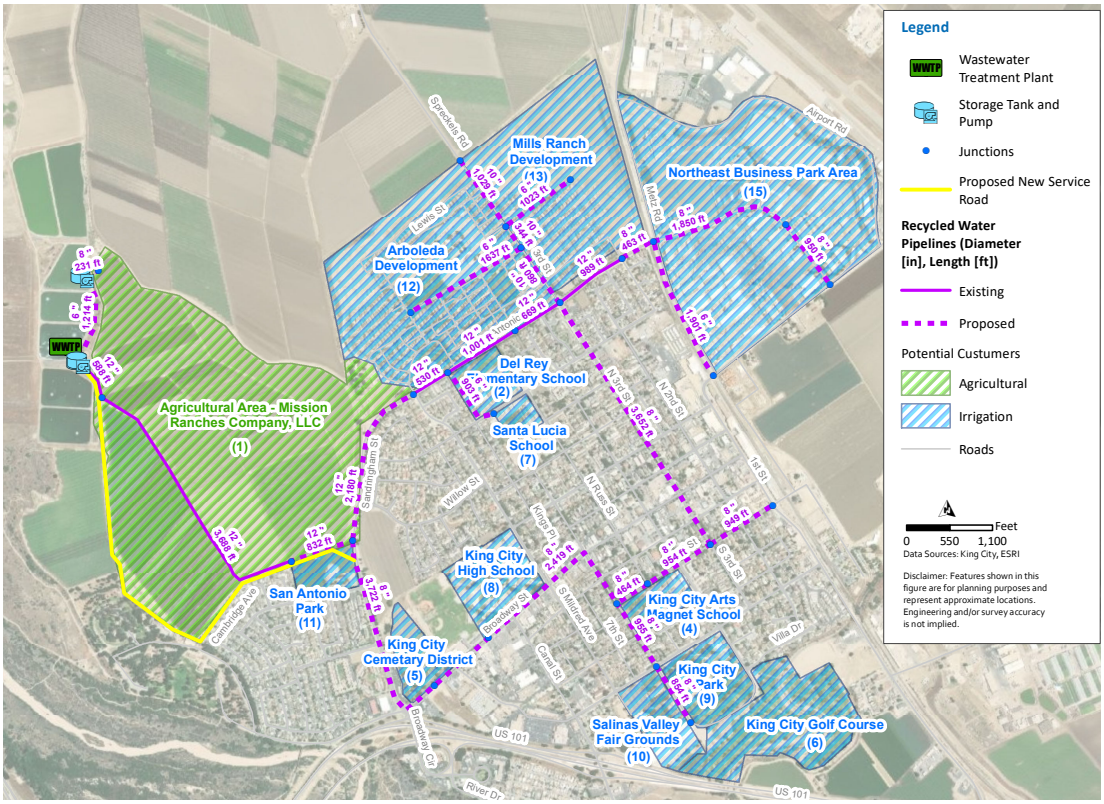
King City

Wastewater Treatment Plant and Recycled Water Project



Public Draft

Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

Prepared by:

SMB ENVIRONMENTAL

SMB Environmental, Inc.

March 2023

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List of Abbreviations

AACE	Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering
AAF	average annual flow
AB 3030	Groundwater Management Act
AB 3030	Groundwater Management Act
ADMMF	average daily maximum month flow
ADWF	average dry weather flow
AF	Acre-feet
AFY	acre-feet per year
AMBAG	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Anti-degradation Policy	State Resolution 68-16
aSAR	adjusted Sodium Adsorption Rate
Basin	Salinas River Groundwater Basin
Basin Plan	2017 Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin
bgs	below ground surface
BOD	biochemical oxygen demand
BPTC	best practicable treatment or control
CAG 45	ConAgra 45
Cal Water	California Water Service
CAS	Conventional activated
CASGEM	California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring
CCR	Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCRWQCB	Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CEC	contaminant of emerging concern
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CIMIS	California Irrigation Management Information System
City	City of King City
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CSD	Community Services District
CSMP	Collection System Master Plan

CSWRCB	California State Water Resources Control Board
CT	chlorine contact time
CUP	conditional use permit
CWAP	California Water Action Plan
CWC	California Water Code
DAFT	dissolved air flotation thickener
DBP	disinfection byproducts
DDW	Division of Drinking Water
DIF	development impact fees
DWP	Drinking Water Program
e	pump efficiency
Ec_w	Electrical Conductance
ENRCCI	Engineering News Record Construction Code Index
ERBP-SP	East Ranch Business Park Specific Plan
ET	evapotranspiration
ET_o	Reference evapotranspiration
ET_c	crop evapotranspiration
eWRIMS	Electronic Water Rights Information Management System
FYE	fiscal year end
GIS	geographical information system
GO	general obligation
gpd/ac	gallons per day per acre
gpm	gallons per minute
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plans
GWMP	Groundwater Management Plan
HOA	Home Owners Association
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
K_C	Agricultural crop coefficient
kWh	kilowatt hour
LF	linear foot
MBR	membrane bioreactor
MCC	medical cannabis cultivation

MCL	maximum contamination limit
MCL	maximum contaminant level
MCWRA	Monterey County Water Resources Agency
MDF	maximum daily flow
MG	million gallons
mgd	million gallons per day
MLE	Modified Ludzack-Ettinger
MST	Monterey-Salinas Transit
NE BP	Northeast Business Park
NL	notification level
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRC	National Research Council
NWRI	National Water Research Institute
O&M	Operations and maintenance
paygo	pay-as-you-go
PHF	peak hour flow
PHG	public health goal
PVC	polyvinyl chloride
RW Policy	Recycled Water Policy
RWFS	Study
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB X7-7	Water Conservation Act of 2009
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SNMP	Salt and Nutrient Management
SRF	State Revolving Fund
SVBGSA	Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
SWQCB	State Water Quality Control Board
TDS	total dissolved solids
TDS	total dissolved solids
Title 22	CCR Title 22, Division4, Chapter 3 of the California Administrative Code

Title XVI	Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act of 1992
TOrC	trace organic constituents
TSS	total suspended solids
US EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
US EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
UV	ultraviolet light
UVT	UV transmittance
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirements
WWTFP	Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

Chapter 1 Introduction

This document is an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) that addresses the potential environmental impacts of the City of King's (City) proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project (Project or Proposed Project)[1]. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to comply with new Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast RWQCB) permit effluent requirements with additional treatment plant processes than currently exist, prepare for planned growth, offset existing and future potable water demands and help maintain a sustainable groundwater supply. The City has identified three beneficial uses for recycled water within the City planning area. These include:

- Landscape Irrigation
- Agricultural Irrigation
- Commercial Use

This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City is the lead agency under CEQA. In addition, the City is seeking grant funds from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program that is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). The SRF Program is partially funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and is subject to federal environmental regulations, including the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the General Conformity Rule for the Clean Air Act (CAA), among others. Federal agencies have their own policies on how they comply with federal environmental laws. Instead of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), USEPA has chosen to use CEQA as the compliance base for California's SRF Loan Program, in addition to compliance with ESA, NHPA, and CAA. Collectively, the State Board calls these requirements CEQA-Plus. As a result, this document has been prepared to meet the CEQA-Plus requirements.

1.1 Project Location and Background

As shown in Figure 1, the City is located in the Salinas Valley of Monterey County, California along the Salinas River and serves a population of 13,443 (2022). The City currently covers 3.9 square miles and is surrounded mostly by agricultural land. The City has a moderate climate with hot, dry summers, and cool, wet winters. Precipitation is almost entirely rain, with most of it falling during the six-month period from November to April. The elevation of the City is approximately 330-feet above sea level in the downtown area and approximately 290-feet above sea level at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)[2]. The major transportation route in the area is State Highway 101. The Union Pacific Railroad also serves the area. The City also has an airport, the Mesa Del Rey Airport.

[1] The City originally circulated this IS/MND through the State Clearinghouse on April 19, 2021 (SCH#: SCH No. 20210250084) and it was then recirculated on July 13, 2022 to address agency comments through the 30-day review process which identified additional Project impacts and necessary mitigation measures that were not addressed in the April 2021 document. Since then, the City has expanded the Proposed Project to include additional recycled water pipeline facilities throughout the City and is recirculating this CEQA document again.
[2] Source: Google earth elevation mapping

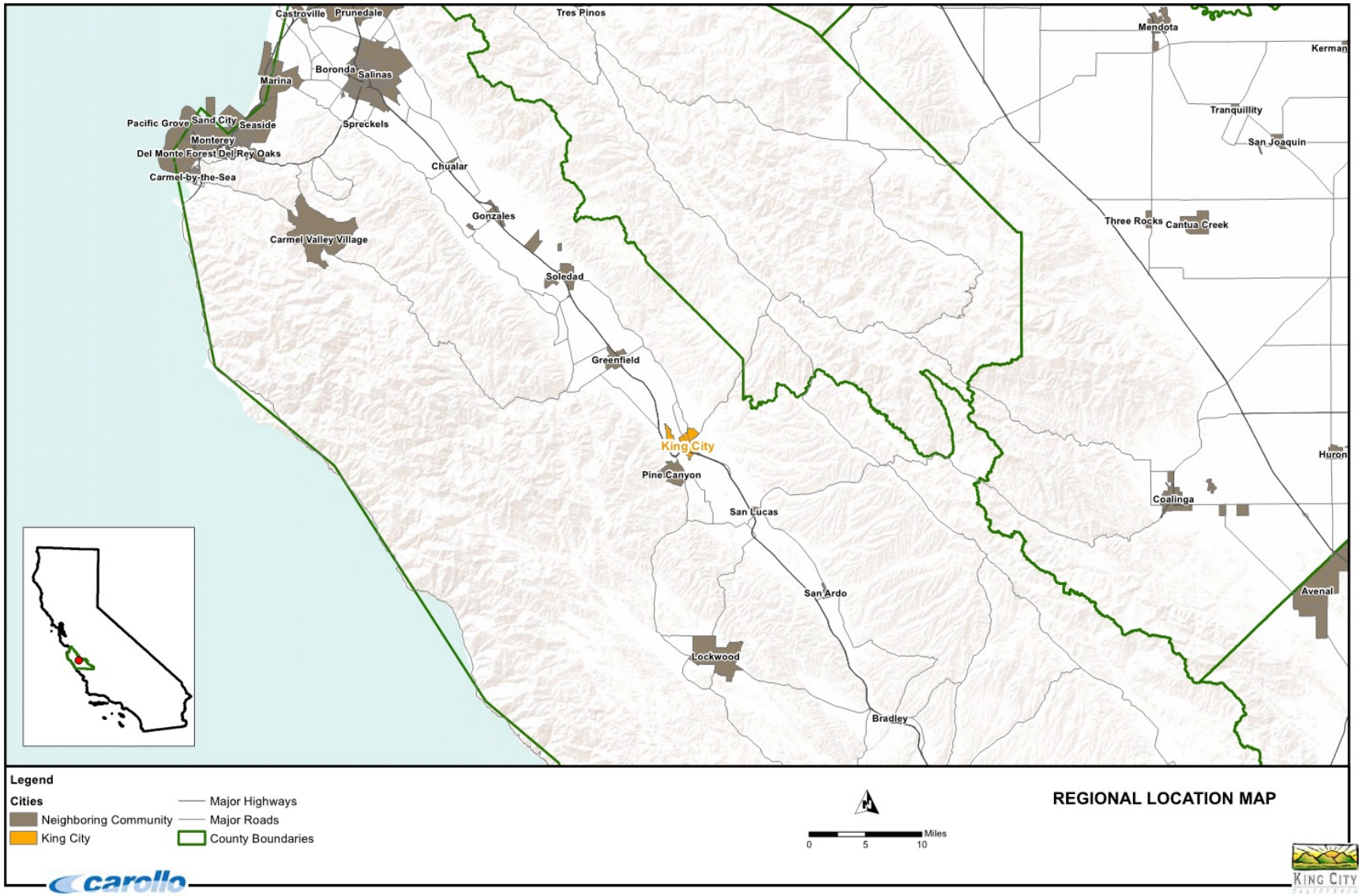

Figure 1
General Location Map

1.1.1 Project Background

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) is the agency responsible under State law for management of water resources within the Salinas Valley. Cal Water is the main water provider for the City. However, the City does have a few production wells. California Water Service Company (Cal Water) sources the water from local groundwater wells. As stated above, the City owns and operates the wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities that serve the City's population. The City's WWTP is located along the Salinas River and consists of some treatment ponds and a headworks facility. Figure 2 provides an overview of the City's WWTP location. The City has two existing 12-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) recycled water pipeline sections installed, but currently has no recycled water treatment facilities or operating distribution system. These existing lines are also shown on Figure 2.

The WWTP was constructed in 1970 and underwent capacity expansions in 1982, 1991, and 2010. The facility consists of a domestic treatment and disposal system as well as an industrial disposal-only system. The facility is located along the east bank of the Salinas River on Cemetery Road, King City, California 93930. The domestic treatment facility has a design average daily maximum month flow (ADMMF) of 1.2 mgd.

An overview of the existing treatment facilities site plan is provided in Figure 3. The WWTP's treatment process treats domestic wastewater and consists of a headworks, five primary aerated/facultative ponds, two secondary polishing ponds, and six domestic spray irrigation fields for disposal of treated effluent.

The WWTP currently treats municipal wastewater from the City to meet treatment standards and discharge requirements established by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB). These requirements are outlined in the City's Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) (Order No. 91-05, which was last renewed in 1991). The WDR discharge specifications allow an average day mean monthly flow (ADMMF) of 1.2 mgd to the domestic sprayfields. The domestic wastewater includes all residential, commercial, and industrial wastewater that is generated within the City limits, with the exception of the CAG 45 industrial facility. CAG 45 was historically an agricultural processing facility that discharged to separate industrial sprayfields located adjacent to the domestic sprayfields, but currently only discharges small amounts of distilled water if anything at al. Industrial wastewater effluent was historically pretreated at the CAG 45 facility via a DAFT prior to entering an industrial sewer for disposal on the industrial sprayfields at the WWTP.

The City monitors industrial wastewater discharge from CAG 45 under a separate WDR (Order No. 91-84). Currently, CAG 45 is a cogeneration facility with no plans to return to agricultural processing. Should CAG 45 return to agricultural or industrial processes in the future, pretreatment of the effluent would be required before accepting it into the existing domestic WWTP.

Although the WWTP is permitted to treat and dispose of an ADMMF of 1.2 mgd, the maximum historical ADMMF from 2008 to 2016 was 0.98 mgd.

The historical average daily flows measured at the WWTP are reported in the WWTP's monthly monitoring reports as both influent and effluent flow. From January 2008 through October 2016, the data was plotted separately for non-drought years and drought years. As expected, the non-drought years generally indicated a higher average annual flow (AAF) than in the drought years which was likely due to water conservation

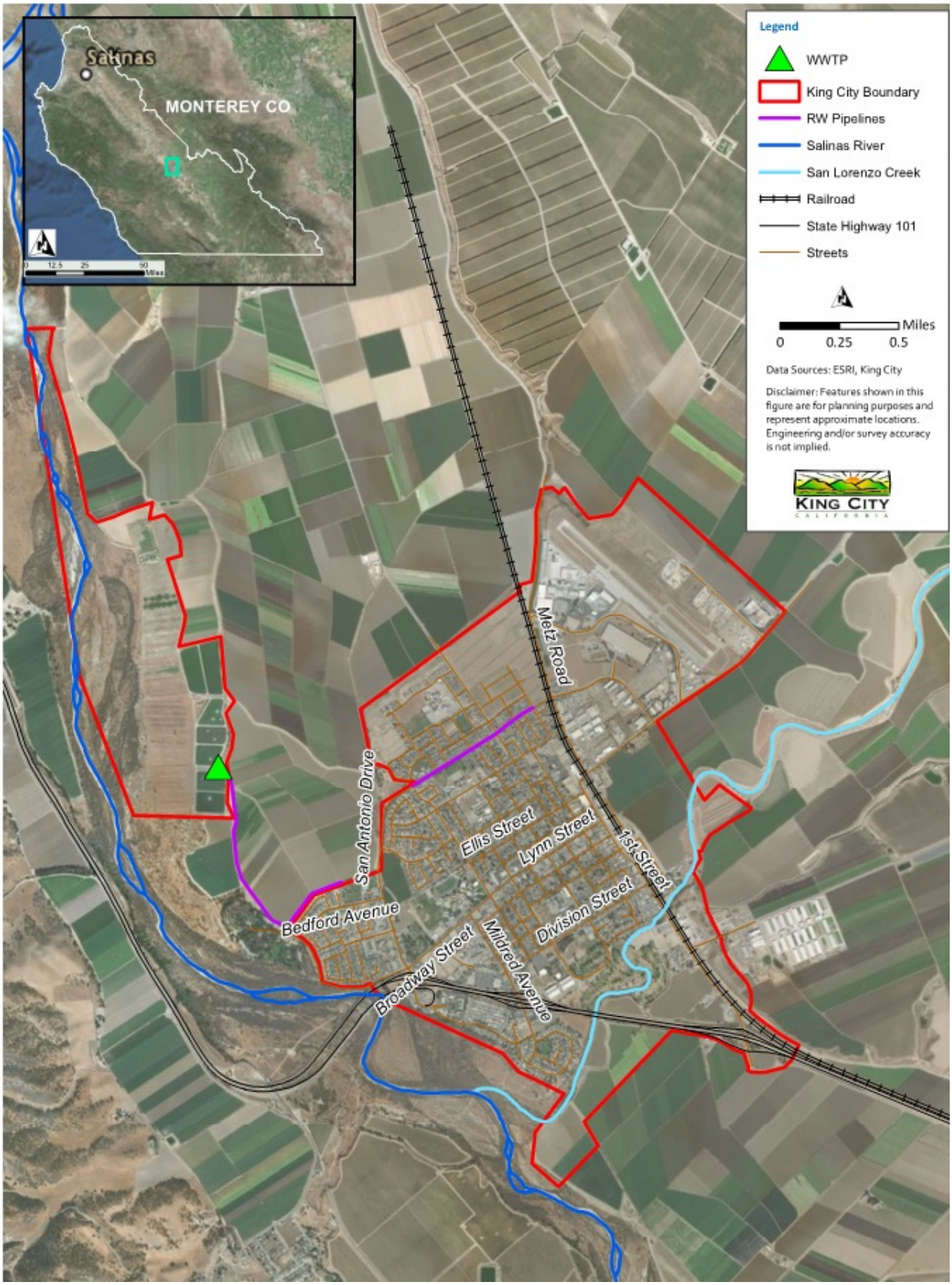

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Figure 2
King City General Vicinity Map

