeding 20 feet in height. A slope stability analysis conducted by Oakridge Geoscience (2020) indicates proposed slopes meet factors of safety under both static and pseudo-static conditions. Therefore, the project would not result in any hazards associated with landslides or mudslides.

ISSUE 15: EXPANSIVE SOILS HAZARDS

Setting. Expansive soils are primarily clay-rich soils subject to changes in volume with changes in moisture content. Based on the regional soil map, soils at the project site are mapped as Chesterton coarse sandy loam (5-15 percent slopes, eroded) and San Benito clay loam (30-50 percent slopes, eroded). Chesterton coarse sandy loam (5-15 percent slopes, eroded) has a high shrink-swell potential and San Benito clay loam (30-50 percent slopes, eroded) has a moderate shrink-swell potential (Edwards et al. 1970). Laboratory testing of soil samples obtained from drill holes at the project site indicate affected soils have a very low expansion potential (Oakridge Geoscience, 2020).

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

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

ISSUE 16: SUBSIDENCE HAZARD

Setting. Subsidence is generally related to over-pumping of groundwater or petroleum reserves from deep underground reservoirs. Subsidence of up to 2.2 feet occurred in the Pleasant Valley area by the early 1970's due to over-pumping of groundwater in this area (Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency 2007). The project site is not located within a probable subsidence zone identified in the Ventura County General Plan Hazards Appendix ((Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 1988c).

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

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

ISSUE 17: HYDRAULIC HAZARDS

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

Setting. Generally speaking, erosion is the wearing away of soil and rock by weathering, mass wasting, and the action of streams, glaciers, waves, wind and underground water. The process of deposition of sediment from a state of suspension in water or air is referred to as sedimentation or siltation. The adjacent Shekell Road Drain may be considered a non-FEMA regulated flood control facility.

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

Impacts (LS). Proposed reservoir construction and pipeline installation activities would not occur within a floodway or floodplain or result in excessive erosion that may cause siltation of flood control facilities. Therefore, impacts to the adjacent Shekell Road Drain would be less than significant.

Part 17.b FEMA

Setting. The project site is located within a minimal flood hazard zone (X) and not within or adjacent to a FEMA-regulated floodway or floodplain (Flood Insurance Rate Map panel 06111C0810E, effective January 20, 2010).

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

- No Impact: If the entire development is located outside of the boundaries of a Special Flood Hazard Area and is located entirely within a FEMA-determined 'X-Unshaded' flood zone (beyond the 0.2% annual chance floodplain: beyond the 500-year floodplain).
- Less than Significant: If the entire development is located outside of the boundaries of a Special Flood Hazard Area and is located entirely within a FEMA-determined 'X-Shaded' flood zone (within the 0.2% annual chance floodplain: within the 500-year floodplain). If the proposed development, in part or in whole, is located within the boundaries of a Special Flood Hazard Area, but is located outside of the boundaries of the Regulatory Floodway, if it can be demonstrated that the proposed development can be designed and constructed, as part of the Floodplain Development Permit and Building Permit processes, to be in compliance with all applicable floodplain management standards and measures.

- Potentially Significant – Mitigation Incorporated: Potentially significant impacts from the 1% annual chance flood can be mitigated through project design or measures, such as but not limited to, relocating the proposed development elsewhere on the property where the risk of flood damage is potentially lower, implementing FEMA-supported building construction and grading technologies that mitigate flood damage and thereby reducing the risk of the flood hazard.
- Potentially Significant: If the proposed development, in part or in whole, is located within the boundaries of the Regulatory Floodway, as determined using the 'Effective' and latest available Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Less than Significant (LS). The proposed project does not involve any activities or placement of structures or materials within the floodway or flood hazard area and would not affect flood water elevations.

ISSUE 18: FIRE HAZARDS

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

The project site is located within a very high fire hazard severity zone as designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The project site is served by Ventura County Fire Department Station 42 located at 295 East High Street, Moorpark, and includes three engines. Station 42 is located approximately 5.2 road miles from the project site (via State Route 23).

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

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

ISSUE 19: AVIATION HAZARDS

Setting. The project site is located approximately 11.1 miles northeast of the Camarillo Airport, and outside the Airport's sphere of influence.

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

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

ISSUE 20: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE

Part 20.a Materials

Setting. A "hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, physical or chemical characteristics poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or environment. A review of the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker data base and the Department of Toxic Substances Control's Envirostor data base did not identify any hazardous materials sites within one mile of the project site.

