Recycled Water Distribution System Expansion Project – Pressure Zones 10 to 11
Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal
Attachment A

Project Description:

The Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) proposes the expansion of the recycled water system to serve the approved the Mesa Verde Specific Plan Area and Summerwind Ranch at Oak Valley Specific Plan Area of the City of Calimesa, Riverside County, California (Project). The Project includes the construction of a 5.5-million-gallon recycled water reservoir, a booster station, and approximately 0.35 mile of 24-inch recycled water pipeline to connect to the water system within the Specific Plan areas. Approximately 234 linear feet of pipeline would connect to the water system in the approved Mesa Verde Estates Specific Plan area and approximately 1,600 linear feet of pipeline in Condit Avenue and Sharon Way would connect to the existing recycled water system in Singleton Road.

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

Marginally suitable nesting and foraging habitat for one California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Fully Protected bird species, white-tailed kite and two CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC) bird species, burrowing owl and loggerhead shrike, is present within the Project Areas. The species are not likely to occur due to the lack of high-quality habitat within the impact area, the site's long history of anthropogenic disturbances, and the presence of urban development immediately adjacent to the Project Area. If present, these species and their nests could be subject to direct impacts through ground disturbance and indirect impacts from construction noise, vibrations, and increased human activity related to the development of the Project Area. Impacts to white-tailed kite, burrowing owl, and loggerhead shrike could be considered significant under CEQA; however, implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-3 would reduce impacts to a level that is less than significant.

Large shrubs and trees and some of the grassland habitat within the Project Area could provide nesting habitat for nesting birds and raptors protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code. If construction of the Proposed Project occurs during the bird breeding season (typically February 1 through August 31), ground-disturbing construction activities could directly affect nesting birds and other birds protected by the MBTA and their nests through the removal of habitat within the Project Area, and indirectly through increased noise, vibrations, and increased human activity. Impacts to nesting birds would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and BIO-3.

Two aquatic features were identified adjacent to the Project components, including an unnamed drainage located approximately 200 feet south of the proposed pipeline for the new B-10.3 Recycled Water Booster and another unnamed drainage located approximately 100 feet to the north of the northern edge of the property boundary for the proposed R-11.4 Water Reservoir. Although a formal delineation was not performed, the reconnaissance survey confirmed that these two features could be considered aquatic resources jurisdictional to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), CDFW, and RWQCB. Impacts to drainages would be less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-4, which involves drainage impact avoidance.

The proposed mitigation measures for biological resources include the following:

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

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would require a qualified biologist to conduct two preconstruction burrowing owl surveys prior to Project-related ground disturbance – one survey conducted between 30 to 14 days prior to initial ground disturbance and the second survey conducted within 24 hours of initial ground disturbance. If burrowing owls or active burrows are identified during the survey, the features must be avoided during owl breeding season and if unavoidable, then an owl mitigation plan must be developed. The biologist shall establish a disturbance-limit buffer around the active burrow if construction is to proceed. Construction activities shall not occur within any buffer zones until the burrow is deemed inactive by the qualified biologist through a minimum of weekly biological monitoring.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 would require a qualified biologist to conduct a preconstruction nesting bird survey no more than three days prior to initial ground disturbance if construction or other Project activities are scheduled to occur during the bird breeding season. If an active nest is identified, a qualified avian biologist shall establish an appropriate disturbance-limit buffer around the nest. Construction activities shall not occur within any disturbance-limit buffer zones until the nest is deemed inactive by the qualified avian biologist through a minimum of weekly biological monitoring.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 would require a qualified biologist shall be present to monitor all initial ground-disturbing and vegetation clearing performed within areas that contain suitable habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species. Biological monitoring shall take place until the Project Area has been completely cleared of any vegetation. If an active nest is identified, the biological monitor shall establish an appropriate disturbance limit buffer around the nest.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would require avoidance of the two aquatic drainage features through Project design or construction methods. Should avoidance not be possible and impacts to the drainage be necessary, a formal Aquatic Resources Delineation (ARD) shall be conducted to determine if it is subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW or USACE.

Cultural Resources

Within the northwest Project Area, the potential for subsurface archaeological deposits is considered low due to the presence of older Pleistocene sediments. Within the southeastern Project Area, the potential for subsurface deposits is considered moderate due to the presence of Holocene alluvial sediments. There always remains the potential for ground-disturbing activities to expose previously unrecorded cultural resources. Both CEQA and Section 106 of the NHPA require the lead agency to address any unanticipated cultural resource discoveries during Project construction. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 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 development of the Project Area would 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 the find until a qualified paleontological professional can provide an evaluation of the find and recommend appropriate measures for the disposition of the resource (e.g., fossil recovery, curation, data recovery, and/or monitoring).

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Implementation of the Proposed Project would require construction to occur within the public ROW of West County Line and Singleton Road, roads identified as an 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. The Traffic Control Plan would ensure emergency vehicle access to residences and businesses in the area, maintenance of traffic flow, and maintenance of access to evacuation routes.

Noise

Construction at both of the Project Areas would include excavation, site preparation, grading, building construction, pipeline installation, and paving. The anticipated short-term construction noise levels generated for both the B-10.3 Recycled Water Booster component and associated pipeline with the nearest sensitive receptors 327 feet distant and the R-11.4 Water Reservoir component and associated pipeline with the nearest sensitive receptors 62 feet distant were calculated using the Roadway Noise Construction Model. The threshold of 75 dBA L_{eq} would be exceeded at the nearest sensitive receptors to the R-11.4 Water Reservoir and associated pipeline component construction site. Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would substantially reduce construction-generated noise levels. Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would require measures such as equipping all construction equipment with mufflers, placing all stationary equipment so emitted noise is directed away from sensitive receptors, shutting off equipment when not in use, and using temporary noise barriers.

Tribal Cultural Resources

While there are no known TCRs in the Project footprint, the Project is within Serrano ancestral territory. 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 buried TCRs. Implementation of 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 part of the Project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) be supplies to the YVWD for dissemination to YSMN.