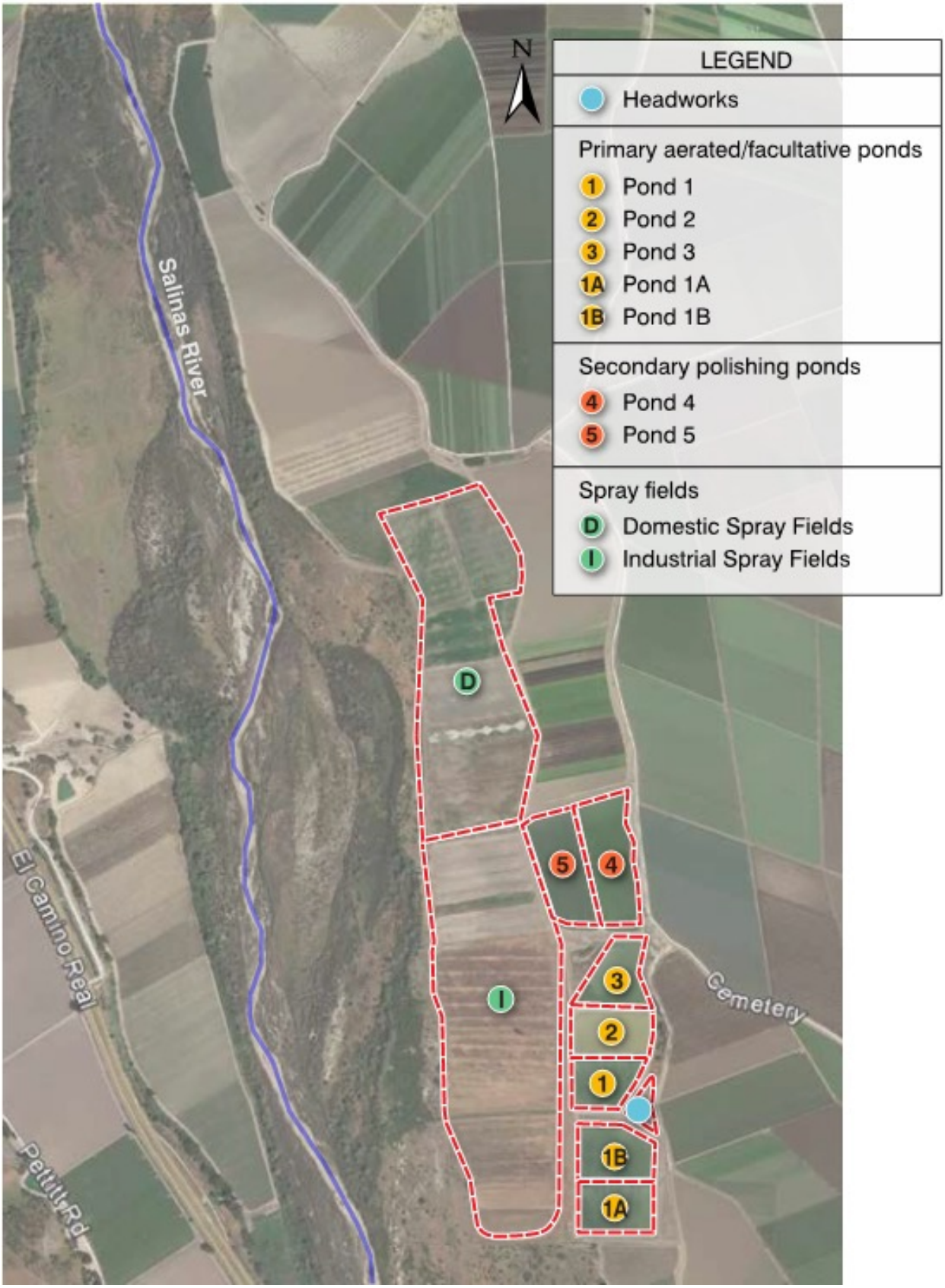

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Figure 3
King City WWTP Site Layout

efforts. Also, the non-drought years generally experienced an increase in flow and loads during the dry weather months (March to October) compared to the wet weather months likely due to the increased farmworker population residing in the community only during agriculturally-intensive months. In comparison, during the drought years the dry weather months had less of an increase compared to the wet weather months. Flow in 2014 was relatively constant, and flow in 2015 was the lowest over the range of historical data, again likely due to water conservation efforts.

From January 2008 through December 2011, non-drought ADMMF was approximated by calculating a 90th percentile flow of 0.94 mgd. Non-drought AAF over this time span is 0.86 mgd. From January 2012 through October 2016, drought ADMMF was approximated by calculating a 90th percentile flow of 0.91 mgd. Drought AAF over this time span is 0.85 mgd. Table 3.2 presents historical flows from 2008 to 2016.

1.2 Need for the Proposed Project

Some of the main drivers for the City to implement an updated secondary wastewater treatment plant project is complying with the new Central Coast RWQCB General Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2020-0020 for discharges from domestic wastewater systems with flows greater than 100,000 gallons per day (General Permit), and meeting anticipated planned growth in the City. And some of the main drivers for the City to implement a recycled water program include water reliability and diversity, drought planning, maintaining a sustainable groundwater supply, and aiding the State in achieving urban water use reduction goals.

The General Permit was approved by the SWRCB in 2020 and it has been determined that the City of King does fall under this new General Permit and its requirements, which includes effluent limits, monitoring, reporting, and much more. To meet the effluent limits contained in the General Permit, the wastewater treatment facilities need to be upgraded to more dependable and reliable treatment processes.

Meeting planned and approved growth in the City is based on the City's General Plan and ongoing Land Use and Housing Element Updates as well as the 2017 Wastewater Treatment Facilities Master Plan.

Currently, the City's water supplies are all sourced from the Salinas River Groundwater Basin (Basin). As stated above, Cal Water provides water to the city. Relying upon a single source of water leaves the City vulnerable in the event of drought, groundwater contamination, or some other event that could compromise the groundwater supply. A recycled water system would diversify the City's water supply by providing an additional, reliable source of water.

Diversifying the City's water supply would also help reduce strain upon the Basin. In September 2014, then-California Governor, Jerry Brown, signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), a three-bill legislative package providing the framework for sustainable groundwater management. SGMA requires governments and water agencies of high and medium priority basins to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. According to the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring's (CASGEM) 2014 Final Basin Prioritization results which take into account factors such as population, irrigated acreage, and the number of wells in a basin, the Basin is of high priority. High priority basins are required to adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or submit an alternative. Therefore, utilizing recycled water for appropriate uses currently served with groundwater supplies could be included in a GSP as it would help alleviate stresses on the Basin and contribute to a sustainable management of supplies.

In addition to helping meet Basin goals, a recycled water system would contribute to meeting state water reduction goals., The state set a 2030 target for recycling 800,000 acre-feet of water by 2030 – an 8% increase from the amount recycled in 2020.Implementing a recycled water program in the City would contribute to the targeted reductions by utilizing recycled water for appropriate uses currently served by potable water, as well as newly planned and approved uses in the City.

1.3 Goal and Objectives

The goals and objectives and purpose of the Proposed Project are to:

- Upgrade the City's existing WWTP to meet existing and more stringent permit requirements to stricter discharge/effluent limits (i.e., updates to the City's Waste Discharge Requirements [WDR] by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board [Central Coast Regional Board]);
- Increase plant capacity required to accommodate planned and approved growth in the City;
- Replace/rehabilitate aging infrastructure to ensure reliability;
- Construct a new tertiary treatment/recycled water treatment plant to produce and distribute recycled water meeting Title 22 unrestricted reuse requirements, thereby adding recycled water to the City water resources portfolio and offsetting potable water use.

1.4 Document Organization and Review Process

This IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA-Plus requirements and is to provide a preliminary environmental investigation of the Proposed Project to determine if it may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. This document is organized into the following chapters:

- Chapter 1, Introduction. Chapter 1 describes the location, background, goals and objectives of the Proposed Project, and document organization, content and review process.
- Chapter 2, Project Description and Alternatives. Chapter 2 describes the major components of the Proposed Project and describes the No Project Alternative.
- Chapter 3, CEQA Initial Study Checklist. Chapter 3 discusses the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Project. Each resource section of the checklist is followed by a discussion of each potential impact listed in that section. It also presents corresponding mitigation measures proposed as part of the Proposed Project, to avoid or reduce impacts to a less than significant level. This checklist has been modified to include additional topics to meet the requirements of NEPA for the State Board's CEQA-Plus requirements.
- Chapter 4, Determination. Chapter 4 provides the proposed result of this Initial Study.
- Chapter 5, Bibliography. Chapter 5 provides a list of reference materials and persons consulted during the preparation of the Initial Study.

This document will be available for a 30-day public review period, during which written comments may be submitted to the following address:

Doreen Liberto, AICP, Community Development Director
City of King

City Hall, 212 South Vanderhurst Avenue
King City, CA 93930

Email: dliberto@kingcity.com
Phone: 831-385-3281

Responses to written comments received by the end of the 30-day public review period will be prepared and included in the final IS/MND document to be considered by the City and/or the State Board prior to taking any discretionary action/decision on the Proposed Project.

Chapter 2 Proposed Project Description and Alternatives

This chapter provides a detailed description of Proposed Project including a discussion of the construction considerations, compliance with CCR Title 22 and State Board Requirements, operational plans, and potential approvals and permits that may be necessary. In addition, this section also describes the No Project Alternative.

2.1 Proposed Project Description

The Proposed Project is to replace the City's existing WWTP headworks/ponds treatment system and construct a 2.0 mgd maximum month secondary wastewater treatment plant that meets regulatory requirements and planned area growth, as well as construct a 1.8 mgd average day tertiary recycled water treatment plant and approximately 5.3-mile pipeline distribution system that will help offset approximately 1,000 acre-feet per year of potable and agricultural water use in the community. A new access road to the WWTP will also be designed as the existing access road is currently in a farmer's field and has limited to no access to the plant during winter months and flooding events. Both the secondary and tertiary treatment plants would be located within the existing treatment plant boundary. The tertiary recycled water treatment and distribution system is planned to serve agricultural and landscape irrigation users, as well as commercial/process uses. This project includes the facilities as defined below. Figure 4 provides an overview of the Proposed Project, including the proposed recycled water pipelines. Figure 5 provides an overview and close-up of the specific proposed improvements to the WWTP.

Seasonal land disposal (i.e., spray fields and/or percolation ponds) would continue to be used when recycled water demand is low or does not exist. A recycled water storage tank would be used to store the recycled water for municipal and industrial users, while a large, lined storage pond would be used for the agricultural user(s). Use of recycled water would incorporate the regulatory landscape, including recent State policies regarding the drought, the State Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and salt and nutrient management planning.

Table 1 below details the following new facilities and processes/facilities are planned for the Proposed Project.

Table 1
Proposed Project Parameters

Item/Description	Number of Units	Size/Footprint
New WWTP access road	1	6,600 ft long
Septage Receiving Station	1	1,200 sf
Administration Building	1	4,200 sf, one story
Maintenance Building	1	5,000 sf, up to two story
Electrical Building	2	800 SF, each
Headworks (screening, pumping, grit removal, sampling, flow metering)	1	3,000 sf
Odor Control	1	350 sf
Oxidation Ditch	2	18,000 sf, each
Secondary Clarifier	2	75' diam, each
RAS/WAS Pump Station	1	1,000 sf

Table 1 Proposed Project Parameters		
Item/Description	**Number of Units**	**Size/Footprint**
Tertiary Influent PS	1	900 sf
Cloth Disk Filters	2 (# of trains)	1,600 sf
UV Disinfection	2+1 (# of trains)	3,500 sf
Tertiary Effluent PS	1	900 sf
Chemical Facility	1	2,400 sf
Tertiary Recycled Water Storage Tank	1	125 ft diameter, 40 ft Height
Effluent Irrigation Pump Station	1	400 sf
Dewatering structure (screw press, polymer feed, conveyor, cake bin)	1	5,400 sf
Aerated Sludge Holding Tank	1	3,000 sf
Recycled Water Distribution pipelines	27,937	Lineal feet (see Tables 2 and 3 for further information)
Recycled Water Storage Pond	1	5.5 acres
Peak Flow Equalization Pond	1	1 acre
Domestic Spray Field Area	1	75 acres
Percolation Ponds	5	40 acres
Industrial Spray Field Area	1	65 acres
Potable water well	1	N/A

2.1.1 Recycled Water Customers

Planned customers are shown in Table 2. The agricultural site, Site #1, has a total of over 400 acres. It is planned to maximize the use of recycled water with the municipal and industrial users for landscape irrigation and commercial/process uses first, and then provide the agricultural user(s) recycled water. Therefore, the agricultural acreage used in the summary table is approximately 1/3 of the total acreage.

Table 2 Recycled Water Customers					
Site No. (1)	**Site Name/Description**	**Type of Use**	**Irrigable acreage (acres)**	**Avg Day Demand (gpd)**	**Average Annual Demand (AFY)**
1	Mission Ranches Farm (2)	Agricultural	143.0	507,200	570
2	Del Ray Elementary School	Landscape	3.7	7,200	8
4	King City Arts Magnet School	Landscape	2.7	5,300	6
5	King City Cemetery District	Landscape	7.8	15,300	17
6	King City Golf Course	Landscape	45.9	133,800	150
7	Santa Lucia School	Landscape	2.7	5,300	6
8	King City High School	Landscape	15.3	30,000	34
9	King City Park	Landscape	6.1	12,000	13
10	Salinas Valley Fairgrounds	Landscape	7.4	14,500	16
11	San Antonio Park	Landscape	7.8	15,300	17
12	Arboleda/Creekbridge Development (including Linear Park, 2 parks, parking strips, middle school)	Landscape	26.1	51,200	57

Table 2 Recycled Water Customers					
Site No. (1)	**Site Name/Description**	**Type of Use**	**Irrigable acreage (acres)**	**Avg Day Demand (gpd)**	**Average Annual Demand (AFY)**
13	Mills Ranch Development (including Linear Park, 2 parks (future), median and parking strips)	Landscape	13.5	26,500	30
15	King City Business Park/NE Industrial Area (estimated from City)	Landscape	12.0	23,625	26.5
	SUBTOTAL - Agriculture		143.0		570
	SUBTOTAL – Landscape		151.0	-	380.50
	TOTAL		**294**	-	**950.5**

Notes:
(1) Numbering based on 2019 Recycled Water Feasibility Study. Areas 3 and 14 have since been removed from the Proposed Project.
(2) Assumed 35% of agricultural area

Table 3 Recycled Water Distribution Pipelines		
Street Name/Location	**Diameter (Inches)**	**Length (Linear Feet)**
Along 3rd Street between San Antonio Drive and Pearl Street	8	3,652
Along Spreckles Road between San Antonio Drive and northwest of Lewis Street	10	2,233
Along Pearl Street from San Lorenzo Street to Jayne Street	8	2,367
Along San Antonio Drive from Livingston Ave/Beech Street to Bitterwater Road	8	3,263
Along Broadway Street from San Antonio Drive to San Lorenzo Street	8	3,058
Along San Antonio Drive from San Antonio Park, south to Broadway Street	8	2,308
Along San Lorenzo Street from Broadway Street to King City Golf Course	8	2,580
Along San Antonio Drive, between San Antonio Park, north to Mildred Avenue	12	2,180
Calcagno Street between Walker Avenue and Spreckles Road	6	1,637
Northwest of Spreckles Road and parallel to the north of Divina Way	6	1,023
Along Metz Road between San Antonio Drive and Bitterwater Road	6	1,901
Near Del Rey Elementary School	6	903
Near San Antonio Park	12	832
	Total	**27,937**

2.2 Construction Considerations

Construction activities for the Proposed Project would begin in the spring/summer of 2024 and continue into the spring/summer of 2026 (i.e., Approximately 6 months of heavy activity and 24 months overall) and would include grading activities. Construction work in the downtown area will typically be done within normal working hours, weekdays between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., and possibly on Saturdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Due to no sensitive receptors, construction at the WWTP can be done seven days a week from the hours of 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Some large concrete pours and coating work may require night time work as needed and will require prior written permission/authorization from the Public Works Director.