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

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

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

Impacts (LS). Agricultural areas have the potential for soil contamination associated with recent and/or historical pesticide application and fueling and maintenance of farm equipment and vehicles. However, the project site has never been developed and has not been cultivated since at least 1947 and is not anticipated to have any soil contamination. Overall, the potential for the discovery of hazardous materials is very low during reservoir construction and significant exposure of the public and the environment to hazardous materials is not anticipated.

Part 20.b Hazardous Waste

Setting. Hazardous materials are defined as any substance, which if improperly handled, can be damaging to the health and well-being of humans (Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 1988c). Hazardous materials become hazardous waste when the material has been used for its original intended purpose and is going to be discarded or recycled.

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

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

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

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

ISSUE 21: NOISE AND VIBRATION

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

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

The dominant source of noise in the project area is motor vehicle traffic on local roadways (primarily State Route 118, State Route 34), cargo and passenger rail traffic on the Union Pacific Railroad/Metrolink tracks, and occasional use of agricultural equipment. Consistent with the Ventura County ISAG, noise sensitive uses are considered dwellings, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, churches and libraries. Existing noise sensitive uses in proximity to the project site are limited to single-family residences on large rural parcels, located at least 1,950 feet away.

Traffic noise modeling was conducted for the Ventura County 2040 General Plan update using 2015 traffic volumes (see Table 11-8 of the Background Report). Modeling results indicate traffic noise is 52.4 dBA CNEL 50 feet from the roadway centerline along Stockton Road east of Balcom Canyon Road.

Noise levels were measured near the closest noise receptor (residence at 10454 Stockton Road) on June 18, 2020 from 7:28 to 7:58 a.m. The measurement was conducted using a Larson-Davis LXT Type 1 Precision Integrating Sound Level Meter. The Meter was calibrated using a Larson-Davis CAL200 Calibrator at 94 dBA. The measured noise value was 57.9 dBA Leq, indicating noise levels in the project vicinity are low to moderate and typical of daytime noise in a rural area. The primary noise source during the noise measurement period was light traffic (counted as 62 vehicles per hour) on Stockton Road.

Significance Thresholds. Policy 2.16.2-1 of the Ventura County General Plan provides the following thresholds (Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 1988a):

Noise-sensitive uses proposed to be located near highways, truck routes, heavy industrial activities and other relatively continuous noise sources shall incorporate noise control measures so that:

- Indoor noise levels in habitable rooms do not exceed 45 dBA CNEL.
- Outdoor noise levels do not exceed 60 dBA CNEL or 65 dBA Leq during any hour.

Noise generators proposed to be located near any noise sensitive use shall incorporate noise control measures so that ongoing outdoor noise levels received at the noise receptor, measured at the exterior wall of the building do not exceed any of the following standards:

- Leq1H of 55 dBA or ambient noise level plus 3 dBA, whichever is greater, during any hour from 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Leq1H of 50 dBA or ambient noise level plus 3 dBA, whichever is greater, during any hour from 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- Leq1H of 45 dBA or ambient noise level plus 3 dBA, whichever is greater, during any hour from 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

General Plan Policy 2.16.2-1(5) requires construction noise to be evaluated and mitigated in accordance with the Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan prepared by Advanced Engineering Acoustics (2010). Based on this document, noise-sensitive receptors include:

- Hospitals and nursing homes (sensitive 24 hours/day).
- Residences (sensitive during evening and nighttime – 7 pm to 7 am).
- Hotels and motels (sensitive during evening and nighttime).
- Schools, churches and libraries (daytime and evening, when in use).

Project-related construction activities would primarily occur between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m.; therefore, local residences would not be considered noise-sensitive receptors. However, if evening or nighttime construction work occurs, the following noise thresholds would apply:

- 50 dBA Leq OR ambient noise level + 3 dBA, for evening construction (7 to 10 p.m.)
- 45 dBA Leq OR ambient noise level + 3 dBA, for nighttime construction (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.)

Impacts (LS). The proposed project would generate noise during replacement reservoir construction and pipeline installation. Potential noise sensitive receptors in the project area are limited to residences, located at least 1,950 feet from the project site. Peak day reservoir construction noise (earthwork) was estimated using the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Roadway Construction Noise Model, composed of simultaneous operation of two dozers, one soil compactor, one grader, two wheeled loaders and a backhoe. The results of the noise modelling indicates the peak day construction noise level would be 53.4 dBA Leq at the nearest residence, which is less than the ambient noise level measured on June 18, 2020. Work would not be conducted during the evening or nighttime; therefore, local residences are not considered noise-sensitive receptors and construction noise impacts are considered less than significant.

