

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
FOR THE  
CITY OF CAMARILLO  
RECLAIMED WATER STORAGE  
RESERVOIR (WT-14-03)

Prepared for:

City of Camarillo  
601 Carmen Drive  
Camarillo, CA 93010

Prepared by:

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Camarillo, CA 93010



April 2021

# CITY OF CAMARILLO

## MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared based on the Initial Study evaluating the development and operation of the proposed City of Camarillo Reclaimed Water Storage Reservoir Project. If approved by the City of Camarillo, project implementation will involve the construction and operation of a new 1.0 million-gallon reclaimed water storage tank (also known as recycled water) and relocating the existing pump station with controls at the Camarillo Sanitary District Water Reclamation Plant in Camarillo, California.

Potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the development and operation of the proposed project have been assessed in an Initial Study (attached to this Mitigated Negative Declaration). This Mitigated Negative Declaration and the attached Initial Study have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 as amended, the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (State CEQA Guidelines), and the City of Camarillo CEQA Environmental Guidelines.

Section 15070 of the State CEQA Guidelines indicates that a proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

- a. The Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, or
- b. The Initial Study identified potentially significant effects but:
  1. Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed Negative Declaration is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and
  2. There is no substantial evidence before the agency that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

Based on the analysis provided in the Initial Study, the proposed project has the potential to significantly impact the local environment without mitigation. However, implementation of the mitigation measures recommended in the Initial Study would reduce all potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels. Therefore, in accordance with CEQA, this Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared.

Section 15071 of the State CEQA Guidelines indicates that a Negative Declaration circulated for public review shall include the following:

- a. A brief description of the project, including a commonly used name for the project, if any;
- b. The location of the project, preferably shown on a map, and the name of the project proponent;
- c. A proposed finding that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment;
- d. An attached copy of the Initial Study documenting reasons to support the finding; and
- e. Mitigation measures, if any, included in the project to avoid potentially significant effects.

The Initial Study is attached to this Mitigated Negative Declaration. All other applicable items (project description, location, and proposed findings) are included within the attached Initial Study. The mitigation measures recommended to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels are also identified in the Initial Study.

# MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

*This section of the Mitigated Negative Declaration provides the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) that would be used to monitor the implementation of the mitigation measures adopted for the City of Camarillo Reclaimed Water Storage Reservoir project.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

CEQA requires the adoption of feasible mitigation measures to reduce the severity and magnitude of potentially significant environmental impacts associated with development projects. However, simply adopting these measures is not adequate under State law. Lead agencies are also required to adopt a program that will be used to ensure that the mitigation measures are, in fact, implemented. The requirements for mitigation monitoring or reporting are codified in Section 15097 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration for the City of Camarillo Reclaimed Water Storage Reservoir project identifies project-specific mitigation measures to reduce the potentially significant impacts of the project as proposed. Following adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approval of this MMRP by the City of Camarillo, the project-specific mitigation measures identified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration would be implemented and monitored as described in this MMRP.

## **LIST OF MITIGATION MEASURES**

The mitigation measures adopted for the City of Camarillo Reclaimed Water Storage Reservoir project are listed in the following table along with the action required, the timing for implementation of each measure, and the department within the City of Camarillo responsible for monitoring the mitigation measure.

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**MITIGATION MEASURES ADOPTED FOR THE CITY OF CAMARILLO RECLAIMED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT**

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing	Monitoring Responsibility
<b>Air Quality</b>			
<p>AQ-1 All developers of the new facilities at the project site shall implement fugitive dust control measures throughout all phases of construction. The City of Camarillo shall include in construction contracts the dust control measures required by VCAPCD Rule 55. Examples of the types of measures that are applicable to the project include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize the area disturbed on a daily basis by clearing, grading, earthmoving, and/or excavation operations.</li> <li>• Pre-grading/excavation activities shall include watering the area to be graded or excavated before the commencement of grading or excavation operations. Application of water should penetrate sufficiently to minimize fugitive dust during these activities.</li> <li>• Trucks shall be required to cover their loads as required by California Vehicle Code §23114.</li> </ul>	<p>Review of project plans and specifications to assure that the mitigation measure requirements are included.</p>	<p>Prior to construction.</p>	<p>Public Works Department</p>

**MITIGATION MEASURES ADOPTED FOR THE CITY OF CAMARILLO RECLAIMED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT**