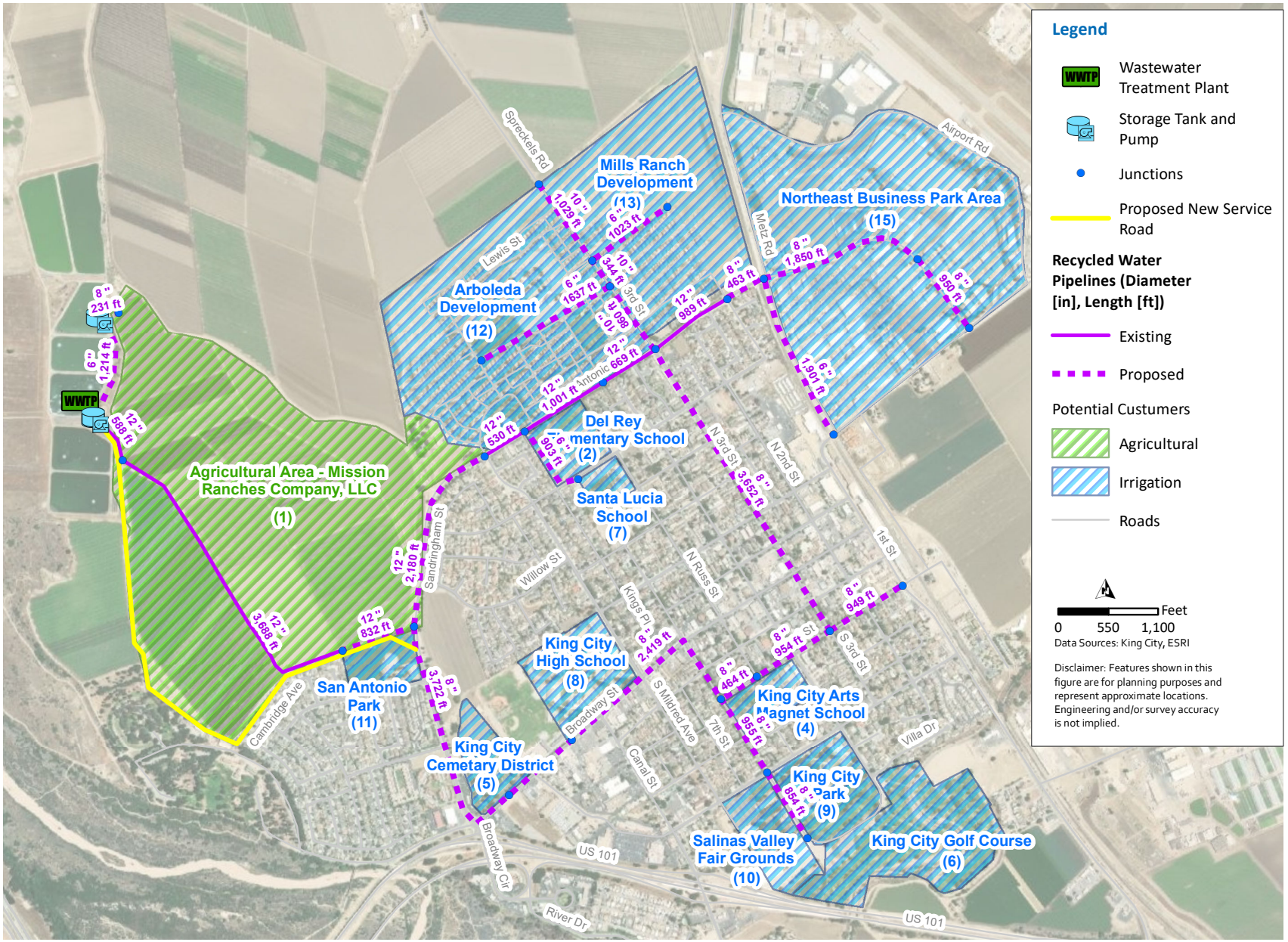

Figure 4
Overview of Proposed Project

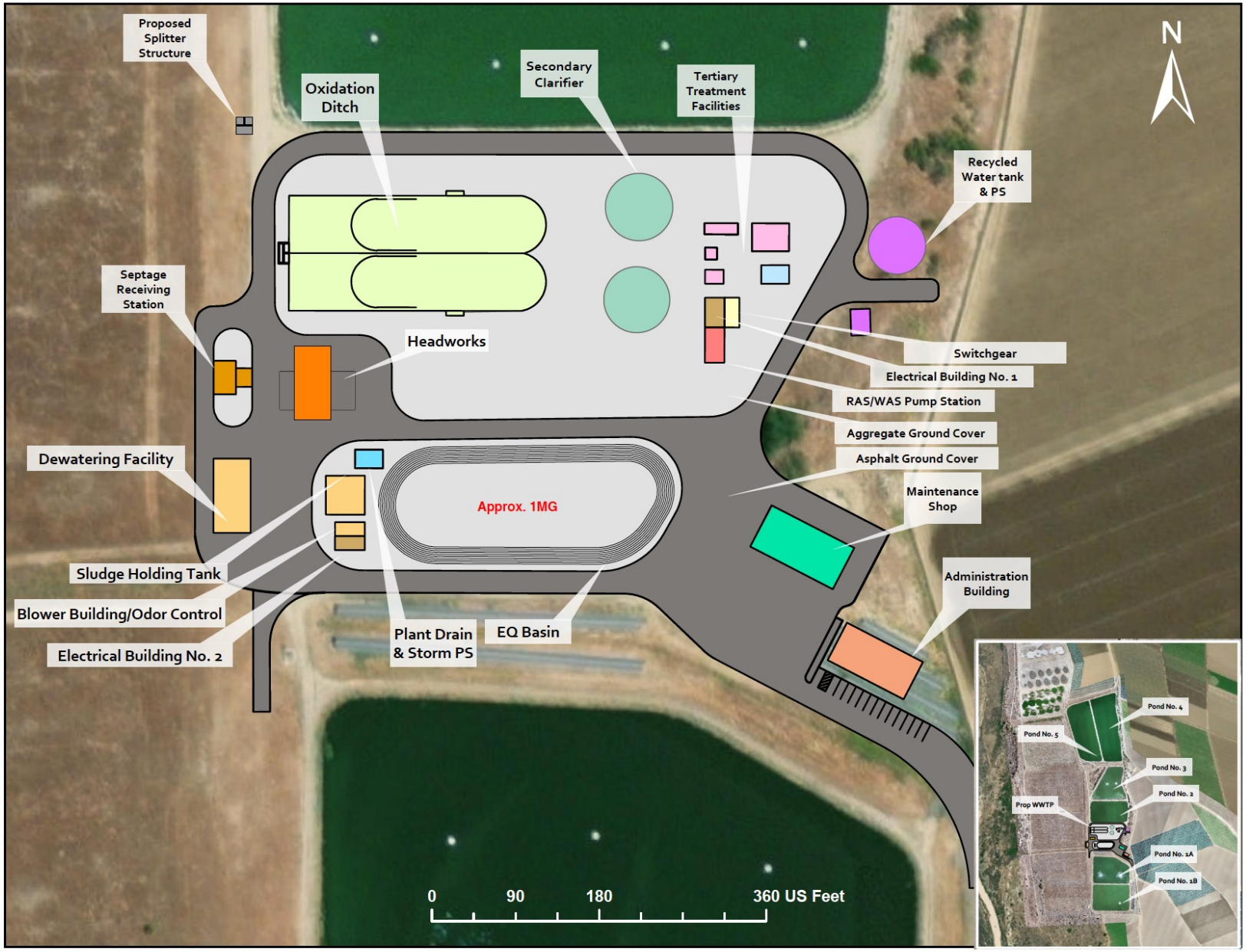

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Figure 5
Overview of Proposed WWTP Improvements

The first activity will be to construct the permanent access road to the treatment plant. The existing plant access is a dirt road that runs through a farmer's field, which makes the plant inaccessible during wet weather events or when an irrigation line breaks. A temporary construction easement will allow the road to be constructed to support the Proposed Project. A permanent easement will grant the City access to the plant without disrupting farming operations.

Once the permanent access road has been constructed, Pond 1 will be drained and the surface aerators will be transferred to adjacent ponds to provide additional aeration capacity during construction. The clay liner will be removed from the pond and the new treatment facilities as described in Section 2.0 will be constructed within and around Pond 1. Existing solar arrays will be relocated to allow the new administration building to be constructed.

Following startup of the new treatment plant, the wastewater from the existing treatment ponds will be treated through the new treatment plant. The clay liner from the treatment ponds 1a, 1b, 2, 4, and 5 will be excavated and used as backfill in Pond 1 around new structures to bring the site up to grade. Once the clay liner is excavated, Ponds 1a, 1b, and 2 will be disked so they can be used for effluent percolation. A plastic liner will be installed on Pond 3, which will provide recycled water storage for agricultural irrigation. Ponds 4 and 5 will serve as effluent storage ponds, which will feed the domestic effluent discharge areas to the west of the ponds.

The existing industrial effluent pump station will be rehabilitated and remain in service to feed the industrial discharge area, north of the domestic discharge area and the ponds. Currently the domestic spray fields are on the north side of the site and the industrial spray fields are located on the south side of the site. It is planned to swap the industrial and domestic spray fields. The domestic spray fields may also be modified to be shallow infiltration basins. The majority of the pipelines would be installed using conventional cut and cover construction techniques and installing pipe in open trenches. It is assumed that up to a 50-foot-wide construction corridor would be used to help maximize the efficiency during construction. However, in most places a 25-foot construction corridor could be realized, especially for the smaller diameter pipelines. It is anticipated that excavation would typically be no more than 3- to 5-feet wide and 3-to 6-feet deep for the pipelines and the excavation for the percolation ponds would be approximately 10- to 12-feet deep.

Dewatering of the pipelines, as a result of hydrostatic testing during construction as well as any dewatering as a result of operations and maintenance activities, shall be discharged to land and not into any creeks, drainages, or waterways and shall require prior approval from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB). Construction activities for this kind of project will typically occur with periodic activity peaks, requiring brief periods of significant effort followed by longer periods of reduced activities. In order to characterize and analyze potential construction impacts, its assumed that the secondary/tertiary treatment plant project would be constructed by up to 50 to 60 workers on the site. For the distribution pipelines two (2) crews of 10 to 15 workers each. However, specific details may change or vary slightly. Staging areas for storage of pipe, construction equipment, and other materials would be placed at locations that would minimize hauling distances and long-term disruption.

Excavation and grading activities would be necessary for construction of the Proposed Project. Excavated materials resulting from site preparation would either be used on-site during construction or disposed of at a fill area authorized by the City. It is not anticipated that any soils would be imported for this project.

Additional truck trips would be necessary to deliver materials, equipment, and asphalt-concrete to the site. During peak excavation and earthwork activities, the Proposed Project could generate up to 40 round-trip truck trips per day. In support of these activities and for the assumptions for this document, the types of equipment that may be used at any one-time during construction may include, but not limited to:

- Track-mounted excavator
- Backhoe
- Grader
- Crane
- Dozer
- Compactor
- Trencher/boring machine
- End and bottom dump truck
- Front-end loader
- Water truck
- Flat-bed delivery truck
- Forklift
- Compressor/jack hammer
- Asphalt paver & roller
- Street sweeper

It is recognized that details of the construction activities and methods may change slightly as the specific details will be developed during final design and by the selected contractor. However, this description provides sufficient information to base the conclusions to probable environmental impacts associated with construction activities for this kind of project. Therefore, as long as the construction methods are generally consistent with these methods and do not conflict with any of the City's design standards or established ordinances, and does not create any new potential environmental impacts that are not described within this document, then no new environmental analyses will likely be required for any minor change in construction activities, timing, and/or schedule.

2.3 Compliance with CCR Title 22 and State Board's Recycled Water Policy

The Proposed Project will be designed and operated in accordance with the applicable requirements of California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22 and any other state or local legislation that is currently effective or may become effective as it pertains to recycled water. The State Board adopted a Recycled Water Policy (RW Policy) in 2009 to establish more uniform requirements for water recycling throughout the State and to streamline the permit application process in most instances. As part of that process, the State Board prepared an IS/MND for the use of recycled water. That document and the environmental analyses contained within are incorporated by reference for this document and Proposed Project. The newly adopted RW Policy includes a mandate that the State increase the use of recycled water over 2002 levels

by at least 1,000,000 AFY by 2020 and by at least 2,000,000 AFY by 2030. Also included are goals for storm water reuse, conservation and potable water offsets by recycled water. The onus for achieving these mandates and goals is placed both on recycled water purveyors and potential users. The State Board has designated the Regional Water Quality Control Boards as the regulating entity for the Recycled Water Policy. In this case, the Central Coast RWQCB is responsible for permitting recycled water projects throughout the Central Coast Area and including Monterey County.

The Proposed Project will provide high quality unrestricted use tertiary treated recycled water from the City's upgraded tertiary WWTP and made available to users within the City. All irrigation systems will be operated in accordance with the requirements of Title 22 of the CCR, the State Board Recycled Water Policy, and any other local legislation that is effective or may become effective as it pertains to recycled water and any reclamation permits issued by the Central Coast RWQCB. Recycled water permits typically require the following

- Irrigation rates will match the agronomic rates of the plants being irrigated;
- Control of incidental runoff through the proper design of irrigation facilities;
- Implementation of a leak detection program to correct problems within 72 hours or prior to the release of 1,000 gallons whichever occurs first;
- Management of ponds containing recycled water to ensure no discharges; and
- Irrigation will not occur within 50-feet of any domestic supply wells, unless certain conditions have been met as defined in Title 22.

2.4 Operational Plans

The City will enforce an irrigation schedule among its M&I users. The irrigation schedule is assumed as follows:

- Municipal and Industrial Irrigation: 8 PM to 4 AM
- Frost Protection Irrigation: Only as required

2.5 Responsible Agencies, Permits and Approvals

Table 4 below summarizes the potential permits and/or approvals that may be required prior to construction of the Proposed Project. Additional local approvals and permits may also be required.

Table 4
Potential Regulatory Requirements, Permits, and Authorizations for Proposed Project

Agency	Type of Approval
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	• National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction Activities • Recycled Water Use Permit
California Division of Occupational Safety and Health	• Construction activities in compliance with CAL/OSHA safety requirements

Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD)	• Authority to Construct • Permit to Operate

2.6 No Project Alternative

Under the No Project/Action Alternative, the City's Proposed Project would not be constructed. For this analysis, it is assumed that the existing baseline condition and the future No Project condition are the same. That is, the No Project Alternative assumes that none of the Proposed Project facilities would be constructed. As a result, the impact description and summary compare the Proposed Project to the existing conditions now and into the future assuming that the City would not construct any facilities to meet the objectives of the Proposed Project. Again, the No Project assumes that none of the proposed facilities will be constructed now or in the future. Alternatives analyzed in the City's WWTP Upgrades and Recycled Water Preliminary Feasibility Studies would have very similar environmental impacts as the Proposed Project that are virtually indistinguishable from an environmental impact perspective and have been eliminated due to technical and/or engineering reasons and are not carried forward in this environmental document.

Chapter 3 Environmental Review and Consequences

This chapter evaluates the potential for the Proposed Project to have a significant effect on the environment. Using a modified CEQA Environmental Checklist Form as presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines as a framework, the checklist identifies the potential impacts of the Proposed Project pursuant to CEQA. This document compares the Proposed Project against the No Project Alternative as is required by CEQA.

Environmental Impact Designations

For this checklist, the following designations are used to distinguish between levels of significance of potential impacts to each resource area:

Potentially Significant Impact. Adverse environmental consequences that have the potential to be significant according to the threshold criteria identified for the resource, even after mitigation strategies are applied and/or an adverse effect that could be significant and for which no mitigation has been identified. If any potentially significant impacts are identified, an EIR must be prepared to meet CEQA requirements, respectively.

Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation. Adverse environmental consequences that have the potential to be significant, but can be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the application of identified mitigation strategies that are not already been incorporated into the Proposed Project description.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Potential adverse environmental consequences have been identified. However, they are not so adverse as to meet the significance threshold criteria for that resource. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

No Impact. No adverse environmental consequences have been identified for the resource or the consequences are negligible or undetectable. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

Environmental Resources Evaluated

The following are the key environmental resources that were evaluated in this document.

- ☒ Aesthetics
- ☒ Agriculture Resources
- ☒ Air Quality
- ☒ Biological Resources
- ☒ Cultural Resources
- ☒ Geology / Soils
- ☒ Hazards/Hazardous Materials
- ☒ Hydrology / Water Quality
- ☒ Land Use / Planning
- ☒ Mineral Resources
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Population and Housing
- ☒ Public Services
- ☒ Recreation
- ☒ Socioeconomics
- ☒ Transportation/Traffic
- ☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
- ☒ Utilities and Service Systems
- ☒ Wildfire
- ☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

3.1 Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

(a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is not located in or near any designated scenic vistas and therefore would not have a substantial impact on a scenic vista. The existing WWTP is located on a relatively flat alluvial plain north of King City. The current facilities contain single-story structures for administrative and repair activities. The Salinas riverbed, which is located immediately west of the WWTP, contains many large trees and vegetation which shields views of the WWTP from the adjacent US Highway 101. Given the relatively low visual profile of the existing treatment plant facility and the undeveloped nature of surrounding areas, the existing WWTP is barely visible from any developed areas in the vicinity of the existing facility. Further, there are no scenic vistas within the City limits where the recycled water pipelines would be placed. Once constructed, the pipelines would be buried and not be visible. Therefore, none of the Proposed Project facilities will have a substantial adverse effect upon any scenic vistas nor will they degrade any existing scenic resources or the visual character or quality of its surroundings. As a result, construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not affect any scenic vistas or its designation. No impacts are anticipated and no specific mitigation measures are required.

(b) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is not located near or within a designated state scenic highway and therefore would not damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. Highway 101 through the City is not a scenic corridor and is not designated as state scenic highway by the City, County and/or the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). As a result, construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not affect any scenic resources along Highway 101 or its designation. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated and no specific mitigation measures are required.

(c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Construction of the Proposed Project would be visible and would involve temporary negative aesthetic effects, including open trenches as well as

the presence of construction equipment and materials. However, the proposed construction activities at the WWTP would be considered less than significant as there are no sensitive receptors around the facilities. However, the construction of the approximately 5.3-miles of recycled water pipelines would involve temporary negative aesthetic effects, including open trenches as well as the presence of construction equipment and materials. Specifically, visual conditions during construction activities would include various types of construction equipment, materials staging areas, construction-force parking areas, construction fencing, and construction-related debris. Although this would represent a temporary visual condition, construction of the recycled water pipelines throughout the City could be considered an unsightly condition for nearby residential and business receptors. Although temporary, such conditions represent an impact on visual quality of the Project Area. However, with implementation of the mitigation measure below, the Proposed Project's construction-related impacts would be further reduced to less-than-significant levels.

> **Mitigation Measure AES-1: Implement Visual Construction Best Management Practices.** The City and/or its contractor shall remove construction debris and dispose of it at a licensed facility on a daily basis. In the event daily disposal is not determined to be practical, it must be stored on site as far from residential receptors as feasible and be screened from view. The contractor would also be required to remove any debris, mud or other soils from the site that was deposited on public roadways by construction-related traffic. Construction equipment and crew parking areas are to be staged in an orderly manner and as far as possible from existing residences. Site conditions are to be left in a clean and orderly manner at the end of each working day.

Once constructed, the Proposed Project the recycled pipelines would be buried and not visible. The improvements of the new WWTP facilities would be above ground, but would be in the same location with little or no sensitive visual receptors and would not be considered a new visual impact over the existing baseline condition(s). As a result, any visual impacts as a result of new permanent facilities would be considered to be less-than-significant.