Construction-related vibration was estimated using methodology provided by the California Department of Transportation (2013), which indicates construction-related vibration (based on use of a large dozer) at the nearest occupied structure (750 feet away) would generate a peak particle velocity of 0.001 inches/second, which would not be perceptible to humans. Therefore, vibration impacts would be less than significant.

ISSUE 22: DAYTIME GLARE

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

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

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

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

ISSUE 23: PUBLIC HEALTH

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

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

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

ISSUE 24: GREENHOUSE GASES

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

According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the 2018 average global temperature across land and ocean surface areas was 0.79°C (1.42°F) above the twentieth-century average of 13.9°C (57.0°F), making it the fourth-warmest year on record behind 2016 (warmest), 2015 (second warmest) and 2017 (third-warmest). Nine out of 10 of the warmest years have occurred since 2005. Since the start of the twenty-first century, the annual global temperature record has been broken five times. From 1900 to 1980 a new temperature record was set on average every 13.5 years; however, since 1981 the average period between temperature records has decreased to every 3 years.

In efforts to reduce and mitigate climate change impacts, state and local governments are implementing policies and initiatives aimed at reducing GHG emissions. California, one of the largest state contributors to the national GHG emission inventory, has adopted significant reduction targets and strategies. The primary legislation affecting GHG emissions in California is the California Global Warming Solutions Act (Assembly Bill [AB] 32). AB 32 focuses on reducing GHG emissions in California, and requires the CARB to adopt rules and regulations that would achieve GHG emissions equivalent to statewide levels in 1990 by 2020. In addition, two State-level Executive Orders have been enacted by the Governor (Executive Order S-3-05, signed June 1, 2005, and Executive Order S-01-07, signed January 18, 2007) that mandate reductions in GHG emissions.

In June 2008, CARB developed a Draft Scoping Plan for Climate Change, pursuant to AB 32. The Scoping Plan was approved at the Board hearing on December 12, 2008. The Scoping Plan proposes a comprehensive set of actions designed to reduce overall carbon emissions in California, improve our environment, reduce our dependence on oil, diversify our energy sources, save energy, and enhance public health while creating new jobs and enhancing the growth in California's economy. Key elements of the Scoping Plan for reducing California's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 include:

- Expansion and strengthening of existing energy efficiency programs and building and appliance standards.
- Expansion of the Renewables Portfolio Standard to 33 percent.
- Development of a California cap-and-trade program that links with other Western Climate Initiative Partner programs to create a regional market system.
- Implementation of existing State laws and policies, including California's clean car standards, goods movement measures, and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard.
- Targeted fees to fund the State's long-term commitment to AB 32 administration.

The Climate Change Scoping Plan was updated in May 2014, and again in November 2017. In 2016, the State Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 32, which codifies a 2030 GHG emissions reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels. With SB 32, the Legislature passed companion legislation AB 197, which provides additional direction for developing the Scoping Plan. The 2017 update to the Scoping Plan indicates the State is on track to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the 2020 target, and focuses on strategies to achieve the 2030 target set by Executive Order B-30-15 and codified by SB 32.

The CARB developed regulations for mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions in 2007, which incorporated by reference certain requirements promulgated by the USEPA in its Final Rule on Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases (Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 98). These regulations were revised in 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2014, with the current regulations becoming effective on January 1, 2015. The proposed project would not be subject to these regulations, as it does not involve any industrial processes and does not meet the 10,000-metric ton CO_2E reporting threshold.

SB 97, enacted in 2007, amends the CEQA statute to clearly establish that greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of GHG emissions are appropriate for CEQA analysis. It directs the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop guidelines "for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or the effects of greenhouse gas emissions as required by this division." (Pub. Res. Code § 21083.05(a)).

In December of 2009, the California Natural Resources Agency adopted amendments to the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Cal. Code of Regulations, §15000 et seq.) to comply with the mandate set forth in Public Resources Code §21083.05. These revisions became effective March 18, 2010. According to the 2020 State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15064.4), a lead agency may use a model or methodology to estimate GHG emissions, has the discretion to select the most appropriate model or methodology, and must support the selection of the model or methodology with substantial evidence.

Many California counties have developed a climate change action plan focusing on reducing GHGs from local sources, to facilitate meeting the State reduction targets of AB 32. To date, Ventura County has not published any draft documents related to GHG emissions reduction in the County.

