

**North Bench Recycled Water System Project
Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal
Attachment A**

Project Description:

The Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) proposes the expansion of the recycled water system in the North Bench area of the City of Yucaipa, San Bernardino County, California. The expansion includes the construction of four recycled water reservoirs, four booster stations, and approximately 3.4 miles of pipeline. The first (westernmost) booster station (B-14.1) would be located at the YVRWFF. The second booster station (B-16.2) and first reservoir (R-16.2) would be located north of Oak Glen Road approximately 1 mile east of the YVRWFF adjacent to an existing reservoir. The third booster station (B-17.2) and second reservoir (R-17.2) would be located at the eastern end of Lan Franc Road, south of Oak Glen Road. The fourth booster station (B-18.2) and third reservoir (R-18.2) would be located south of Oak Glen Road within undisturbed land. The fourth (easternmost) reservoir (R-20.1) would be constructed south of Oak Glen Road adjacent to an existing reservoir approximately 2 miles east of the first reservoir. A new 3.4-mile pipeline would be constructed in the existing roadway along Oak Glen Road with shorter segments located within the right-of-way (ROW) along James Birch Road, Chagall Road, Martell Avenue, and Lan Franc Road to connect to the B-16.2/R-16.2 and B-17.2/R-17.2 booster station/reservoir sites. This Project will extend the system in the North Bench area of the City of Yucaipa and the unincorporated Oak Glen community to accommodate existing and planned development which will utilize recycled water on all landscaped areas. Diesel emergency backup generators will be included at each booster location. The Project would result in approximately 4.0 acres of disturbance (2.4 acres of pipeline and 1.6 acres of other facilities). It is anticipated that construction would take three years and would begin in early 2024.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect:

Biological Resources

Ground disturbing grading and construction activities may result in impacts to special-status plant and wildlife species and nesting birds and raptors. Additionally, the pipeline alignment may impact drainages. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-5 impacts would be less than significant. The proposed mitigation measures cover the following topics:

- BIO-1 – Special-Status Plant Survey
- BIO-2 – Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey
- BIO-3 – Preconstruction Burrowing Owl Surveys
- BIO-4 – Biological Monitoring
- BIO-5 – Drainage Impact Avoidance

Cultural Resources

Seven historic-period resources were identified within the Project Area, including a historic distribution line consisting of 19 historic-period wooden utility poles (NB-001), a historic-period box culvert (NB-002), an irrigation site with two historic-period concrete vaults and a spigot (NB-003), a historic-period stone and concrete curb and gutter (NB-004), and three historic-period roads (NB-005, -006, and -007). Only one resource, NB-004, was evaluated as eligible under the NRHP/CRHR under criteria A/1 and C/3, and

therefore should be considered a Historical Resource under CEQA and Historic Property under Section 106 NHPA. Because removal or damage of the stone curb and gutter would affect the aspects of integrity that currently convey the significance of NB-004, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 has been provided to avoid impacts to this resource.

Due to the presence of alluvium along Oak Glen Creek, and given the likelihood of pre-contact archaeological sites located along perennial waterways, the potential exists for buried pre-contact archaeological sites in the Project Area. Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of Mitigation Measure CUL-2. Mitigation Measure CUL-2 would require a qualified professional archaeologist to evaluate subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin if discovered during construction. The qualified professional archaeologist shall have the authority to evaluate the significance of the find and modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgement.

Geology and Soils

Due to the presence of Pleistocene aged deposits in part of the Project Area, any fossil specimens recovered would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with the construction of the Project could impact the paleontologically sensitive Pleistocene units. Impacts would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1. Mitigation Measure GEO-1 would require the contractor to notify YVWD and cease excavation within 100 feet of any paleontological resource discovered during excavation activities until a qualified paleontological professional can evaluate the find and recommend appropriate measures for the disposition of the resource.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Implementation of the Proposed Project would require construction to occur within the public right-of-way of Oak Glen Road, a road identified as a local and regional evacuation route. Construction activities may temporarily restrict vehicular traffic. Impacts to an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation route would be less than significant with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 which requires a Traffic Control Plan.

Noise

Construction noise associated with the Proposed Project would be temporary and would vary depending on the nature of the activities being performed (e.g., land clearing, grading, excavation, building construction, paving). During construction, exterior noise levels could negatively affect sensitive land uses in the vicinity of the construction site. Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would reduce impacts to less than significant. Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would be applied during pipeline installation activities and would require measures such as properly equipping all construction equipment with mufflers, placing all stationary and portable stationary equipment so emitted noise is directed away from noise sensitive receptors, and shutting off all equipment when not in use.

Tribal Cultural Resources

While there are no known Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) in the Project footprint, ground-disturbing activities have the potential to result in the discovery of, or inadvertent damage to, archaeological contexts and human remains, and this possibility cannot be eliminated. Consequently, there is a potential for significant impacts on TCRs. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-2 and Mitigation Measures

TCR-1 and TCR-2 would reduce the potential impacts to less than significant. Mitigation Measure TCR-1 would require contacting The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN) for any pre-contact and/or post-contact cultural resources discovered during project implementation. YSMN may elect to place a monitor onsite. Mitigation Measure TCR-2 would require any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the Project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) be supplied to the YVWD for dissemination to YSMN.