(d) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project would not be constructed during nighttime hours and therefore would not have any intensive lighting or glare. However, the Proposed Project would require additional lighting for security and safety as the existing water storage ponds and treatment facilities have little or no lighting. Also, the WWTP is surrounded by agricultural fields and no residences or businesses, and since the lighting will be localized for safety and security, it should not be seen from a distance. As a result, any visual impacts as a result of new permanent facilities would be considered to be less-than-significant.

3.2 Agricultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

(a) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Active agriculture operations are ongoing in areas east, northeast and south of the existing WWTP. All of the Proposed Project improvements shall be located in a manner that does not directly impact these ongoing agricultural activities. The first activity of the Proposed Project will be to construct the 1.25-mile (6,600 linear feet) permanent access road to the treatment plant. Assuming a 28-foot right-of-way, this could result in the conversion of approximately 4.25 acres to non-agricultural use. However, the Proposed Project's proposed WWTP access road is currently a dirt service road that runs along the edge of a farmer's field and is not in agricultural production. During wet weather events, this dirt road becomes flooded and unusable which makes the WWTP inaccessible during wet weather events. This land is not in agricultural production and is not Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland). A temporary construction easement will allow the road to be constructed to support the Proposed Project. A permanent easement will grant the City access to the plant without disrupting farming operations. Any impacts of converting the existing dirt road to a permanent access road would be considered less-than-significant. In addition, the Proposed Project's approximately 5.3-miles of recycled water pipeline distribution facilities would be constructed within existing paved streets within the City and therefore would not result in the conversion of any Farmlands. As a result, the Proposed Project would not Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. However, Project construction could temporarily impact roadways important to adjacent agricultural operations. As a result, the following mitigation is proposed:

Mitigation Measure AGR-1: Early Notice of any Planned Closures or Detours on Existing Roadways. The City and/or its contractor shall provide early notice of any planned closures or detours on existing roadways serving existing agricultural operations to adjacent property owners and any farm lessee/operators. These notices should be provided no less than two weeks prior to these closures or detours. Regular updates about forthcoming closures or detours shall be provided to those impacted by these activities as well as being posted on local roadways so that adequate planning can be made for the movement of agricultural goods, equipment and personnel.

With the incorporation of the above mitigation measures, any potentially significant visual impacts could be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

(b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. As stated above and with the exception of the conversion of the existing dirt access road to a permanent access road, the Proposed Project would not be located on any existing agricultural fields or farmlands. This land is not under a Williamson Act contract. As a result, the Proposed Project would not conflict with agricultural practices and/or a Williamson Act Contract. Any impacts are considered less-than-significant, and no mitigation is required or necessary.

(c) **Less- than-Significant Impact.** As stated above and with the exception of the conversion of the existing dirt access road to a permanent access road, the Proposed Project would not be located on any existing agricultural fields or farmlands. This land is not under a Williamson Act contract and is not Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland). As a result, the Proposed Project would not conflict with agricultural practices and usage over existing baseline conditions, and/or a conflict with a Williamson Act Contract. Any impacts are considered less-than-significant and no mitigation is required or necessary.

3.3 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐
g) Conflict with an application plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

(a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is located within the jurisdiction of the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) (formally known as the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District), the regional agency empowered to regulate air pollutant emissions from stationary sources in the Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties. MBARD regulates air quality through its permit authority over most types of stationary emission sources and through its planning and review process. Construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not conflict, violate, and/or obstruct with MBARD's Air Quality Plan. Any impacts are considered to be less-than-significant. No mitigation is required or necessary.

(b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Project site is located in the North Central Coast Air Basin. This Basin is currently designated "non-attainment" for the state ozone and PM_{10} but is in attainment or unclassified for all other state and federal standards.

The MBARD is required to produce plans for complying with ambient air quality standards in its jurisdiction every 3 years. As MBARD 's contribution to the California State implementation Plan

(SIP), three local plans have been prepared: (1) the 2008 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for achieving the 2006 California O_3 standard; (2) the 2007 Federal Maintenance Plan, for maintaining the 1997 federal O3 standard; and (3) the 2005 Particulate Matter Plan, for particulate matter made in response to Senate Bill 656. Consistency determinations with the AQMP are used by the MBARD to address a project's cumulative impact on regional air quality. Projects that are not consistent with the AQMP are not accommodated in the AQMP, and will have a significant cumulative impact on regional air quality unless emissions are entirely offset. Consistency of direct emissions associated with equipment or process operations of a commercial, industrial, or institutional facility subject to MBARD permit authority is determined by assessing whether the emission source complies with all applicable MBARD rules and regulations, including emission offset and emission control requirements; and/or whether or not project emissions are accommodated in the AQMP.

MBARD has established quantitative significance thresholds for both construction and operational phases of a project. Construction activities (e.g., excavation, grading, on-site vehicles) that would directly generate 82 pounds per day or more of PM_{10} would have a significant impact on local air quality when they are located nearby and upwind of sensitive receptors. Also, the potential screening-level threshold is for projects that would affect 2.2 to 8.1 acres per day, depending on the level of earthmoving (grading/excavation) that is contemplated.

According to MBARD, projects using typical construction equipment such as dump trucks, scrappers, bulldozers, compactors and front-end loaders that temporarily emit precursors of ozone (i.e., VOC or NOX), are accommodated in the emission inventories of state- and federally-required air plans, and would not have a significant impact on the attainment and maintenance of ozone AAQS (MBARD, 2008). Therefore, emissions of these criteria pollutants during construction that uses typical equipment would not cause or substantially contribute to the violation of other state or national AAQS.

Construction activities for the Proposed Project would begin in the spring/summer of 2024 and continue into the spring/summer of 2026 (i.e., Approximately 6 months of heavy activity and 24 months overall) and would include grading activities. However, construction activities would not result in affecting more than 10.0 acres per day. Overall construction work would require the use of various types of mostly diesel-powered equipment, including bulldozers, wheel loaders, excavators, and various kinds of trucks.

Construction activities typically result in emissions of particulate matter, usually in the form of fugitive dust from activities such as trenching and grading. Emissions of particulate matter vary day-to-day, depending on the level and type of activity, silt content of the soil, and the prevailing weather. Estimated construction emissions for the construction of the Proposed project were generated by using the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's URBEMIS Construction Emissions Model. (Note that this model was used because it has been is ideal for estimating construction projects like this). The URBEMIS Construction Emissions Model is a Microsoft Excel worksheet available to assess the emissions of linear construction projects. The estimated construction equipment fleet-mix and the acreage and soil volume are put into the URBEMIS model in order to determine potential emissions. See Appendix A and Table 5 below.

As shown in Table 5, the Proposed Project's construction emissions would not exceed MBARD's daily and/or annual significance thresholds, with the exception of PM_{10}.

MBARD's approach to analyses of construction impacts (as noted in their CEQA Guidelines) is to emphasize implementation of effective and comprehensive basic construction control measures rather than detailed quantification of emissions. With implementation of the mitigation measures below, the Proposed Project's construction-related impacts (including PM_{10}) would be further reduced to less-than-significant levels.

Table 5
Estimated Proposed Project Construction Emissions

Construction Phase		Construction Emissions (lbs/day)			
	ROG	CO	NOx	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$*
Grubbing/Land Clearing	3.4	30.7	25.0	101.0	21.7
Grading/Excavation	9.0	85.4	76.0	103.3	23.8
Drainage/Utilities/Subgrade	7.2	72.3	56.7	102.4	22.9
Paving	3.6	38.4	27.3	1.2	1.0
Maximum (lbs/day)**	**9.0**	**85.4**	**76.0**	**103.3**	**23.8**
Total Tons Project/ Year	**1.9**	**18.0**	**15.0**	**23.1**	**5.2**
MBARD's Thresholds of Significance					
Pounds per Day	137	550	137	82	82
Tons per Project/Year	25	100	25	15	15
Potentially Significant Impact?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**

- Estimated. MBARD does not have specific threshold for $PM_{2.5}$

Mitigation Measure AIR-1: Basic Construction Mitigation Measures Recommended for ALL Proposed Construction Projects. During all phases of construction, the following procedures shall be implemented, as appropriate:

- Provide MBARD at least 10 working days' notice prior to renovation, demolition, or construction activities.
- Contact MBARD If old underground piping or other asbestos containing construction materials are encountered during trenching activities.
- Use clean air vehicles and construction equipment that conform to MBARD's Tier 3 or 4 emission standards when ever possible.
- Water all active construction areas at least twice daily. Frequency should be based on the type of operation, soil, and wind exposure.
- Prohibit all grading activities during periods of high wind (over 15 mph).
- Apply chemical soil stabilizers on inactive construction areas (disturbed lands within construction projects that are unused for at least four consecutive days).
- Apply non-toxic binders (e.g., latex acrylic copolymer) to exposed areas after cut and fill operations and hydro seed area.
- Haul trucks shall maintain at least 2'0" of freeboard.

- Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, or loose materials.
- If/as appropriate, plant tree windbreaks on the windward perimeter of construction projects if adjacent to open land.
- Plant vegetative ground cover in disturbed areas as soon as possible.
- All green waste (e.g., trees, shrubs, etc.) shall be disposed of via wood chipping or taken to a landfill instead of burning.
- Cover inactive storage piles.
- Install wheel washers at the entrance to construction sites for all exiting trucks.
- Pave all roads on construction sites.
- Sweep streets if visible soil material is carried out from the construction site.
- Post a publicly visible sign which specifies the telephone number and person to contact regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond to complaints and take corrective action within 48 hours. The phone number of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District shall be visible to ensure compliance with Rule 402 (Nuisance).
- Limit the area under construction at any one time.
- Limit the pieces of equipment used at any one time.
- Minimize the use of diesel-powered equipment (i.e., wheeled tractor, wheeled loader, roller) by using gasoline-powered equipment to reduce NOx emissions.
- Limit the hours of operation for heavy-duty equipment.
- Undertake project during non-zone season (November 1 – April 30).
- Off-site mitigation

Once operational, emission sources resulting from project operations would be associated with primarily regular maintenance and inspection work. Operational impacts for the Proposed Project, even if detectible, would be well below MBARD's thresholds identified above and would likely be considered less-than-significant. With respect to project conformity with the federal Clean Air Act, the Proposed Project's potential emissions are well below minimum thresholds and are below the area's inventory specified for each criteria pollutant designated non-attainment or maintenance for the Central Coast Air Basin. As such, further general conformity analysis would not likely be required.

(c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation. Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** As stated above, the Proposed Project site is located in the North Central Coast Air Basin. This Basin is currently designated "non-attainment" for the state ozone and PM_{10} but is in attainment or unclassified for all other state and federal standards. The MBARD is active in establishing and enforcing air pollution control rules and regulations in order to attain all state and federal ambient air quality standards and to minimize public exposure to airborne toxins such as naturally occurring

asbestos (NOA) and nuisance odors. NOA is known to occur in the disturbed acreage along Spreckels Road and the area bounded by Cemetery Road, Metz Road, and San Antonio Drive. Air emissions would be generated during construction of the Proposed Project, which could increase criteria air pollutants, including PM_{10} and NOA. However, construction activities would be temporary and would incorporate the implementation of **Mitigation Measure AIR-1** as identified above.

> **Mitigation Measure AIR-2: Comply with Asbestos ATCM by Obtaining an Approved Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan or Exemption**. VMP-related ground-disturbing activities greater than 1 acre within potential NOA containing areas (specifically areas disturbed acreage along Spreckels Road and the area bounded by Cemetery Road, Metz Road, and San Antonio Drive) will be required to comply with the California Air resources Board's (CARB) airborne toxic control measures (ATCM) for NOA. The City and its contractors will prepare and implement an asbestos dust mitigation plan in compliance with the State Asbestos ATCM for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations with the MBARD's implementation requiring submission of an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan Application, which includes a checklist of BMPs that must be implemented. The plan will specify actions to be taken during construction activities to minimize NOA emissions. The plan will also address specific emission sources as identified by the MBARD to be: track-out onto the paved public road; active storage piles; inactive disturbed surface areas and storage piles; traffic on unpaved onsite roads; earthmoving activities; off-site transport of materials; and post-project stabilization of disturbed soil surfaces. Specific measures to be implemented will include but not be limited to removing visible track out, keeping active storage piles covered or wet, controlling inactive areas or storage piles, maintain trucks and wet loads to prevent spillage, and limit vehicle speeds. The City and its contractors will submit the plan to MBARD for approval prior to implementation, and will not proceed with construction of the Proposed Project until MBARD has approved the plan and proposed BMPs or an exemption is received.

As mentioned above, upon completion of construction activities, emission sources resulting from Proposed Project operations would be associated with regular maintenance and inspection work. Given the limited number of trips that would be required, only limited emissions would be generated; these emissions would be expected to be well below MBARD's guidelines. See Table 5 above. As such, the Proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria air pollutants, and the impacts would be even less-than-significant with implementation of **Mitigation Measures AIR-1 and AIR-2** as identified above.

(d) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Diesel emissions would result both from diesel-powered construction vehicles and any diesel trucks associated with project operation. Diesel particulate matter (DPM) has been classified by the California Air Resources Board as a toxic air contaminant for the cancer risk associated with long-term (i.e., 70 years) exposure to DPM. Given that construction would occur for a limited amount of time and that only a limited number of diesel trucks would be associated with operation of the project, localized exposure to DPM would be minimal. As a result, the cancer risks from the project associated with diesel emissions over a 70-

year lifetime are very small. Therefore, the impacts related to DPM would be less-than-significant. Likewise, as noted above, the Proposed Project would not result in substantial emissions of any criteria air pollutants either during construction or operation. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors, including residents in the project vicinity, to substantial pollutant concentrations. With the implementation of **Mitigation Measures AIR-1 and AIR-2**, impacts to sensitive receptors would be further reduced and considered to be less-than-significant. No additional mitigation measures are required.

(e) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** During construction of the Proposed Project, the various diesel-powered vehicles and equipment in use on-site could create minor odors. These odors are not likely to be noticeable beyond the immediate area and, in addition, would be temporary and short-lived in nature. Once constructed, the operations of the Proposed Project would not result in any odor issues. Therefore, odor impacts would be less-than-significant. No specific mitigation measures are required.

(f) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** MBARD does not have an adopted threshold of significance for construction and/or operational-related GHG emissions for projects like this. Operation of the Proposed Project is not expected to generate any significant amounts of GHG emissions. During construction of the Proposed Project, the various diesel-powered vehicles and equipment in use on-site could generate greenhouse gas emissions. However, the Proposed Project would not exceed the thresholds for NOx, which is an indicator for generating GHG emissions. MBARD's approach to analyses of construction impacts as noted in their CEQA Guidelines is to emphasize implementation of effective and comprehensive basic construction control measures rather than detailed quantification of emissions. As a result, with implementation of **Mitigation Measures AIR-1 and AIR-2**, any potential to generate greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced to less-than-significant levels. No additional mitigation measures are required.

(g) **No Impact.** The construction and/or the operation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with an application plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. No mitigation is necessary or required.

3.4 Biological Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

(a) **Less-than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project could have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.

As shown in Appendix B, the following discussion of biological resources is based upon the Biological Resources Assessment for the King City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) prepared by the firm of Althouse & Meade, Inc. in February 2023. The 229.9-acre site (Study Area) includes sections of the 467.5-acre WWTP property (Property), as well as agricultural fields and

developed areas in King City, California. Results include a habitat assessment, botanical and wildlife inventory, a discussion of special status species that have potential to occur within the Study Area, and an analysis of potential impacts to biological resources from the proposed facility improvements, access road and pipeline (Project). Content of this report also addresses comments and recommendations made by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW; 2021) regarding the April 19, 2021 and July 22, 2022 Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for this Project (SCH No. 2021050084). Additional mitigation recommendations for potential impacts to biological resources are also provided. A summary of the report is provided below[3].

- The Proposed Project entails construction and operation of improvements to the existing King City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), where this updated report focuses on the addition of 5.3-miles of proposed pipelines and access road improvements. Planned work will occur within the existing facility footprint with upgrades to an existing access road through farmland (disturbed habitat), and within City streets (developed habitat).
- The Study Area is comprised of disturbed and developed habitats. Disturbed habitat comprises the water treatment plant where different land uses affiliated with water treatment include spray fields, water treatment ponds, access roads, and miscellaneous facility components. Developed habitat comprises areas of proposed pipeline within the City.
- Botanical surveys identified 45 species of vascular plants in the Study Area. There are three special status plants with low potential to occur in the Study Area but have no potential to occur in the Project area due to lack of suitable habitat where work is proposed. No special status plants were observed in the Study Area during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.
- Wildlife surveys detected 28 animal species in the Study Area. There are 16 special status animals with some potential to occur in the Study Area. No special status animals were observed in the Study Area during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.
- Biological resources that could be impacted by the Project include existing disturbed habitat (particularly conversion of water treatment ponds), developed habitat (City streets), nesting birds, special status amphibians and reptiles (western spadefoot toad, Coast Range newt, northern California legless lizard, western pond turtle, and coast horned lizard), special status birds (Cooper's hawk, golden eagle, great blue heron, burrowing owl, and bank swallow), and special status mammals (Salinas pocket mouse, American Badger, and San Joaquin kit fox). Project impacts will be negligible for many special status species with potential to occur in the vicinity due to current management practices and habitat conditions within disturbed and developed habitats. Mitigation recommendations are provided to reduce potential direct and indirect impacts to sensitive biological resources mentioned above.

[3] Some of the exact numbering of the mitigation measures, format, and/or specific content may have been changed or altered for the efficacy and readability of this overlying report.

- It should be noted that the existing WWTP has incorporated several design features that are intended to reduce potential impacts of this facility. These measures include monitoring wells throughout the WWTP property which should detect changes in groundwater quality in order to ensure that off-site groundwater is not degraded. The WWTP is also surrounded by a levy and setbacks in order to ensure that surface water drains into off-site areas. It should also be noted that the existing spray field adjacent to the river habitat will no longer be in operation once the proposed improvements to the WWTP are completed. This represents a beneficial impact upon biological resources within the adjacent Salinas River habitats.