Significance Thresholds. To date, GHG thresholds of significance have not been adopted by Ventura County. On November 8, 2011, the APCD completed a staff report assessing several options and strategies in developing GHG thresholds for land development projects. Although no GHG thresholds were developed, the November 8, 2011 staff report stated that consistency with any GHG thresholds developed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is preferred. On December 5, 2008, the SCAQMD governing board adopted an interim GHG significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons per year CO_2 equivalent (including amortized construction emissions) for industrial projects. Due to the lack of any other applicable threshold, this value is used in this analysis to determine the significance of the contribution of the project to global climate change.

Impacts (LS). GHG emissions associated with reservoir construction and pipeline installation were estimated using the OFFROAD 2017 and EMFAC 2017 models. These models were selected as they were developed by CARB for the preparation of emissions inventories and are appropriate for the emissions sources associated with the project. Total construction annual greenhouse gas emissions would be 244.9 metric tons CO_2 equivalent. Since annual GHG emissions would be less than the significance threshold, global climate change impacts are considered less than significant.

ISSUE 25: COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Setting. The project site is located within an agricultural area and surrounded by crops and grazing land. Scattered single-family rural residences occur in the project area. The zoning of the project site is Agricultural-Exclusive (AE 40 ac).

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

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

Impacts (NI). The project consists of the replacement of an existing water reservoir in an agricultural area and would not have any effect on the character of nearby communities.

ISSUE 26: HOUSING

Setting. The project site is located within an agricultural area and surrounded by crops and grazing land. Scattered single-family rural residences occur in the project area.

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

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

Impacts (NI). The project would not involve the removal of any existing housing. However, any project that would involve construction has the potential to generate a demand for construction worker housing. Any employment opportunities associated with proposed reservoir demolition and construction activities are not expected to generate demand for housing, due to the short-term nature (about 100 working days) and small number of workers needed (about 12 on average). Therefore, these services are anticipated to be supplied by existing construction workers within the County, and an impact on housing demand is not anticipated.

ISSUE 27: TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

The following analysis is consistent with the Ventura County ISAG, which have not been updated to address revisions to the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15064.3) regarding determining the significance of transportation impacts. These revisions focus on increases in vehicle miles travelled associated with proposed changes in land use. Since the existing reservoir would be taken out of service, existing maintenance-related vehicle trips would service the new replacement reservoir and new vehicle miles would not be generated.

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

The project site is accessed from Stockton Road, a 2-lane rural roadway with an estimated 1,000 average daily trips (Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 1988b). Based on traffic counts conducted during noise monitoring on June 18, 2020, a.m. peak hour traffic on Stockton Road is 62 vehicles per hour. Stockton Road may be accessed from the west via Balcom Canyon Road or from the east via Broadway Road. Stockton Road may be classified as a Class III roadway due to its sharply curving alignment. The LOS on Stockton Road is considered B, based on 1,000 average daily trips on a Class III roadway.

Part 27.a Roads and Highways

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

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

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

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

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

Impacts (LS). The proposed project would generate short-term construction-related vehicle traffic on Stockton Road, with about 84 one-way trips on a peak day. However, many of these trips would occur during off-peak hours because proposed construction activities would generally begin prior to a.m. peak hour and typically end at or before p.m. peak hour. In any case, Stockton Road operates at an acceptable LOS, and the project would not cause LOS to fall below acceptable levels or substantially reduce V/C at local intersections. Therefore, project impacts to roadway level of service would be less than significant.

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

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

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

Impacts (NI). The proposed reservoir access road would be gated and only serve the reservoir site. This access road would not provide access to other parcels or land uses, and would not require any public services (such as fire protection). Therefore, it is not considered a private road for the purposes of this Initial Study. No impacts to the safety and design of private access roads would occur.

27.a(4) Tactical Access

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

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

Part 27.b Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities

Setting. Stockton Road does not provide any bike lanes or other pedestrian or bicycle facilities.

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

- A project that would cause actual or potential barriers to existing or planned pedestrian/bicycle facilities.
- Projects that generate or attract pedestrian/bicycle traffic volumes meeting requirements to provide protected highway crossings or pedestrian and bicycle facilities (pedestrian overcrossings, traffic signals, and bikeways).

Impacts (NI). The proposed project would not adversely affect the use of Stockton Road or any designated bikeways by bicyclists and pedestrians.