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing	Monitoring Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 must be done as often as necessary.</li> <li>• Material stockpiles shall be enclosed, covered, stabilized, or otherwise treated, to prevent blowing fugitive dust offsite.</li> <li>• Graded and/or excavated inactive areas of the construction site shall be monitored by a City-designated monitor at least weekly for dust stabilization. Soil stabilization methods, such as water and roll-compaction, and environmentally-safe control materials, shall be periodically applied to portions of the construction site that are inactive for over four days.</li> </ul>			

**MITIGATION MEASURES ADOPTED FOR THE CITY OF CAMARILLO RECLAIMED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT**

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing	Monitoring Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 must 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 contractor shall refer to VCAPCD dust control requirements to determine when winds are excessive.</li> <li>• Personnel involved in grading operations, including contractors and subcontractors should be advised to wear respiratory protection in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health regulations.</li> </ul>			

**Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources**

<p>CR-1 The City of Camarillo shall include in construction contracts the requirement that construction activities be halted if any archaeological materials are encountered during the course of project development. In the event that cultural resources are discovered, the services of a professional archaeologist must be secured by contacting the Center for Public Archaeology – California State University Fullerton, or a member of the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA) or a SOPA-qualified archaeologist to assess the resources and evaluate the impact.</p>	<p>Review of project plans and specifications to assure that the requirements of mitigation measure CR-1 are included.</p>	<p>Prior to construction.</p>	<p>Public Works Department</p>
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**MITIGATION MEASURES ADOPTED FOR THE CITY OF CAMARILLO RECLAIMED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT**

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing	Monitoring Responsibility
<p>In the event that cultural resources are discovered, the handling will differ depending on the nature of the artifacts. However, it is understood that all artifacts with the exception of human remains and related grave goods or sacred objects belong to the property owner. All artifacts discovered at the development site must be inventoried and analyzed by the professional archaeologist.</p> <p>In the event that the archaeologist identifies resources of a prehistoric or Native American origin, a Native American observer of Chumash origin must be retained to accompany the archaeologist for the duration of the grading phase to help analyze the Native American artifacts for identification as everyday life and/or religious or sacred items, cultural affiliation, temporal placement, and function, as deemed possible. All items found in association with Native American human remains will be considered grave goods or sacred in origin and subject to special handling pursuant to State law. The remainder of the Native American artifact assemblage will be inventoried, analyzed, and prepared in a manner for reburial at the project site and/or curation, and the archaeological consultant will deliver the materials to an accredited curation facility approved by the City of Camarillo within a reasonable amount of time.</p>			

**MITIGATION MEASURES ADOPTED FOR THE CITY OF CAMARILLO RECLAIMED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT**

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing	Monitoring Responsibility
<p>Nonnative American artifacts will be inventoried, assessed, and analyzed for cultural affiliation, personal affiliation (prior ownership), function, and temporal placement. Subsequent to analysis and reporting, these artifacts will be subjected to curation or returned to the property owner, as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>A report of findings, including an itemized inventory of recovered artifacts, must be prepared upon completion of the steps outlined above. The report must include a discussion of the significance of all recovered artifacts. The report and inventory, when submitted to the City of Camarillo Department of Community Development and the UCLA Archaeological Information Center, will signify completion of the program to mitigate impacts to archaeological and/or cultural resources.</p>			
<b>Geology and Soils</b>			
<p>GS-1 The City of Camarillo shall retain the services of a professional paleontologist to conduct a paleontological monitoring program during excavations necessary to prepare the areas of impact for construction. This shall include the demolition of the existing drying beds in the area of the proposed tank; excavations for the tank, itself; and any other areas of direct or indirect impact. The paleontological monitoring program shall be designed in a manner consistent the County guidelines and approved by the City prior to the initiation of any earthmoving.</p>	<p>Review of project plans and specifications to assure that the requirements of mitigation measure GS-1 are included.</p>	<p>Prior to construction.</p>	<p>Public Works Department</p>

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INITIAL STUDY  
FOR THE  
CITY OF CAMARILLO  
RECLAIMED WATER STORAGE  
RESERVOIR (WT-14-03)

Prepared for:

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601 Carmen Drive  
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April 2021

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# INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

The subject of this Initial Study is the requested approvals to develop a new recycled or reclaimed water storage reservoir at the Camarillo Sanitary District Water Reclamation Plant in Camarillo, California. The City of Camarillo is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed project.