The following is a summary of the potential of the Proposed Project to adversely affect special status species.

Botanical Resources

Special status plants with the potential to be found in the Proposed Project area are not likely to occur. Portions of the Proposed Project area that are marginally suited to support special status plants will not be impacted due to regular long-term disturbance of natural habitat and/or the lack of appropriate habitat. No special status plants either in bloom or senesced were detected during on-site surveys conducted in 2021. As such, no further mitigation measures or botanical surveys are required.

Wildlife Resources

Special status wildlife species with the potential to be found in the Proposed Project area are as follows:

Nesting Birds - Impacts to or taking of nesting birds could occur if project construction is conducted during the nesting season, that being February 1 through August 31. Mitigations are provided below which will reduce potential adverse effects of the Proposed Project on nesting birds (see "Mitigation Measures" below).

Western Bumblebee - Project construction as proposed within existing treatment ponds would not impact potential nesting habitat for the western bumblebee. No further mitigations are required.

Amphibians and Reptiles - Several special status amphibians have the potential to occur within the study area. These special status amphibian species include the western spadefoot toad and the coast range newt. Special status reptiles include the Northern California legless lizard, the western pond turtle and the coast horned lizard. Due to the project being restricted to the on-site treatment ponds, it is unlikely for all but the western pond turtle to be potentially impacted by project related activities. Mitigation measures are recommended to protect these special status amphibians and reptiles from project - related impacts (see "Mitigation Measures" below).

Special Status Birds - Special status birds with the potential to occur within the project area include the cooper's hawk, tricolored blackbird, golden eagle, great blue heron, burrowing owl, bank swallow and least bell's vireo. Mitigation measures are provided below which are intended

to protect these special status birds from project related impacts (See "Mitigation Measures" below).

- *Cooper's Hawk*- Suitable nesting habitat for the cooper's Hawk is limited to one tree in the study area which is located approximately 400 feet from the project site. Nesting bird surveys will ensure no nesting habitat of the cooper's hawk would be impacted by the proposed project (see "Mitigation Measures" below).
- *Tricolored Blackbird* - A limited nesting substrate around the existing on-site treatment ponds is present which could support nesting tricolored blackbirds. Mitigation measures provided below are intended to reduce impacts to the species noted above to a less than significant level (see "Mitigation Measures" below).
- *Golden Eagle* – Suitable nesting habitat for the golden eagle is not present in the general area nor within one mile of the proposed project. As such, impacts to foraging would be negligible. As such, no further mitigation measures are required.
- *Great Blue Heron* – Rookery habitat for the great blue heron is not present in the general area. No known nesting colonies are located within the general area of the proposed project. Potential impacts to the great blue heron would be negligible. As such, no further mitigation measures are required.
- *Burrowing Owl* - Resurgent grassland habitat suitable for denning burrowing owl is present within the existing inactive industrial spray field within the treatment plant area. As such there is potential for project related impacts to the burrowing owl. Mitigation measures are provided to reduce these impacts to a less than significant level (see "Mitigation Measures" below).
- *Bank Swallow* – Suitable nesting habitat for the bank swallow is not present within the Proposed Project area. However, there is potential for bank swallow nesting in the riparian habitat along the Salinas River approximately 1300 feet west of the study area. Given this distance of separation, project activities will not impact this potential nesting habitat. As such, no further mitigation measures are required.
- *Lli Bell Vireo* - Suitable habitat for the least bell's vireo is not present in the Proposed Project area. There is potential for nests in shrubby riparian habitat along the Salinas River approximately 1300 feet (0.2-miles) west of the proposed project. In spite of this distance of separation, CDFW recommends that any project within 0.5 miles of potential least bell's vireo nesting habitat be surveyed to ensure protection of this species when nesting. As a result, mitigation measures are recommended (see ""Mitigation Measures"" below).

Mammals

Special status mammals including the Salinas pocket mouse, American badger and San Joaquin kit fox have the potential to occur in the study area and could be impacted by project related activities Salinas Pocket Mouse - The Salinas pocket mouse is unlikely to occur but could be present in the

study area. Mitigation measures are provided which would reduce these potential impacts to the Salinas pocket mouse to a less than significant level (see ""Mitigation Measures"" below)."

- *American Badger* - Existing habitat conditions are suitable to support denning American badger activities within the on-site spray fields. Mitigation measures are provided which would reduce these potential impacts to the American badger to a less than significant level (see ""Mitigation Measures"" below)."
- *San Joaquin Kit Fox* - Occurrences of the San Joaquin kit fox has been documented in the vicinity of the project area. Habitat assessments conducted in the study area on December 7, 2021 determined that marginally suitable habitat in the existing inactive industrial spray fields on-site could support denning kit fox. Areas surrounding the project site are actively farmed and would impede kit fox movement into the study area from less developed areas to the east and south. Though not likely to occur on-site mitigation measures are recommended to ensure that no take of the San Joaquin kit fox occurs (see ""Mitigation Measures"" below).

Mitigation Measures

Potential Project impacts to the special status species identified above will be reduced to less than significant levels through current management practices as well as the implementation of proposed mitigation measures

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Nesting Bird Surveys. If construction occurs between February 1 and September 15, nesting bird survey shall be conducted within 10 days prior to construction/ground disturbance activities. If surveys do not locate nesting birds, construction activities may be conducted. If nesting birds are located, no construction activity shall occur within 100 feet of nests until chicks are fledged. Once construction begins, a qualified biologist will continuously monitor nests to detect behavioral changes resulting from the project. If behavioral changes occur, work causing that change shall cease and the CDFW will be consulted for additional avoidance and minimization measures. If continuous monitoring of identified nests by a qualified wildlife biologist is not feasible, CDFW recommends a minimum no-disturbance buffer of 250-feet around active nests of non-listed birds and a 500-foot no disturbance buffer around active nests of non-listed raptors. These buffers are advised to remain in place until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds are fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival. A preconstruction survey report shall be submitted to the lead agency immediately upon completion of the survey. The report shall detail appropriate fencing or flagging of the buffer zone and make recommendations on additional monitoring requirements. A map of the project site and nest locations shall be included within the report. The biologist conducting the nesting survey shall have the authority to reduce or increase the recommended buff depending upon site conditions.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Biological Monitoring. A qualified biological monitor shall be present during all earth-disturbing construction activities and draining of treatment ponds associated with construction of the project including, but not limited to,

grading, excavations, tilling, draining and dredging. The biologist shall contact a morning clearance survey of the project area each day that ground disturbing activities are proposed. Special status animals (i.e., western spadefoot toad, coast range newt northern California legless lizard, western pond turtle, coast horned lizard and Salinas pocket mouse) captured during surveys or during construction monitoring shall be relocated to the nearest suitable habitat outside of the project area. A letter report shall be submitted to the County and CDFW within 30 days of relocation or as directed by CDFW.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Tricolored Blackbird Surveys. To the extent possible, the Proposed Project construction activities shall be timed to avoid the typical bird breeding season of February 1 through September 15. However, if Project construction activities that could disrupt nesting must take place during that time (i.e., February 1 through September 15), a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct focused surveys for nesting tricolored blackbird to determine the presence or absence of the species or nesting colonies in the study area."

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Tricolored Blackbird Colony Avoidance. If an active tricolor blackbird nesting colony is found during surveys, a minimum 300-foot no-disturbance buffer shall be installed and observed in accordance with CDFW requirements until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that nesting has ceased and the young have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the colony or parental care for survival. It is important to note that tricolored blackbird colonies can expand over time and for this reason, CDFW recommends that an active colony be re-assessed to determine its extent within 10 days prior to Project Construction.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Tricolored Blackbird Take Authorization. In the event that a tricolored blackbird nesting colony is observed during survey consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss whether the project can avoid take and if take avoidance is not feasible, to acquire all necessary permits pursuant to the California Fish and Game Code."

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Burrowing Owl Preconstruction Surveys. Where suitable habitat is present on or in the vicinity of the project site, a qualified biologist shall conduct focused burrowing owl surveys following the California Burrowing Owl Consortium (1993) “Burrowing Owl Survey and Mitigation Guidelines" and the California Department of Fish and Game "Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012)". Specifically, these documents suggest three or more surveillance surveys be conducted during daylight hours with each visit occurring at least three weeks apart during the peak breeding season of April 15th to July 15th when the burrowing owls are most detectable. In addition, CDFW advises that surveys include a minimum 500-foot survey radius around the project site.

Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Burrowing Owl Avoidance. No disturbance buffers as outlined within the California Department of Fish and Game (2012) document noted above, shall be implemented prior to and during any ground disturbing activities and that impacts to occupied burrows be avoided unless a qualified biologist verifies through non-invasive methods that either the birds have not begun egg laying and incubation or

that juveniles from the occupied burrows and are foraging independently are capable of independent survival.

Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Burrowing Owl Eviction and Mitigation. If burrowing owls are found within these recommended buffers and avoidance is not possible, it is important to note that according to the California Department of Fish and Game (2012), evicting birds from burrows is not a take avoidance, minimization or mitigation method and is instead considered a potentially significant impact under the California Environmental Quality Act. If it is necessary for the project construction to proceed, CDFW recommends that burrow exclusion be conducted by a qualified biologist and only during the non-breeding season before breeding behavior is exhibited and aft the burrow is confirmed empty through non-invasive methods such as surveillance. Mitigation in the form of replacement of occupied burrows with artificial burrows at a minimum ratio of one burrow collapsed to one artificial burrow constructed shall be implemented to mitigate the evicting of burrowing owls and the loss of burrows. Burrowing owls may attempt to colonize or recolonize an area that will be impacted. As such, CDFW recommends ongoing surveys at a rate that is sufficient to detect burrowing owl if they return.

Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Focused Least Bell's Vireo Surveys. In order to reduce potential project related impacts to the least bell's vireo, a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct surveys following the survey methodology developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2001) prior to project construction within the project area and a ½ mile buff around the project area. In addition, if project activities take place during the typical breeding season (February 1 through September 15), additional preconstruction surveys for active nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 10 days prior to the start of project construction.

Mitigation Measure BIO-10: Least Bell's Vireo Buffer. If an active least bell's vireo nest is found during protocol or preconstruction surveys, a minimum 500-foot, no disturbance buff shall be implemented and maintained until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest site or parental care for survival.

Mitigation Measure BIO-11: Least Bell's Vireo Nest Avoidance and Habitat Mitigation. In addition to avoiding occupied nests, CDFW recommends that impacts to known nests be avoided at all times of the year. Regardless of nesting status, if potential or known least bell's vireo nesting habitat (i.e., trees) is removed, CDFW recommends it be replaced with appropriate native tree species planted a ratio of 3:1 (replaced to removed) in an area that will be protected in perpetuity. This mitigation will off-set potential impacts of the loss of potential nesting habitat.

Mitigation Measure BIO-12: Least Bell's Vireo Take Authorization. If a 500- foot no-disturbance nest buffer is not feasible, consultation with CDFW is warranted and acquisition of required permits may be necessary prior to project construction in order to avoid unauthorized take pursuant to the California Fish and Game Code.

Mitigation Measure BIO-13: Preconstruction Survey for the America Badger. A pre-construction survey shall be conducted on the project site in order to locate occupied American badger dens within 100-feet of the Proposed Project site. The survey shall be conducted within 15-days of starting any grading, grubbing or oak tree removal. Orange construction fencing, or other easily identifiable buff material, shall be installed under the direction of a project biologist in a manner sufficient to protect the dens from construction equipment. A buffer of 50-feet shall be used for occupied non-maternal dens. A buffer of 150- feet shall be installed if the den is determined to be a maternal pupping den. Construction activities shall not commence within the exclusion area until the badger has moved on its own accord. A pre-construction survey letter report shall be submitted to the City for review within one week after completion of the survey.

Mitigation Measure BIO-14: San Joaquin Kit Fox Surveys and Minimization. A qualified biologist shall conduct surveys to assess for the presence or absence of the San Joaquin kit fox. The survey area will consist of the entire project site and surrounding 500-foot buffer. In addition, recommendations made by the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife Service for the San Joaquin kit fox shall be followed during Proposed Project construction as noted below. The following measures are taken from the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior To or During Ground Disturbance (2011)* and shall be implemented as specified below.

- Project-related vehicles shall observe a daytime speed limit of 15 mph throughout the Proposed Project site and all project areas except on County roads and State and Federal highways. This is particularly important at night when kit foxes are most active. Nighttime construction shall be minimized to the extent possible. However, if it does occur, the speed limit shall be reduced to 10 mph. Off-road traffic outside of designated areas shall be prohibited.

- In order to prevent inadvertent entrapment of Kit foxes or other animals during project construction, all excavated, steep walled holes or trenches more than two feet deep shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the California Department Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game shall be contacted.

- Kit foxes are attracted to den-like structures such as pipes and may enter stored pipes or become trapped or injured. All construction pipes, culverts or similar structures with a diameter of four inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods shall be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe

shall not be moved until the California Fish and Wildlife Service has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once in order to remove it from the path of construction activity until the kit fox has escaped.

- No firearms shall be allowed on the Proposed Project site.
- No pets, such as dogs or cats, shall be permitted on the Proposed Project site in order to prevent harassment, mortality of kit foxes, or destruction of dens.
- Use of rodenticides and herbicides in the project area shall be restricted in order to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of kit foxes and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds shall observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture and other State and Federal legislation as well as additional project-related restrictions deemed necessary by the California Fish and Wildlife Service. If rodent control must be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of a proven lower risk to the kit fox.
- A representative shall be appointed by the project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or trapped kit fox. The representative will shall be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number shall be provided to the California Fish and Wildlife Service.
- An employee education program shall be conducted for any project that has anticipated impacts to the kit fox or other endangered species. This program shall consist of a brief presentation by persons knowledgeable in kit fox biology and legislative protection to explain endangered species concerns to contractors, their employees and military and/or agency personnel involved in the project. The program shall include the following: a description of the San Joaquin kit fox and its habitat needs, a report of the occurrence of kit fox in the project area, an explanation of the status of the species and its protection under the Endangered Species Act and a list of measures being taken to reduce impacts to the species during project construction and implementation. A fact sheet conveying this information shall be prepared for distribution to the previously referenced people and anyone else who may enter the project site.
- Upon completion of the proposed project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances, including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, etc. shall be re-contoured if necessary and vegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions. An area subject to "temporary" disturbance means any area that is disturbed during construction of the proposed project, but after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential

to be re-vegetated. Appropriate methods and plant species used to revegetate such areas shall be determined on a site-specific basis in consultation wit CDFW and revegetation experts.

- In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structure should be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape or the California Fish and Wildlife Service shall be contacted for map guidance. During the site disturbance and/or construction phase, any contractor or employee that inadvertently kills or injures a San Joaquin kit fox or who finds any such animal either dead, injured, or entrapped shall be required to report the incident immediately to the City. In the event that any observations are made of an injured or dead kit fox, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and CDFW shall be immediately notified by telephone. In addition, for notification shall be provided in writing within three working days of finding any such animal(s). Notification shall include the date, time, location and circumstances of the incident. Any threatened or endangered species found dead or injured shall be turned over immediately to CDFW for care, analysis or disposition.
- New sightings of San Joaquin kit fox shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). A copy of the reporting form and a topographic map clearly marked with the location of where the kit fox was observed shall also be provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Non-Sensitive Species

The construction activities of the Proposed Project could result in temporary disturbance of non-sensitive plant and wildlife species which are not considered sensitive by the resource agencies. However, these temporary impacts are considered less than significant and the Proposed Project would not result in adverse effects to special-status species. As a result, and with the incorporation of the mitigation measures prescribed above, the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW and/or USFWS.

(b) **No Impact.** Potentially jurisdictional wetlands and waters are not present in the Study Area. Manmade water treatment ponds are present on the site as part of water treatment operations, but do not provide wetland function nor connectivity to other aquatic resources. The Salinas River and any potential wetlands affiliated with this riverine system are partially on the WWTP Property but are over 1,000 feet west of the proposed Project area. Proposed pipelines will have no impact on aquatic features. As a result, no mitigation is required or necessary.

(c) **No Impact.** Potentially jurisdictional wetlands and waters are not present in the Study Area. Manmade water treatment ponds are present on the site as part of water treatment operations, but do not provide wetland function nor connectivity to other aquatic resources. The Salinas River and any potential wetlands affiliated with this riverine system are partially on the WWTP Property but

are over 1,000 feet west of the proposed Project area. Proposed pipelines will have no impact on aquatic features. As a result, no mitigation is required or necessary.

(d) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. As a result, no mitigation is required or necessary.

(e) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project is not expected to conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. No impacts to oak trees are anticipated by the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project. However, to ensure oak trees are protected during construction, the following precautionary measures are recommended to be implemented if and/or as appropriate to avoid impacts to native oak trees.

Mitigation Measure BIO-15: Oak Tree Avoidance and Protection. Native oak trees in and near the Project footprint shall be protected in place. If/as necessary, pruning may be conducted by a licensed Arborist in a manner that would not result in a decrease in tree health. The critical root zones (CRZs) of native oak trees shall be defined as an area of root space equivalent to 1.5 times the radius of the canopy dripline (e.g.: a 10-foot radius canopy has a CRZ of 15-feet around the trunk). Impacts include any ground disturbance within the CRZ, such as grading, trenching, parking vehicles, or staging materials. If appropriate and prior to commencement of construction, protective high visibility fencing shall be installed at the outer limit of the CRZ. The fencing shall be marked with signage indicating No Access – Tree Protection Zone or similar text. Fencing shall be maintained in good condition for the duration of construction.

Mitigation Measure BIO-16: Monitoring and As-Built Impact Report. If/as appropriate, a licensed Arborist or qualified Botanist shall inspect and approve any tree protective fencing prior to start of earthwork. If tree protection fencing placed at the limits of the CRZ must be temporarily removed to complete construction activities, an Arborist or Botanist shall be present. If grading or other ground disturbance occurs within oak tree CRZ, or if trimming or pruning of oak tree limbs/branches occur, the tree and area of impact shall be mapped in the field and recorded. Any roots of 1-inch diameter or greater that are exposed during grading that cannot be saved, should be cut clean with a sharp pruning tool or Sawzall. Treatment of the cut roots is at the discretion of the Arborist. Upon completion of work, an As-built Impact Report will be provided to the City that will include an assessment of impacts that occurred during work. The report will include the number of impacted trees and type of mitigation recommended to reduce impacts to native oak trees (typically replaced at a 2:1 mitigation ratio for impacted oak trees and 4:1 ratio for removed oak trees).