Part 27.c Bus Transit

Setting. Bus service in the project area is provided along U.S Highway 101, State Route 118, State Route 34 and State Route 23.

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

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

Part 27.d Railroads

Setting. The nearest tracks (Union Pacific Railroad/Metrolink) are located approximately 2.8 miles south of the project site.

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

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

Part 27.e Airports

Setting. The project site is located approximately 11.1 miles northeast of the Camarillo Airport, and outside the Airport's sphere of influence.

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

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

Part 27.f Harbor Facilities

Setting. The nearest harbor is in Port Hueneme, located approximately 19.7 miles to the southwest.

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

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

Part 27.g Pipelines

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

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

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

ISSUE 28: WATER SUPPLY

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

Part 28.a Quality

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

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

Impacts (NI). The proposed project would utilize water during construction activities provided by the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1 that meets all applicable water quality standards. Therefore, no impacts to domestic water quality would result.

Part 28.b Quantity

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

- Projects without a demonstrated permanent supply of water.
- Any project that is inconsistent with any County policies or development standards relating to water supply.
- Either individually or cumulatively when combined with recently approved, current, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects would introduce physical development that would adversely affect the water supply of the hydrologic unit in which the project site is located.

Impacts (LS). The proposed project would serve to increase the capacity of existing water storage on the project area and would not consume water. However, the proposed project would use small amounts of water on a temporary basis for dust control and compaction during construction activities.

Part 28.c Fire Flow

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

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

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

ISSUE 29: WASTE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Part 29.a Individual Sewage Disposal Systems

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

Part 29.b Sewage Collection/Treatment Facilities

Setting. The project site does not generate sewage. Domestic wastewater produced by nearby rural residences are treated by individual private septic systems.

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

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

Part 29.c Solid Waste Management

Setting. Solid waste generated in the project area is disposed at the Toland Road Landfill by E.J. Harrison & Sons, with recyclables transported to the Gold Coast Transfer Station for sorting and recovery.

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

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

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

Part 29.d Solid Waste Facilities

Setting. Solid waste generated in the project area is disposed at the Toland Road Landfill.

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

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

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

ISSUE 30: UTILITIES

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

Electricity: Impacts (LS). The project site would be provided with electricity service as part of the project. However, no new transmission lines would be required to serve the proposed project. Therefore, impacts to electricity service would be less than significant.

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

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

ISSUE 31: FLOOD CONTROL FACILITIES/WATERCOURSES

Part 31.a Watershed Protection District Facilities/Watercourses

Setting. The nearest District facility to the project site is the portion of the Shekell Road Drain downstream of Broadway Road, approximately 1,700 feet to the south.

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

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

Less than Significant (LS). The proposed project does not involve the placement of any materials or structures within the floodway or floodplain and would have no impact on the capacity of the Shekell Road Drain or any other adverse effect. A small increase in storm run-off may occur due to the project-related increase in impervious surfaces (proposed tank); however, the effect on the capacity of Watershed Protection District facilities would be minimal.

Part 31.b Other Facilities/Watercourses

Setting. The portion of the Shekell Road Drain adjacent to the project site is not maintained by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

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

- Deposition of sediment and debris materials within existing channels and allied obstruction of flow.
- Capacity of the channel and the potential for overflow during design storm conditions.
- Increased runoff and the effects on areas of special flood hazard and regulatory channels both on and off site.

Impacts (LS). The proposed project would include a small storm drain/emergency over-flow drain that would discharge to the Shekell Road Drain. This drain would not result in a substantial discharge of storm water or sediment and would not significantly affect the operation or capacity of the Shekell Road Drain.

ISSUE 32: LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY SERVICES

Setting. The project area is served by the Ventura County Sheriff Department's Moorpark Station at 610 Spring Road, located approximately 4.7 road miles from the project site. Emergency (paramedic) services would be provided from Ventura County Fire Department Station 42, located approximately 5.2 road miles from the project site.

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

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

ISSUE 33: FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

Part 33.a Distance and Response

Setting. Fire protection services would be provided from Ventura County Fire Department Station 42, located approximately 5.2 road miles from the project site (via State Route 23).

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

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

Part 33.b Personnel, Equipment and Facilities

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

ISSUE 34: EDUCATION

Part 34.a Schools

Setting. The term "schools" includes public elementary, secondary and college level educational facilities. This issue entails the direct impact to, and demand for school facilities. Schools in the project area include Walnut Canyon Elementary, Campus Canyon Elementary and Moorpark College. The nearest school is Walnut Canyon Elementary, located approximately 3.0 miles southeast of the project site.