### Project Information

Project Title: City of Camarillo Reclaimed Water Storage Reservoir (WT-14-03)

Project Location: Camarillo Sanitary District Water Reclamation Plant, 150 East Howard Road, Camarillo, California

Lead Agency: City of Camarillo  
601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010

Contact Person: Andrew Grubb, PE, Senior Civil Engineer, City of Camarillo Dept. of Public Works, 805-388-5344

### PURPOSES OF THE INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with relevant provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (State CEQA Guidelines) as revised through January 1, 2020, and the City of Camarillo CEQA Environmental Guidelines. Section 15063(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines indicates that the purposes of an Initial Study are to:

1. Provide the Lead Agency (i.e., the City of Camarillo) with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration;
2. Enable an applicant or Lead Agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is prepared, thereby enabling the project to qualify for a Mitigated Negative Declaration;
4. Assist the preparation of an EIR, if one is required, by:
  - Focusing the EIR on the effects determined to be significant;
  - Identifying the effects determined not to be significant;

- Explaining the reasons why potentially significant effects would not be significant; and
  - Identifying whether a program EIR, tiering, or another appropriate process can be used for analysis of the project's environmental effects.
4. Facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of a project;
  5. Provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration that a project will not have a significant effect on the environment;
  6. Eliminate unnecessary EIRs; and
  7. Determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used with the project.

### **Determination that Initial Study should be conducted**

If a project is subject to the requirements of CEQA and does not meet any exemption criteria, an Initial Study is used to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environment. If the lead agency can determine that an EIR clearly will be required for a project, an Initial Study is not required but may still be made if determined to be desirable. If it is determined that an Initial Study is required for a project, all phases of project planning, implementation, and operation are considered in the environmental assessment of the project.

### **Use of the Initial Study**

The Initial Study is intended to be used to provide information as the basis for the determination of whether a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or an EIR shall be prepared for a project. The Initial Study shall also be used to identify whether a program EIR, master EIR, tiering or another appropriate process can be used for analysis of the project's environmental effects.

Determining the significance of environmental impacts is a critical and often controversial aspect of the environmental review process. It is critical because a determination of significance may require that the project be substantially altered, or that mitigation measures be readily employed to avoid the impact or reduce it below the level of significance. If the significant impact cannot be reduced or avoided, an EIR must be prepared. An EIR is a detailed statement that describes and analyzes the significant environmental impacts of a proposed project, discusses ways to reduce or avoid them, and suggests alternatives to the project, as proposed, that are capable of reducing or eliminating one or more significant impacts of the project.

Where a project is revised in response to an Initial Study, so that potential adverse effects are mitigated to a point where no significant environmental effects will occur, a Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared instead of an EIR. If the project will still result in one or more significant effects on the environment after mitigation measures are added to the project, an EIR shall be prepared.



When the Initial Study concludes that no EIR is necessary, the Initial Study also provides documentation of the factual basis for the finding that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study has been formatted for ease of use and reference. To help the reader locate information of particular interest, a brief summary of the contents of each section of the Initial Study is provided. The following sections are contained within the Initial Study:

**Introduction:** This section introduces the subject of this Initial Study.

**Project Description:** This section defines the project location, describes the physical characteristics of the project site, describes the project as proposed by the project applicant, and identifies the approvals requested of the City of Camarillo for project implementation.

**Determination:** This section identifies the determination by the City of Camarillo as to whether a Negative Declaration or an EIR shall be prepared for the proposed project.

**Evaluation of Environmental Impacts:** The Evaluation of Environmental Impacts is the primary focus of the Initial Study. An evaluation of potential environmental impacts is provided for each environmental issue identified in the City of Camarillo CEQA Environmental Guidelines.

## DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The City of Camarillo General Plan, as amended through January 2019, is applicable to development of the proposed project site and is hereby incorporated by reference. It is available for review at:

Public Service Counter  
City of Camarillo Department of Community Development  
601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010  
805-388-5300

Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am through 5:00 pm.

And online at [https://www.cityofcamarillo.org/departments/community\\_development/general\\_plan\\_test/index.php](https://www.cityofcamarillo.org/departments/community_development/general_plan_test/index.php).

Also incorporated by reference is the Post Construction Stormwater Management Plan (PCSMP #SW0031) dated 10/3/2018 and approved by the City of Camarillo Public Works Department on 10/9/2018. It is available for review at:

Public Service Counter

City of Camarillo Department of Public Works

601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010

805-388-5300

Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am through 5:00 pm.