Mitigation Measure BIO-17: Oak Tree Mitigation Plan. As/if appropriate, impacted and removed oaks documented in the As-built Impact Report shall be replaced using the appropriate mitigation ratio and a mitigation plan shall be prepared and approved by the City prior to the conclusion of construction activities. The mitigation plan shall incorporate the most current City standards for mitigating impacts to oak trees. Impacts to native trees

with a DBH of 4 inches or greater shall be mitigated by planting additional trees on site. Oaks removed shall be replaced in kind at a 4:1 ratio **(**i.e., four replacement trees per one removed tree)**.** Oaks impacted shall be replaced in kind at a 2:1 ratio. Removal of individual California bay trees shall be mitigated at a 2:1 ratio (i.e., two replacement trees per one removed tree). Replacement trees shall be a minimum of one gallon in size, of local origin, and of the same species as was impacted. Replacement trees shall be seasonally maintained (browse protection, weed reduction and irrigation, as needed) and monitored annually for at least five years. A mitigation monitoring plan will be prepared that outlines success criteria and provides a timeline for monitoring replacement oak trees. Annual reports will be provided to the City that will include monitoring results and recommendations for tree establishment success.

(f) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. As a result, no impacts are expected and no specific mitigation is required.

3.5 Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

The existing WWTP site is highly disturbed and is not expected to contain any known archaeological sites, paleontological resources or historical structures. As shown in Appendix C, on June 16, 2022, the City sent a letter to the State Office of Historic Preservation requesting Section 106 clearance and stating that the WWTP upgrade portion of the Proposed Project will not cause foreseeable harm to archaeological sites paleontological resources and/or historic resources. On July 11, 2022, the Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Historic Preservation responded that they do not object to the City's finding of No Historic properties affected.

However, due to fact that the Proposed Project has since been expanded to include 5.3 miles of recycled water pipelines, new cultural resources investigation/study was prepared in January 2023. Please see Appendix D[4]. As part of that new report, a new record search for previously recorded cultural resources was conducted at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC), California Historical Resources Information System, on January 17, 2023 (NWIC File 22-1055). The search covered the alignments of the project area and the ½-mile radius around it. There are four previously recorded resources within the project area (P-27-002322; P-27-002820; P-27-002923; P-27-002972) and four resources within ½-mile of the project area (P-27-001738; P-27-002613; P-27-002714; P-27-003958). Fifteen reports incorporate some element of the project area, and fifteen reports come within ½-mile of the project area. Dr. Molly Fierer-Donaldson of Archaeological/Historical Consultants surveyed the entire project area on January 26 and 27, 2023. Dr. Fierer-Donaldson meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for archaeology and is a Registered

[4] Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of cultural resources, this Cultural Resources Survey Report is not available to the General Public.

Professional Archaeologist. Dr. Fierer-Donaldson has over five years of experience in California archaeology.

A pedestrian survey was used to inspect the project area for cultural resources. Open patches of ground, road cuts, and agricultural fields were closely inspected for evidence of Native American and historic-era occupation, including midden soil, shell, bone, modified lithic materials, fire-affected rock, and historic debris and features.

Most of the project alignments are located in already constructed roadways. Soil was evaluated in empty planter beds and undeveloped lots adjacent to the alignments were possible. 1.25 miles of the project area has been designated for an access road to the wastewater treatment facility. This road currently exists as a dirt road alongside an agricultural field. The entire road length was covered, and the road cuts and edges along both sides were carefully examined for any indications of cultural resources.

(a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. All four of the known resources within the project area are historic-era built environmental resources, including highways, educational buildings, railroads, and a transmission line. However, based upon a field survey on January 26 and 27, 2023, none of these historic-era resources (or any other historic resources) would be impacted by the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project. No mitigation is required or necessary.

(b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** No known significant archaeological resources are known to exist within the Project area. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not likely to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of unique archaeological resources. Once constructed, the Proposed Project would not have any effect on archeological resources. Nevertheless, there is a slight chance that construction activities of the Proposed Project could result in accidentally discovering unique archaeological resources during construction. However, to further reduce this less-than-significant impact, the following mitigation measures are recommended:

> **Mitigation Measure CR-1: Conduct Pre-construction Survey and Avoidance of Identified Cultural Resources.** Prior to and/or during the engineering and final design phase, a qualified professional archeologist or cultural resources specialist will provide a final pre-construction survey of the exact proposed pipeline alignment and placement of the Proposed Project facilities within the proposed construction corridor and ensure that the construction activities of the Proposed Project will not affect known archeological resources within the Project area (i.e., P-27-002322; P-27-002820; P-27-002923; and P-27-002972) and the four resources within ½-mile of the project area (i.e., P-27-001738; P-27-002613; P-27-002714; and P-27-003958) as identified by NWIC above. In the unlikely event that the Proposed Project could affect these resources, the proposed project facilities shall be constructed in a manner that will avoid damaging these resources. Specifically, the pipeline shall either be installed by avoidance of the resource by realignment of the pipeline or facility around or under the resource(s).
>
> **CR-2: Cultural Resources Education and Monitoring.** Prior to excavation and construction on the Project site, the City and its contractor (or any subcontractor(s))

shall be briefed by a qualified archaeologist provided by the City on the legal and/or regulatory implications of knowingly destroying historic or prehistoric cultural resources or removing artifacts such as, but not limited to, prehistoric groundstone, projectile points, shell middens, or debitage, human remains, historic materials such as, but not limited to, bottles or cans and other cultural materials from the project site.

Prior to any soil disturbing activities (especially beyond four feet deep), the qualified archaeologist shall monitor the excavation and be authorized to perform spot check monitoring of subsurface construction for potential cultural resources and analyze and evaluate those artifacts or resources that may be uncovered. The qualified archaeologist will also have the authority to temporarily halt excavation and construction activities in the immediate vicinity (within a 50-meter radius or approximately 164 feet) of a find if significant or potentially significant cultural resources are exposed and/or adversely affected by construction operations.

Mitigation Measure CR-3: Halt Work if Cultural Resources are Discovered. In the event that any prehistoric, archaeological, or historic subsurface cultural resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities, all work within 100-feet of the resources shall be halted and after notification, the City shall consult with a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find. If any find is determined to be significant (CEQA Guidelines 15064.5[a][3] or as unique archaeological resources per Section 21083.2 of the California Public Resources Code), representatives of the City and a qualified archaeologist shall meet to determine the appropriate course of action. In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the consulting archaeologist in order to mitigate impacts to historical resources or unique archaeological resources, the City shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) shall be instituted. Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation for historical resources or unique archaeological resources is carried out.

With the implementation of the above mitigation measure, the Proposed Project would not result in impacts to archeological resources.

(c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Paleontological resources are the fossilized evidence of past life found in the geologic record. Despite the tremendous volume of sedimentary rock deposits preserved worldwide, and the enormous number of organisms that have lived through time, preservation of plant or animal remains as fossils is an extremely rare occurrence. Because of the infrequency of fossil preservation, fossils – particularly vertebrate fossils – are considered to be nonrenewable resources. Because of their rarity, and the scientific information they can provide, fossils are highly significant records of ancient life.

No known significant paleontological resources exist within the Project area. Once constructed, the Proposed Project would not have any effect on paleontological resources. Also, because the Proposed Project would result in minimal, if any, excavation in bedrock conditions, significant paleontological discovery would be unlikely. However, fossil discoveries can be made even in areas of supposed low

sensitivity. In the event a paleontological resource is encountered during project activities, implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant.

> **Mitigation Measure CR-4: Stop Work if Paleontological Resources are Discovered.** If paleontological resources, such as fossilized bone, teeth, shell, tracks, trails, casts, molds, or impressions are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, work will stop in that area and within 100-feet of the find until a qualified paleontologist can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate treatment measures in consultation with and approval by the City.

With the implementation of the above mitigation measure, the Proposed Project would not result in impacts to unique paleontological or geological resources.

(d) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** There are no known burial sites within the project area. Once constructed, the Proposed Project would not have any effect on human remains. Nonetheless, the possibility exists that subsurface construction activities may encounter undiscovered human remains. Accordingly, this is a potentially significant impact. Mitigation is proposed to reduce this potentially significant impact to a level of less-than-significant.

> **Mitigation Measure CR-5: Halt Work if Human Remains are Found.** If human remains are encountered during excavation activities conducted for the Proposed Project, all work in the adjacent area shall stop immediately and the Monterey County Coroner's office shall be notified. If the Coroner determines that the remains are Native American in origin, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be notified and will identify the Most Likely Descendent, who will be consulted for recommendations for treatment of the discovered human remains and any associated burial goods.

3.6 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be located on geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

(a) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project does not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss and injury due to a seismic event. The proposed pipelines will not cross a known fault, but the project area is susceptible to strong groundshaking during an earthquake which could occur along known faults in the region. However, the Proposed Project does not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects,

including the risk of loss and injury due to a seismic event. Any impacts would be considered less-than-significant and no mitigation is required or necessary.

(b) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would involve excavation and earthmoving which could cause erosion or loss of topsoil. Construction activities would involve excavation, moving, filling, and the temporary stockpiling of soil. Earthwork associated with development construction could expose soils to erosion. However, the Proposed Project would be constructed at the City's existing WWTP site and in existing roadways and utility corridors and would be covered and paved immediately after the pipeline has been installed. As a result, any soil erosion or loss of top soil would be considered less-than-significant and no mitigation is required or necessary.

(c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project may be located in areas that consist of medium dense to dense fine granular soils. In addition, perched ground water could be present. As such, the soil in some areas of the alignment may have a high susceptibility to liquefaction during seismic shaking. Other portions of the Project may be less susceptible to liquefaction and related damage. Lateral spreading, often associated with liquefaction, is less likely because there are no steep banks or hard ground bordering the Project area, but could still potentially be a hazard. As a result, the following mitigation is proposed:

> **Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Perform Geotechnical Investigation.** The City shall require a design-level geotechnical study to be prepared prior to project implementation to determine proper design and construction methods, including any cathodic protection measures needed for installing the pipelines in these soils.

With the incorporation of this mitigation measure, any resulting impacts would be considered to be less-than-significant.

(d) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project could be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994). However, with the incorporation of **Mitigation Measures GEO-1** above, any impacts would be less-than-significant.

(e) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project would not include the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems – with the exception of land application through the use of spray fields. Application of recycled water to landscaped areas in excess of agronomic rates could alter some soil properties that influence the suitability of a site to be used for septic tanks or alternate wastewater disposal systems. However, the City will ensure that all recycled water users apply water at agronomical rates. Therefore, no adverse effects to soil resources are expected. No mitigation is required.

3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) For a Project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the Project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

(a) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Operation of the Proposed Project would not involve the routine transportation, use, storage, and/or disposal of hazardous materials. However, construction of the Proposed Project could temporarily increase the transport of materials generally regarded as hazardous materials that are used in construction activities. It is anticipated that limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluids,

paint, and other similarly related materials would be brought onto the project site, used, and stored during the construction period. The types and quantities of materials to be used could pose a significant risk to the public and/or the environment. In addition, construction of the Proposed Project could result in the exposure of construction workers and residents to potentially contaminated soils. As a result, the following mitigation measures are proposed:

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Store, Handle, Use Hazardous Materials in Accordance with Applicable Laws. The City shall ensure that all construction-related hazardous materials and hazardous wastes shall be stored, handled, and used in a manner consistent with relevant and applicable federal, state, and local laws. In addition, construction-related hazardous materials and hazardous wastes shall be staged and stored away from stream channels and steep banks to keep these materials a safe distance from near-by residents and prevent them from entering surface waters in the event of an accidental release.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-2: Properly Dispose of Contaminated Soil and/or Groundwater. If contaminated soil and/or groundwater is encountered or if suspected contaminated is encountered during project construction, work shall be halted in the area, and the type and extent of the contamination shall be identified. A contingency plan to dispose of any contaminated soil or groundwater will be developed through consultation with appropriate regulatory agencies.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-3: Equipment Inspection and Maintenance. The City shall ensure that well-maintained equipment will be used to perform the work, and except in the case of a failure or breakdown, equipment maintenance will be performed off-site. Equipment will be inspected daily by the operator for leaks or spills. If leaks or spills are encountered, the source of the leak will be identified, leaked material will be cleaned up, and the cleaning materials will be collected and properly disposed. Spills, leaks, and other problems of a similar nature will be resolved immediately to prevent unnecessary effects on state and federally listed species and their habitats. A plan for the emergency cleanup of any spills of fuel or other material will be available on site, and adequate materials for spill cleanup will be maintained on site.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-4: Fueling Activities. The City will protect state and federally listed species and their habitats from pollution due to fuels, oils, lubricants, and other harmful materials. Vehicles and equipment that are used during the Proposed Project will be fueled and serviced in a manner that will not affect federally listed species or their habitats. Machinery and equipment used will be serviced, fueled, and maintained on uplands in a "safe" area (i.e., outside of sensitive habitats) and will be located outside of suitable habitats for federally listed species, to prevent contamination. Fueling equipment and vehicles will be kept more than 200-feet away from aquatic habitats (i.e., waters of the U.S. and Waters of the State), and more than 100-feet away from suitable terrestrial habitats for federally listed species. Exceptions to this distance requirement may be allowed for large cranes, pile drivers, and drill rigs, if they cannot be easily moved. The City will establish a temporary fuel containment basin if these buffers cannot be maintained.

Fueling will be conducted in accordance with procedures to be developed in a Spill Prevention and Pollution Control Plan.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-5: Equipment Staging. The City shall ensure that no staging of construction materials, equipment, tools, buildings, trailers, or restroom facilities will occur in a floodplain during flood season, even if staging is only temporary.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-6: Properly Dispose of Hydrostatic Test Water. Dewatering and of the pipelines during hydrostatic testing during construction as well as any dewatering as a result of operations and maintenance activities shall be discharged to land and not into any creeks, drainages, or waterways and shall require prior approval from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

(b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The operation of the Proposed Project could create an additional significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. As with all construction activities, the potential exists for accidents to occur, which could result in the release of hazardous materials into the environment. With the incorporation of **Mitigation Measures HAZ-1 through HAZ-6** identified above, potential impacts are considered to be less-than-significant.

(c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Construction of portions of the pipeline segments of the Proposed Project would be located within one-quarter mile of several existing schools, including King City High School, Santa Lucia Elementary School, and Chalone Peaks Middle School. Although construction activities would require the use of some hazardous materials, due to the short duration and limited extent of construction activity, the potential for accidental release of hazardous materials associated with construction activities to affect nearby school children. In addition, with the implementation of **Mitigation Measures HAZ-1 through HAZ-6** identified above, potential impacts would be reduced to less than significant.

(d) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project is not located on a site which is known to be included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and therefore would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Specifically, a records search was conducted using the State of California Department of Toxic Substance Control's Envirostor Database and GIS mapping system and no records of any identified hazardous waste or materials was identified within the Proposed Project. As a result, no impact is expected and no specific mitigation is required.

(e) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project is located within two miles of the Mesa Del Rey Airport, which is located in the northwest portion of the City. However, construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not adversely affect an airport or airport operations, including, noise, take-offs, landings, flight patterns, safety, light, navigation, or communications between aircraft and the control tower within the Project area. No significant impacts would occur as a result of the Proposed Project and no specific mitigation is necessary or required.

(f) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project is located within two miles of the Mesa Del Rey Airport, which is located in the northwest portion of the City. However, construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not adversely affect an airport or airport operations, including, noise, take-offs, landings, flight patterns, safety, light, navigation, or communications between aircraft and the control tower within the Project area. No significant impacts would occur as a result of the Proposed Project and no specific mitigation is necessary or required.

(g) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. As a result, no impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required. However, when installing the pipelines in the existing roadways, the Proposed Project could block access to nearby roadways for emergency vehicles. With the incorporation of the following mitigation, potential impacts are considered to be less than significant.

> **Mitigation Measure HAZ-7: Develop and Maintain Emergency Access Strategies.** In conjunction with Mitigation Measure Traffic-1: Develop a Traffic Control Plan identified below in the Traffic and Transportation section, comprehensive strategies for maintaining emergency access shall be developed. Strategies shall include, but not limited to, maintaining steel trench plates at the construction sites to restore access across open trenches and identification of alternate routing around construction zones. Also, police, fire, and other emergency service providers shall be notified of the timing, location, and duration of the construction activities and the location of detours and lane closures.

(h) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Construction of the Proposed Project would be located within an agricultural and urban setting, but is not generally located in an area where there is the substantial risk of a wildland fire. Specifically, a records search of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Severity mapping system does not regard the Proposed Project Area to be in an area of high risk to wildfires. However, project components would be constructed within or near annual grasslands with moderate to high potential for fire in the dry season. Operation of equipment used to construct the Proposed Project, such as bulldozers, tractors, transportation vehicles, welders, and grinders cold increase the potential for fire. The potential exists for construction equipment and vehicles to come into contact with heavily vegetated areas, thereby igniting dry vegetation. With the implementation of the following mitigation, potential impacts would be reduced to less than significant.

> **Mitigation Measure HAZ-8: Develop and Implement Fire Management Plan.** The City shall comply with all federal, state, county and local fire regulations pertaining to burning permits and the prevention of uncontrolled fires. As appropriate, the following measures shall be implemented to prevent fire hazards and control of fires:
>
> - Prior to construction, the City shall develop and implement a fire prevention and suppression plan for the Proposed Project for those activities that have a risk of starting a wildfire.
> - A list of relevant fire authorities and their designated representative to contact shall be maintained on site by City and/or construction personnel.