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

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

Part 34.b Public Libraries

Setting. The term "public libraries" includes public library facilities and services. This issue entails the direct impact to, and demand for, public library facilities and services. The nearest public library is the Moorpark City Library, located at 699 Moorpark Avenue approximately 3.2 miles southeast of the project site.

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

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

ISSUE 35: RECREATION FACILITIES

Local Parks/Facilities

Setting. The nearest local park in the area is Poindexter Park in the City of Moorpark, located approximately 3.1 miles southeast of the project site.

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

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

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

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

Regional Parks/Facilities

Setting. A regional park is defined as an extent of land that, by its unique, natural character or unusual or extensive development, offers recreation opportunities that attract patronage from beyond the local vicinity without regard to physical, political, or municipal boundaries. The nearest regional park in the project area is the County's Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park and Rustic Canyon Golf Course, located approximately 2.7 miles east of the project site.

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

Regional Trails/Corridors

Setting. Regional trails are intended to accommodate non-motorized recreational travel through areas removed from vehicular traffic. Regional trails/corridors should link major park and recreation facilities. Regional trails in the project area are limited to those within the Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park, located approximately 2.7 miles east of the project site.

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

5.0 CONSISTENCY WITH THE VENTURA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

Section 15063(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires a discussion of the consistency of the proposed project with existing zoning, plans and other applicable land use controls. Table 5 provides a discussion of project consistency with the policies of the Ventura County General Plan.

Table 5. Summary of Project Consistency with Applicable Policies of the Ventura County General Plan

Policy Area	Consistency Determination
RESOURCES	
1.1 General Goals, Policies and Programs	Consistent: This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for the project in compliance with CEQA, and mitigation is provided to reduce all impacts to less than significant levels.
1.2 Air Quality	Consistent: the project is consistent with the AQMP, impacts have been identified and emissions reduction measures provided (see Issue 1), the project is not subject to APCD permit authority.
1.3 Water Resources	Consistent: the project would not require a permanent water supply and complies with all State and County regulations, does not involve irrigated landscaping, surface water diversion, mining, wells or golf courses (see Issue 2).
1.4 Mineral Resources	Consistent: the project does not involve mineral or petroleum extraction/production or affect a mineral resource area (see Issue 3).
1.5 Biological Resources	Consistent: impacts to biological resources would be mitigated, including special-status species, wetland habitats and wildlife movement (see Issue 4).
1.6 Farmland Resources	Consistent: the project does not involve loss of farmland, hillside agricultural grading or development within greenbelts, and would not conflict with the use of surrounding agricultural land (see Issue 5).
1.7 Scenic Resources	Consistent: the project would not significantly degrade visual resources, or adversely affect a scenic resource area (see Issue 6).
1.8 Paleontological and Cultural Resources	Consistent: impacts to these resources have been evaluated (see Issues 7 and 8). Paleontological resources may be adversely affected by reservoir construction; however, mitigation measures are provided to minimize any impacts. No prehistoric resources have been reported at or near the site; however, measures are provided to address evaluation and disposition of any cultural resources found during project-related excavation.
1.9 Energy Resources	Consistent: the proposed project would consume a very small amount of energy for security lighting and communications, but not in a wasteful or inefficient manner.
1.10 Coastal Beaches and Sand Dunes	Consistent: the project would not affect beaches or sand dunes or involve shoreline structures or mining (see Issue 9).
HAZARDS	
2.1 General Goals, Policies & Programs	Consistent: a development permit is not required. However, a Geotechnical Design Report was prepared, and the recommendations incorporated into the project design to minimize geologic hazards (see Issues 10-12).
2.2 Fault Rupture	Consistent: the project site is not located on an active fault and is not located in a fault hazard area (see Issue 10).