- Adequate firefighting equipment shall be available on site in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements.
- The level of fire hazard shall be posted at the construction office (where visible for workers) and workers shall be made aware of the hazard level and related implications.
- The City or its contractor shall provide equipment to handle any possible fire emergency. This shall include, although not be limited to, water trucks; portable water pumps; chemical fire extinguishers; hand tools such as shovels, axes, and chain saws; and heavy equipment adequate for the construction of fire breaks when needed. Specifically, the City or its contractor shall supply and maintain in working order an adequate supply of fire extinguishers for each crew engaged in potentially combustible work such as welding, cutting, and grinding.
- All equipment shall be equipped with spark arrestors.
- In the event of a fire, the City or its contractor shall immediately use resources necessary to contain the fire. The City or contractor shall then notify local emergency response personnel.
- Any and all tree-clearing activities (if any) are to be carried out in accordance with local rules and regulations for the prevention of forest fires.
- Burning shall be prohibited.
- Flammable wastes shall be removed from the construction site on a regular basis.
- Flammable materials kept on the construction site must be stored in approved containers away from ignition sources.
- Smoking shall be prohibited on the construction site, except at designated safe areas with proper cigarette disposal containers.

3.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion of siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? (Erosion Potential)	☐	☒	☐	☐
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Inundation of seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

(a) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Excavation, grading, and construction activities associated with the Proposed Project could violate water quality as those activities would expose and disturb soils, resulting in potential increases in erosion and siltation in the Project area. Construction during the rainy season could result in increases in erosion, station, and water quality issues. Generally, excavation, grading, paving, and other construction activities would expose disturbed and loosened soils to erosion by wind and runoff. Construction activities could therefore result in increased erosion and siltation, including nutrient loading and increasing the total suspended solids concentration. Erosion and siltation from construction have the potential to impact nearby creeks and drainages (i.e., San Lorenzo Creek), therefore posing a potentially significant impact to water quality. With the incorporation of the following mitigation, any potential impacts to water quality are reduced to less-than-significant levels.

> **Mitigation Measure HWQ-1: Implement Construction Best Management Practices.** To reduce potentially significant erosion and siltation, the City and/or its selected contractor(s) shall obtain a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Permit (SWPPP) and implement Best Management Practices and erosion control measures as required by the Central Coast RWQCB. Best Management Practices to reduce erosion and siltation shall include the following measures: Avoidance of construction activities during inclement weather; limitation of construction access routes and stabilization of access points; stabilization of cleared, excavated areas by providing vegetative buffer strips, providing plastic coverings, and applying ground base on areas to be paved; protection of adjacent properties by installing sediment barriers or filters, or vegetative buffer strips; stabilization and prevention of sediments from surface runoff from discharging into storm drain outlets; use of sediment controls and filtration to remove sediment from water generated by dewatering; and returning all drainage patterns to pre-existing conditions.

In addition, the operation of the Proposed Project and application of recycled water will increase salts and nutrient loadings on the soils which could result in significant impacts to adjacent surface and groundwater resources. The sole source of water supply for the City and Cal Water customers of the King City District is groundwater from the Upper Valley subarea of the Salinas River Groundwater Basin. The total stored volume of groundwater in the Basin is about 6.8 million acre-feet (af), and the aquifer storage capacity is approximately 7.2 million af; this suggests that there is an unfilled storage capacity of about 0.4 million af. Groundwater in the Salinas River Groundwater Basin area has an average TDS level of approximately 478 milligrams per liter (mg/l)[5]. However, the City's drinking water supply has an average TDS level of 337 (mg/l)[6] .

At build out, the Proposed Project would offset approximately 1,000 afy of that supply with recycled water for irrigation purposes. The proposed new recycled water supply would have an average TDS level of approximately 750 mg/l[7] which would result in an approximately 222 percent increase in salt loading for the 1,000 afy of water to be used for irrigation purposes. It is assumed that with proper irrigation best

[5] California, Department of Water Resources (DWR*), California's Groundwater Basin, Bulletin 118.* February 2004.
[6] King City 2021 Water Quality Report
[7]City of King, Reclaimed Water Effluent TDS Study. September 2022.

management practices, recycled water operations would have an 80 percent irrigation efficiency, meaning that 80 percent of the applied recycled water would be lost through evapotranspiration and the remaining 20 percent of the flow would percolate through the root zone. All of the applied salts are assumed to remain with the 20 percent flow and would percolate into the groundwater as a result of winter rains. The increased salt loading would result in approximately 500 tons per year which would be considered a less than significant impact to the overall Salinas River Groundwater Basin which currently has a stored volume of 6.8 million acre-feet. Also, recycled water has higher amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium than potable supplies. Thus, recycled water helps to alleviate the need to use fertilizers which are more readily applied if potable supplies are used for irrigation and which are not accounted for in this TDS calculations. However, the increase in TDS (i.e., 500 tons per year) in the Basin at the local level could be a considered a significant impact as the groundwater basin does not readily mix percolating water supplies. As a result, the following recycled water best management practices are recommended to be implemented so that any local-level groundwater quality adverse impacts can be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

> **Mitigation Measure HWQ-2: Implement Recycled Water Best Management Practices.** In order to help reduce the potential effects of increased salt loading potential as a result of using recycled water, the City shall:
>
> - Ensure that water is applied consistent with Title 22 requirements and in amounts (frequency and intensity) which meet the demands of the plant (agronomic rates), but not in excessive amounts such that salts buildup in the soil beyond the root zone and/or otherwise are leached to groundwater;
> - Ensure that adequate soil drainage is maintained;
> - Ensure that salt-sensitive plants are not to be sprayed wet; and
> - Addressing sodium and alkalinity concerns through addition of water and soil amendments, including addition of gypsum.
> - Monitor the groundwater TDS levels both upstream and downstream of the City and WWTP and Report results to the Central Coast RWCB on a quarterly and annual basis.

With the implementation of **Mitigation Measures HWQ-1 and HWQ-2**, any water quality impacts as a result of the use of recycled water will be reduced to less-than-significant levels. No additional mitigation measures or demineralization facilities would be required.

(b) **No Impact.** Construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. Construction of the Proposed Project would be limited to 3- to 6-feet below surface elevation and would not interfere with groundwater supplies. Once constructed, the pipeline will also not adversely affect groundwater supplies. In fact, the importation of up to 1,000 acre-feet of recycled water per year has the potential to offset current groundwater pumping which has the potential to increase local groundwater supplies and water quality through an in-lieu recharge basis. Therefore, no adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

(c) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not **s**ubstantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion of siltation on- or off-site. As discussed earlier, the construction of the Proposed Project could result in minor, temporary, and highly localized soil erosion and siltation issues. However, with the incorporation of **Mitigation Measure HWQ-1** above, potential impacts to surface water quality and drainage patterns would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

(d) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not **s**ubstantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site. As discussed earlier, the construction of the Proposed Project could result in minor, temporary, and highly localized soil erosion and siltation issues. However, with the incorporation of **Mitigation Measure HWQ-1** above, potential impacts to surface water quality and drainage patterns would be reduced to less-than-significant levels

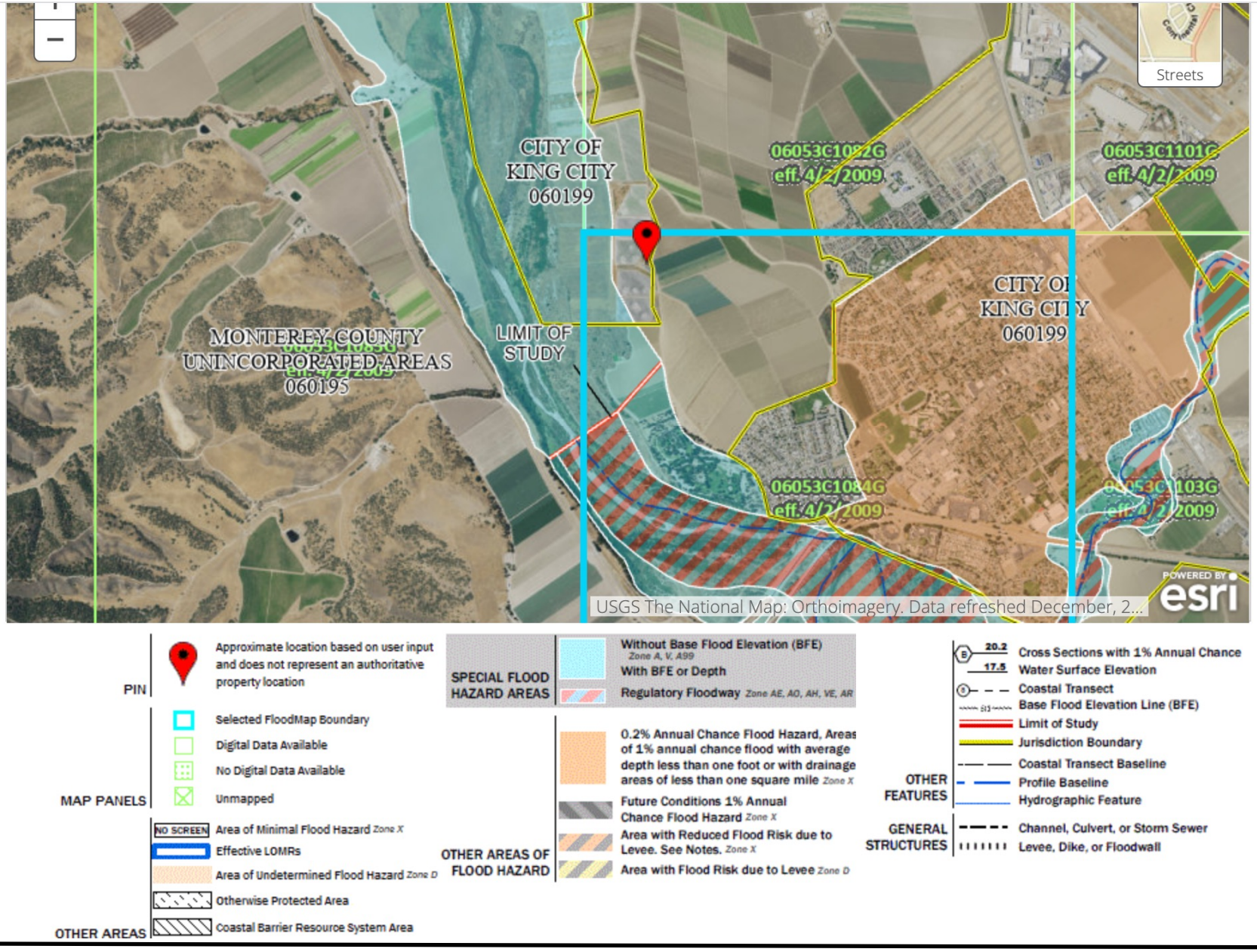
(e) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project would not result in any new significant impervious surfaces and would not create new areas of low permeability. The new facilities at the WWTP would not significantly increase the impervious surfaces and therefore would not create new areas of low permeability. As a result, no significant additional runoff is expected to be generated by the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in exceeding the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems. No impacts would occur and no mitigation is necessary.

(f) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project would not substantially affect water quality. As discussed earlier, the construction of the Proposed Project could result in minor, temporary, and highly localized soil erosion and siltation issues. However, with the incorporation of **Mitigation Measure HWQ-1** above, potential impacts to surface water quality would be reduced to less-than-significant levels. Further the decrease in salt loading from the use of the recycled water due to a lower TDS level would have benefits to the local groundwater basin.

(g) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not redirect flood flows or otherwise place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area. No impact is expected and no mitigation is required or necessary.

(h) **No Impact.** As shown on Figure 6, the Proposed Project would not be located within the 100-year flood plain of the Salinas River. No impact is expected and no mitigation is required or necessary.

(i) **Less than Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding; including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam. The proposed storage facilities could potentially rupture as a result of flooding and or a seismic event. However, the amount or volume of water would not significantly expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death. Any potential impacts would be considered less than significant and no mitigation is required or necessary.



SMB ENVIRONMENTAL

Figure 6
FEMA 100-Year Floodplain Map

(j) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving a seiche or tsunami. In addition, the Proposed Project area is essentially level, with minimal to no potential hazards from mudflows. No impacts are likely or anticipated.

3.9 Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

(a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not physically divide an established community. The Proposed Project is located in the City. Construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not result in a disruption, physical division, or isolation of existing residential or open space areas. As a result, no impacts are likely or anticipated.

(b) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project area. In fact, the City has developed strategic plans and policies to encourage the use of recycled water. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

(c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. As stated above, the Proposed Project would be constructed primarily within existing roadways and in agricultural lands of farmers who are interested in receiving the recycled water. For this reason, no impact is expected and no mitigation is required.

3.10 Mineral Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

(a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project site is not located on a site that is identified as a significant source of mineral resources. Specifically, the Proposed Project is not located in an area identified as containing mineral resources classified MRZ-2 by the State geologist that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. As a result, the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources; therefore, no impact is expected. No mitigation is required.

(b) **No Impact.** The City's General Plan does not identify any locally important mineral resources or recovery sites in the Proposed Project's area. Further, as discussed in (a), the Proposed Project would be unlikely to result in the loss of availability of a mineral resource deposit that has been identified as a mineral resource of value. Therefore, no adverse impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

3.11 Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

(a) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project is located in an area with high potential for sensitive receptors. The existing sensitive receptors to the project site are residences and commercial and industrial businesses along the proposed pipeline alignment within the City limits. The Proposed Project has the potential to generate noise during the construction phase through the use of equipment and construction vehicle trips. Once constructed, the Proposed Project (i.e., the pipeline portion) would be buried underground and would not create any new sources of operational noise. Therefore, operation of the pipeline would not result in noise impacts. Construction of the Proposed Project would generate temporary and intermittent noise. Noise levels would fluctuate depending on the particular type, number, and duration of use of various pieces of construction equipment.

Back-up beepers associated with trucks and equipment used for material loading and unloading at the staging area would generate significantly increased noise levels over the ambient noise

environment in order to be discernable and protect construction worker safety as required by OSHA (29 CFR 1926.601 and 29 CFR 1926.602). Residences in the vicinity of the staging area would thus be exposed to these elevated noise levels.

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would be temporary in nature and related noise impacts would be short-term. However, since construction activities could substantially increase ambient noise levels at noise-sensitive locations, construction noise could result in potentially significant, albeit temporary, impacts to sensitive receptors, including residents and commercial businesses. Compliance with the City's noise ordinance and implementation of the following mitigation measures is expected to reduce impacts related to construction noise, to a less-than-significant level. The following mitigation measures are proposed:

Mitigation Measure NOI-1: **Limit Construction Hours.** Construction activities will be limited to the least noise-sensitive times and will comply with the City noise ordinances. Construction, alteration, repair or land development activities within the downtown business and residential area(s) shall be allowed on weekdays between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., on Saturdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. No construction shall be permitted on Sundays. Due to having no nearby sensitive receptors, construction, alteration, repair or land development activities at the WWTP area shall be allowed seven days a week between the hours of 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. No construction outside of these windows shall occur without prior written permission/authorization from the Public Works Director.

Mitigation Measure NOI-2: Locate Staging Areas away from Sensitive Receptors. The City's construction specification shall require that the contractor select staging areas as far as feasibly possible from sensitive receptors.

Mitigation Measure NOI-3: Maintain Mufflers on Equipment. The City's construction specifications shall require the contractor to maintain all construction equipment with manufacturer's specified noise-muffling devices.

Mitigation Measure NOI-4: Idling Prohibition and Enforcement. The City shall prohibit and enforce unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines. In practice, this would mean turning off equipment if it will not be used for five or more minutes.

Mitigation Measure NOI-5: Equipment Location and Shielding. The City shall require locating all stationary noise-generating construction equipment such as air compressors as far as possible from homes and businesses.

With the incorporation of the above mitigation measures, noise impacts would be considered less-than-significant.

(b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Operation of the Proposed Project would not result in exposing people to or generating excessive groundborne vibration or noise impacts. Construction of the Proposed Project could likely result in minor and temporary increases in groundborne vibration or noise, however, construction activities would be temporary. With the incorporation of **Mitigation Measures NOI-1 through NOI-5** impacts associated with the

exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

(c) **No Impact.** The operation of the Proposed Project would not increase noise in and around the Project area. Once constructed, the operation of the pipeline facilities would not result in any noise. The Proposed Project would not cause a permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the Project. Therefore, this impact is considered less-than-significant and no mitigation is required.

(d) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Project construction activities may lead to a temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. With the implementation of **Mitigation Measures NOI-1 through NOI-5** impacts resulting in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

(e) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project is located within two miles of the Mesa Del Rey Airport, which is located in the northwest portion of the City. However, construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not adversely affect an airport or airport operations, including, noise, take-offs, landings, flight patterns, safety, light, navigation, or communications between aircraft and the control tower within the Project area. No significant impacts would occur as a result of the Proposed Project and no specific mitigation is necessary or required.

(f) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project is located within two miles of the Mesa Del Rey Airport, which is located in the northwest portion of the City. However, construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project would not adversely affect an airport or airport operations, including, noise, take-offs, landings, flight patterns, safety, light, navigation, or communications between aircraft and the control tower within the Project area. No significant impacts would occur as a result of the Proposed Project and no specific mitigation is necessary or required.

3.12 Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

(a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not induce population growth either directly or indirectly. The Proposed Project would upgrade the WWTP to meet Central Coast RWQCB requirements and to provide approximately 1,000 afy of recycled water for irrigation to offset surface and groundwater supplies currently being used for irrigation purposes. This recycled water supply would help supplement the Salinas Groundwater Basin's current groundwater supplies by an in-lieu recharge process, but would not be a sufficient supply to induce urban growth in the area in and of itself. Therefore, this new supply would not really aid or facilitate any new growth beyond the City's existing planning horizon. Further, the City has growth management strategies in place to control growth. In addition, construction, operation, and maintenance would not result in any substantial increase in numbers of permanent workers/employees. Therefore, no significant impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

(b) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not result in displacing substantial numbers of existing housing or necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Construction of the Proposed Project would avoid the need to demolish any existing houses and would not affect any other housing structures. As a result, the Proposed Project would not displace existing housing, and therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

(c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Construction of the Proposed Project would avoid the need to demolish existing housing and other housing structures. As a result, the Proposed Project is not expected to displace people from their homes. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

3.13 Public Services

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

(a) **No Impact.** As discussed in Section 3.12 - Population and Housing, the Proposed Project will not generate population growth and the operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would not be labor intensive. In addition, the Proposed Project would not increase the demand for the kinds of public services that would support new residents, such as schools, parks, fire, police, or other public facilities. As a result, no impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

3.14 Recreation

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

Discussion

(a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project will not contribute to population growth. Therefore, the Proposed Project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. As a result, no impact is expected and no mitigation is required.