Table 5. Continued

Policy Area	Consistency Determination
2.3 Ground Shaking	Consistent: the project does not involve any habitable structures that could be affected by ground shaking (see Issue 11).
2.4 Liquefaction	Consistent: the project does not involve any habitable structures, essential facilities, or hazardous materials storage facilities that could affected by liquefaction (see Issue 12).
2.5 Seiche	Consistent: the proposed project is not located in a seiche hazard area (see Issue 13).
2.6 Tsunami	Consistent: the proposed project is not located in a tsunami hazard area (see Issue 13).
2.7 Landslides/Mudslides	Consistent: the project is not located in a seismically-induced landslide hazard area. In addition, the project's Geotechnical Design Report indicates proposed slopes would be stable (see Issue 14).
2.8 Expansive Soils	Consistent: affected soils have a very low expansion potential (see Issue 15).
2.9 Subsidence	Consistent: subsidence is not anticipated at the project site. The project does not involve any public safety or emergency services facilities (see Issue 16).
2.10 Flood Hazards	Consistent: the proposed project would not be located with a floodway or floodplain and would not alter floodplain limits (see Issue 17).
2.11 Inundation from Dam Failure	Consistent: the project is not located within a dam inundation hazard area.
2.12 Coastal Wave and Beach Erosion Hazards	Consistent: the project is not located on the coast.
2.13 Fire Hazard	Consistent: the project is located in a very high fire severity hazard area. However, it does not involve any new or modified structures requiring fire protection or emergency access (see Issue 18).
2.14 Transportation Related Hazards	Consistent: the project is not located in proximity to an airport, railroad or truck route (see Issue 19).
2.15 Hazardous Materials and Waste	Consistent: the project would not generate or utilize hazardous materials and would not be implemented at a waste site (see Issue 20).
2.16 Noise	Consistent: the project is not a noise-sensitive use and would not cause construction noise thresholds to be exceeded at adjacent land uses (see Issue 21).
2.17 Civil Disturbance	Consistent: the project would have no effect on law enforcement resources to be used to restore the peace.

Table 5. Continued

Policy Area	Consistency Determination
LAND USE	
3. General Goals, Land Use Designations, Population & Housing, Employment	Consistent: the project is consistent with the existing land use designation and zoning, and does not involve any new residential, commercial or industrial development (see Issues 25 and 26).
PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES	
4.1 General Goals, Policies and Programs	Consistent: public improvements would not be needed to serve the project site. The project does not involve annexation or change in sphere or area of interest.
4.2 Transportation/ Circulation	Consistent: the project would generate traffic during reservoir construction and pipeline installation, but would not cause or contribute to roadways or intersections operating at an unacceptable level of service (see Issue 27). The project does not include a change in land use designation or zoning, or other feature that would result in long-term traffic generation.
4.3 Water Supply Facilities	Consistent: the project would not require a new potable water supply or consume water (see Issue 28).
4.4 Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities	Consistent: the project would not generate wastewater, is not located near a waste treatment or disposal site, and any solid waste generated would be recycled to the extent feasible (see Issue 29).
4.5 Public Utilities	Consistent: the project would not require any public utilities or involve any new transmission lines (see Issue 30).
4.6 Flood Control and Drainage Facilities	Consistent: the project would not require any new flood control or drainage facilities (see Issue 31).
4.7 Law Enforcement and Emergency Services	Consistent: the project does not involve any structures, land uses or other facilities requiring law enforcement or emergency services (see Issue 32).
4.8 Fire Protection	Consistent: the project does not involve any structures or other facilities requiring fire protection services (see Issue 33).
4.9 Education and Library Facilities and Services	Consistent: the project does not involve any schools or library facilities (see Issue 34).
4.10 Parks and Recreation	Consistent: the project would not generate any demand for recreational facilities and would not affect existing facilities (see Issue 35).
4.11 Other Public Buildings and Grounds	Consistent: the project would not affect any government-owned or leased facilities.

6.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

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

6.1 CUMULATIVE PROJECTS DESCRIPTION

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

6.1.1 Ventura County

Based on the August 4, 2020 list of pending and approved projects, the following projects within about 5 miles involving physical changes to the environment are under review by the Resource Management Agency:

- PL13-0116: Modification to CUP 4571-5 to expand the mining area and permit life of the Wayne J sand and gravel mine.
- PL18-0081: modification of CUP 5319 to expand the Peach Hills Soils organics processing operation at 10951 Los Angeles Avenue.
- PL18-0109: new dog kennel and sales facility at 5500 Grimes Canyon Road consisting of up to seven buildings, waste treatment, landscaping and associated grading.

6.1.2 City of Moorpark

Based on the City's Quarterly Report for May 2020, the following projects involving substantial physical changes to the environment are under review or have been recently approved and are likely to be constructed at about the same time as the proposed project:

- 226 High Street: 79 apartments and 13,656 square feet of mixed use (under review).
- Near Casey Road: Hitch Ranch Specific Plan including 755 residential units (under review).
- Everett Street: 60 condominium units (under review).
- 5979 Gabbert Road: 133 single-family residences (under review).
- 5850 Condor Drive: 48,211 square foot industrial building (under review).
- 6000 Condor Drive: conversion of a 190,000 square foot industrial building to a distribution and transportation facility (under review).

6.2 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

6.2.1 Air Quality

Each of the projects listed in Section 6.1 would generate short-term construction emissions. Proposed replacement reservoir construction and pipeline installation activities would contribute to cumulative short-term construction emissions, should construction of these projects occur at the same time as the proposed project. However, construction emissions of both the proposed project and other projects would be mitigated by standard measures required by the Ventura County APCD. Implementation of these measures is considered to prevent significant project-specific and cumulative air quality impacts from construction. Therefore, the incremental contribution of the project to cumulative air quality impacts from construction is considered less than significant.

Each of the projects listed in Section 6.1 would generate motor vehicle emissions associated with operation, and the 5850 Condor Drive project may generate point source air pollutant emissions. The proposed project would not generate any long-term emissions and would not contribute to cumulative long-term vehicle emissions. Overall, the incremental contribution of the project to cumulative air quality impacts would not be considerable.

6.2.2 Water Resources

Each of the projects listed in Section 6.1 would involve construction and may result in storm water run-off during the construction period, contributing to surface water quality impacts. The proposed project would be constructed during the dry season and is unlikely to contribute to storm water-related surface water quality impacts. In any case, most of these projects would be subject to the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities and would implement a SWPPP.

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

Most of the projects listed in Section 6.1 would require a permanent potable water supply for domestic uses. The proposed project would not require a permanent potable water supply and would not incrementally contribute to the water supply demand.

6.2.3 Biological Resources

Some of the cumulative projects listed in Section 6.1 would result in the loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, and may significantly impact special-status species, sensitive ecological communities or wetlands. The proposed project may incrementally contribute to impacts to breeding migratory birds. However, with proposed mitigation, the project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts to biological resources would not be considerable.

6.2.4 Paleontological Resources

Some of the cumulative projects listed in Section 6.1 involve excavation within the Saugus Formation and may result in the loss or destruction of scientifically important fossils. The proposed project may incrementally contribute to impacts to fossils of the Saugus Formation. However, with proposed mitigation, the project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts to paleontological resources would not be considerable.

6.2.5 Cultural Resources

Cumulative projects listed in Section 6.1 may adversely affect intact and/or known archaeological resources. In addition, similar to the proposed project, isolated and/or unreported resources may be inadvertently discovered during construction-related ground disturbance. The proposed project may contribute to this cumulative impact; however, mitigation measures are provided to avoid and minimize potential impacts to discovered archaeological resources.

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

6.2.6 Noise

Most of the projects listed in Section 6.1 may generate both short-term construction noise and long-term traffic noise. The proposed project would contribute to short-term cumulative noise impacts. However, the proposed project is not located in close proximity to other projects and would not have a considerable incremental contribution to impacts at noise sensitive receptors affected by these projects.

6.2.7 Traffic and Circulation

Most of the projects listed in Section 6.1 would generate both short-term construction and long-term vehicle trips. The proposed project would not generate vehicle trips in proximity to other projects such that the project's incremental contribution to traffic impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

7.0 GROWTH INDUCEMENT

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

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

The proposed project would not involve expansion of any service infrastructure that could support future development and induce population growth. The area (Pressure Zone 994) served by the proposed larger reservoir would not change and would not support any growth or increased water usage. In addition, the project would not require the amendment of existing land use designations, zoning designations, General Plan policies, ordinances, development guidelines, or any other policies that would allow for increased development of the area.

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

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APPENDIX A

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

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

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

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

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

*Explanation: Degree of Effect

N = No Effect

LS = Less Than Significant Effect

PS-M = Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation is Incorporated

PS = Potentially Significant Impact

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

		Yes/Maybe	No
1.	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	X	—
2.	Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one that occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future).	—	X
3.	Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effect of other current projects, and the effect of probable future projects. (Several projects may have relatively small individual impacts on two or more resources, but the total of those impacts on the environment is significant).	—	X
4.	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	X	—

DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

On the basis of this evaluation:

[ ] I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION should be prepared.

[X] I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in Section 5.0 of the Initial Study will be applied to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION should be prepared.

[ ] I find that the proposed project, individually or cumulatively, MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required*.

[ ] I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been adequately addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that 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.

J. C. Pope

Ventura County Public Works Water & Sanitation Director

11/13/2020

Date