(b) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not include or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Furthermore, as discussed in (a), the Proposed Project will not increase the demand for recreational facilities. As a result, no impact is expected and no mitigation is required.

3.15 Socioeconomics

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Result in any adverse socioeconomic effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice) policies?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Affect Indian Trust Assets?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

(a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project would not have any adverse socioeconomic effects. The Proposed Project would involve the construction and operation of a recycled water system to offset the use of existing non-potable surface and groundwater supplies. This would ensure a reliable, long-term water supply that would help support the existing and future agricultural and urban landscape irrigation activities within the City and which would be considered a beneficial socioeconomic effect. In addition, the Proposed Project would also benefit the City and residents of the City by finding a use of the City's treated wastewater. The development of this water supply could have a beneficial impact to the region. The City is pursuing funding mechanisms which would help reduce the cost of the project. The additional project costs would not adversely affect any minority or low-income populations and/or adversely alter the socioeconomic conditions of populations that reside within the City. As a result, the Proposed Project would not have any adverse socioeconomic effects.

(b) **No Impact.** Executive 12898 requires each federal agency to achieve environmental justice as part of its mission, by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health on environmental effects, including social and economic effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations of the United States. The Proposed Project would involve the construction and operation of a new/upgraded WWTP and recycled water system to deliver supplemental water to the region to help protect and enhance the existing M&I and agricultural practices within the City. The Proposed Project does not propose any features that would result in disproportionate adverse human health or environmental effects, have any physical effects on minority or low-income populations, and/or alter socioeconomic conditions of populations that reside or work within the City.

(c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not have any adverse effects on Indian Trust Assets (ITA). ITAs are legal interests in property or rights held by the United States for Indian Tribes or individuals. Trust status originates from rights imparted by treaties, statutes, or executive orders. Examples of ITAs are lands, including reservations and public domain allotments, minerals, water rights, hunting and fishing rights, or other natural resources, money or claims. Assets can be real property, physical assets, or intangible property rights. ITAs cannot be sold, leased, or otherwise alienated without federal approval. ITAs do not include things in which a tribe or individuals have no legal interest such as off-reservation sacred lands or archaeological sites in which a tribe has no

legal property interest. No ITAs have been identified within the construction areas of the Proposed Project. As a result, the Proposed Project would have no adverse effects on ITAs.

3.16 Traffic and Transportation

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location which results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

(a) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Most of the construction would be associated with the WWTP upgrades and would be located on the western side of the City in a remote area where there is not much traffic or transportation issues. However, portions of the Proposed Project would be constructed within existing paved roadways within the City. These construction activities would temporarily disrupt transportation and circulation patterns in the vicinity of the project thus disrupting local vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic along the haul route. Although construction-generated traffic would be temporary during peak excavation and earthwork activities, average daily truck trips would be 40 round-trip truck trips per day. The primary impacts from the movement of trucks would include short-term and intermittent lessening of roadway capacities due to slower movements and larger turning radii of the trucks compared to passenger vehicles. The following mitigation measures are proposed:

Mitigation Measure TRA-1: Prepare and Implement Traffic Control Plan. As is consistent with existing policy, the City shall require the contractor to prepare and

implement effective traffic control plans in the areas of City streets to show specific methods for maintaining traffic flows. Examples of traffic control measures to be considered include: 1) use of flaggers to maintain alternating one-way traffic while working on one-half of the street; 2) use of advance construction signs and other public notices to alert drivers of activity in the area; 3) use of "positive guidance" detour signing on alternate access streets to minimize inconvenience to the driving public; 4) provisions for emergency access and passage; and 5) designated areas for construction worker parking.

Mitigation Measure TRA-2: Return Roads to Pre-construction Condition. Following construction, the City shall ensure that road surfaces that are damaged during construction are returned to their pre-construction condition or better.

With the incorporation of the above mitigation measures, potential temporary impacts are considered to be less-than-significant.

(b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** As discussed above in (a), construction activities of the Proposed Project may result in increased vehicle trips. This could temporarily exceed, either individually or cumulatively, existing level of service standards. However, the Proposed Project would not result in any long-term degradation in operating conditions or level of service on any project roadways. With the implementation of **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** impacts associated with exceeding level of service standards would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

(c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not involve use of air transit, nor is it expected to cause any change in air traffic patterns. No impact is expected and no mitigation is required.

(d) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project does not propose to make changes to roadways that would create road hazards or alter design features developed to mitigate such hazards. No impacts are expected and no mitigation is required.

(e) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The Proposed Project would have temporary effects on traffic flow, due to added truck traffic during construction which could result in delays for emergency vehicle access in the vicinity of the project. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** would require the contractor to establish methods for maintaining traffic flow in the project vicinity and minimizing disruption to emergency vehicle access to land uses along the truck route. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** would also ensure potential impacts associated with temporary effects on emergency access would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

(f) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** Project-related construction activities would require additional parking for workers and equipment on a temporary basis. However, sufficient space exists within the construction easement to accommodate parking needs for construction workers and equipment. As a result, no impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

(g) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would be short term and would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Also once constructed, the Proposed Project would not conflict with

adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Any short-term effects would be considered less than significant.

3.17 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

a) Less-than-Significant with Mitigation. The Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a known tribal cultural resource, as defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, and that is either: (1) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k); and/or (2) is a resource determined by the City or its archeological consultant, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1.

As documented in Appendix E – Native American Consultation, on January 18, 2023, a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), requesting a listing of local Native American tribes in the area and any information regarding sacred lands within the area in order to be compliant with Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). On February 7, 2023, NAHC sent the City a list of the Native American Tribes to request a government-to-government consultation to determine the potential of the Proposed Project to affect Tribal Cultural Resources. On February 22, 2023, the City sent a letter to each Native American Tribe requesting consultation and information regarding how the Proposed Project could potentially affect any known tribal cultural resources. To date, two of the tribes (i.e., the Xolon Salinan Tribe and the Indian Canyon Band of Costanoan Ohlone People) have responded and requested information regarding cultural resources and that they be notified prior to construction so they can have a monitor from their tribe be present during construction. A copy of the IS/MND and the Cultural Resources Survey Report have been provided to them during the 30-day public review period.

In addition, and as documented in Section 3.5 - Cultural Resources, on January 17, 2023, a records search was conducted by staff at the Northwest Information Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California (NWIC No: 22-1055). The record search included the Project Area of Potential Effect (APE) and a 0.50-mile radius outside the project boundaries. The record search included current inventories of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), California State Historic Landmarks, and the California Points of Historical Interest. However, due to the sensitive nature of the information, this information is not available to the general public and is on a need-to-know basis. As a result, this public document will only summarize those resources and findings.

In addition, a pedestrian archeological survey was conducted of the Project area on January 26 and 27, 2023. All open areas were inspected for cultural evidence such as historic structures, artifacts, and features; and indicators of prehistoric archaeological deposits like midden soil, flaked lithics, groundstone, and shell. No cultural resources including tribal cultural resources were observed during the survey.

As a result, there are no tribal cultural resources that are known to exist within the Project area. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not likely to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of known or unique tribal cultural resources. Nevertheless, there is always a chance that construction activities of the Proposed Project could result in accidentally discovering unique tribal cultural resources. To further reduce this less-than-significant impact, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented along with and in combination with the **Mitigation Measures: CR-1, CR-2, and CR-3** as identified in Section 3.5 - Cultural Resources:

> **Mitigation Measure TCR-1: Notify and Invite Local Native American Tribes to be Present During Project Construction Activities.** The City shall notify and invite the Xolon Salinan Tribe, Indian Canyon Band of Costanoan Ohlone People, and all of the identified Native American Tribes within the Project Area that requested to be present during the construction of the Proposed Project. The Tribes would be responsible for their own expenses for any and all monitoring services performed by them.

Mitigation Measure TCR-2: Halt Work if Tribal Cultural Resources are Discovered. In the event that any tribal cultural resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities, all work within 100-feet of the resources shall be halted and after notification, the City shall consult with a qualified archaeologist and local tribes to assess the significance of the find. If any find is determined to be significant as a unique tribal cultural resource, the City shall treat the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including to, but not limited to, the following:

- Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource;
- Protecting the traditional use of the resource; and
- Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.

In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the consulting archaeologist and/or the appropriate tribe in order to mitigate impacts to any tribal cultural resources find, the City shall determine whether avoidance is feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) as determined by the City shall be instituted and coordinated with the appropriate tribe(s). Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation measures for tribal cultural resources or other unique archaeological resources are carried out.

With the implementation of the above mitigation measure, the Proposed Project would not result in impacts to tribal cultural resources.

3.18 Utilities and Service Systems

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

(a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. In fact, the Proposed Project would help dispose of the City's existing treated wastewater consistent with the requirements of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

(b) **Less-than-Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project would involve the construction of an upgraded wastewater treatment facility and water recycling system to serve the recycled water for irrigation and commercial purposes within the City. However, any impacts associated with the construction and/or operations are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

(c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not require or result in the construction of additional off-site storm water drainage facilities. Therefore, no impacts are expected and no mitigation is required.

(d) **No Impact.** Under the Proposed Project the City will be providing tertiary treated recycled water from its existing WWTP for irrigation and commercial purposes in the City. The City is the wastewater treatment provider and has sufficient supplies to meet the needs of the Proposed Project and would not need to purchase any new supplies or entitlements. Therefore, no impacts are expected and no mitigation is required.

(e) **No Impact.** Under the Proposed Project, the City will be providing tertiary treated recycled water from its existing WWTP for irrigation and commercial purposes in the City. The City is the wastewater treatment provider and has sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no impacts are expected and no mitigation is required.

(f) **Less than Significant Impact.** Construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not generate a significant amount of solid wastes. The City and much of Monterey County's solid wastes currently are shipped approximately 30-miles to the Johnson Canyon Sanitary Landfill in Gonzales, CA. However, construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not generate a significant amount of solid wastes. No significant impacts are expected to existing landfills and no mitigation is required.

(g) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would comply with all relevant federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, there are no anticipated impacts and no mitigation is required.

3.19 Wildfire

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or utilities) that may exacerbate fire risks or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

(a) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.

(b) **Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation.** Operation of the Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. A records search of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Severity mapping system regards the Proposed Project Area to be in an area of low to moderate risk to wildfires. However, the potential exists that construction activities could cause a fire, especially in a drought situation or in the dry season. As a result, there is potential to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. With the incorporation of **Mitigation Measure HAZ-8: Fire Prevention and Control** (above on Pages 3-34 and 3-35) any potential impacts are considered to be less than significant.

(c) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or utilities) that may exacerbate fire risks or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. Therefore, no impacts are expected, and no mitigation is required.

(d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

3.20 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Proposed Project:				
a) 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have impacts that would be individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

(a) Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation. With the incorporation of the previously identified mitigation measures, the Proposed Project will not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, 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. Any impacts from the Proposed Project in these areas are considered here to be less-than-significant with the implementation and incorporation of the above-mentioned mitigation measures.

(b) Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15183, the environmental analysis in this Initial Study was conducted to determine if there were any project-specific effects as a result of the Proposed Project. No direct project-specific significant effects were identified that could not be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. Mitigation Measures incorporated herein mitigate any potential contribution to cumulative (as well as direct)

impacts associated with these environmental issues. Therefore, the Proposed Project does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

(c) Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation. As a result of mitigation included in this environmental document, the Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse effects to humans, either directly or indirectly.

Chapter 4 Determination:

On the basis of this initial evaluation for the City of King Recycled Water Project:

☐ I find that the Proposed Project/Action WOULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the Proposed Project/Action COULD have a significant effect on the environment, there will NOT be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project and/or mitigation measures have been made by or agreed to by the City. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the Proposed Project/Action MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

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

☐ I find that although the Proposed Project/Action 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/Action, nothing further is required.

Signature _____ Date 3/29/23

Steven Adams
Printed Name

City Manager
Title

Chapter 5 Bibliography

Detailed below are the sources referenced during the preparation of this environmental document.

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- California Department of Toxic Substances. *Envirostor database and GIS System*. November 2022.
- California, Department of Water Resources (DWR*), California's Groundwater Basin, Bulletin 118,* February 2004.
- City of King, Biological Resources Report: WWTP, April 2022.
- City of King, Draft General Plan Land Use Element Update, April 2021.
- City of King Final Wastewater Facilities Plan, September 2017.
- City of King, Recycled Water Feasibility Study, April 2019
- City of King, General Plan, 1998.
- City of King, Self-Monitoring Domestic Reclaimed Water Effluent TDS Study, September 2022.
- City of King, Urban Water Management Plan, 2015.
- City of King, Water Quality Report, 2021.
- Monterey Bay Area Air Resources District, CEQA Guidelines, 2008.

Appendix A

Air Quality Emissions Calculations

Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 7.1.5.1

Emission Estimates for -> City of King's WWTP Upgrade and Recycled Water Project				Total	Exhaust	Fugitive Dust	Total	Exhaust	Fugitive Dust	
Project Phases (English Units)	**ROG (lbs/day)**	**CO (lbs/day)**	**NOx (lbs/day)**	**PM10 (lbs/day)**	**PM10 (lbs/day)**	**PM10 (lbs/day)**	**PM2.5 (lbs/day)**	**PM2.5 (lbs/day)**	**PM2.5 (lbs/day)**	**CO2 (lbs/day)**
Grubbing/Land Clearing	3.4	30.7	25.0	101.0	1.0	100.0	21.7	0.9	20.8	6,010.3
Grading/Excavation	9.0	85.4	76.0	103.3	3.3	100.0	23.8	3.0	20.8	17,977.1
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	7.2	72.3	56.7	102.4	2.4	100.0	22.9	2.1	20.8	14,266.4
Paving	3.6	38.4	27.3	1.2	1.2	-	1.0	1.0	-	6,961.7
Maximum (pounds/day)	9.0	85.4	76.0	103.3	3.3	100.0	23.8	3.0	20.8	17,977.1
Total (tons/construction project)	1.9	18.0	15.0	23.1	0.6	22.4	5.2	0.6	4.7	3,651.0

Notes:

Project Start Year ->	2024
Project Length (months) ->	24
Total Project Area (acres) ->	230
Maximum Area Disturbed/Day (acres) ->	10
Total Soil Imported/Exported (yd^3/day)->	19

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.

Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns H and I. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column J are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns K and L.

Emission Estimates for -> City of King's WWTP Upgrade and Recycled Water Project				Total	Exhaust	Fugitive Dust	Total	Exhaust	Fugitive Dust	
Project Phases (Metric Units)	**ROG (kgs/day)**	**CO (kgs/day)**	**NOx (kgs/day)**	**PM10 (kgs/day)**	**PM10 (kgs/day)**	**PM10 (kgs/day)**	**PM2.5 (kgs/day)**	**PM2.5 (kgs/day)**	**PM2.5 (kgs/day)**	**CO2 (kgs/day)**
Grubbing/Land Clearing	1.5	14.0	11.4	45.9	0.5	45.5	9.9	0.4	9.5	2,732.0
Grading/Excavation	4.1	38.8	34.6	47.0	1.5	45.5	10.8	1.3	9.5	8,171.4
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	3.3	32.9	25.8	46.5	1.1	45.5	10.4	1.0	9.5	6,484.7
Paving	1.6	17.5	12.4	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-	3,164.4
Maximum (kilograms/day)	4.1	38.8	34.6	47.0	1.5	45.5	10.8	1.3	9.5	8,171.4
Total (megagrams/construction project)	1.7	16.4	13.6	20.9	0.6	20.4	4.8	0.5	4.2	3,311.5

Notes:

Project Start Year ->	2024
Project Length (months) ->	24
Total Project Area (hectares) ->	93
Maximum Area Disturbed/Day (hectares) ->	4
Total Soil Imported/Exported ($meters^3$/day)->	15

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.

Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns H and I. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column J are the sume of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns K and L.

Appendix B

Biological Resources Assessment Report

UPDATED DRAFT

Biological Resource Assessment

for

King City Wastewater Treatment Plant

SCH No. 20210250084
King City, California

Prepared for

SMB Environmental, Inc.
c/o Steve Brown
P.O. Box 381
Roseville, CA 95661

by

ALTHOUSE AND MEADE, INC.
BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
1650 Ramada Drive #180
Paso Robles, CA 93446
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February 2023

1323.01

Reporting Biologist:

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Kristen@althouseandmeade.com

This Biological Resource Assessment was prepared according to professional standards and that the statements furnished in the report and associated maps are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature — 2/28/2023 Date

Signature — 2/28/2023 Date

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Cover Page: California tule (*Schoenoplectus californicus*) on edge of water treatment pond, view east. December 7, 2021.

SYNOPSIS

- This report describes the study of biological resources at a 229.9-acre site (Study Area) in King City, California. The Study Area includes Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 245-111-006, -007, -008, -010, -014, -031, -032, -038 - 044, -050, 261-410-010, 264-510-560, -570, -630, 265-310-070, -140, 265-610-100, and 266- 110-080.
- The proposed project (Project) entails construction and operation of improvements to the existing King City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), where this updated report focuses on the addition of 5.3-miles of proposed pipelines and access road improvements. Planned work will occur within the existing facility footprint with upgrades to an existing access road through farmland (disturbed habitat), and within City streets (developed habitat).
- The Study Area is comprised of disturbed and developed habitats. Disturbed habitat comprises the water treatment plant where different land uses affiliated with water treatment include spray fields, water treatment ponds, access roads, and miscellaneous facility components. Developed habitat comprises areas of proposed pipeline within the City.
- Botanical surveys identified 45 species of vascular plants in the Study Area. There are three special status plants with low potential to occur in the Study Area but have no potential to occur in the Project area due to lack of suitable habitat where work is proposed. No special status plants were observed in the Study Area during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.
- Wildlife surveys detected 28 animal species in the Study Area. There are 16 special status animals with some potential to occur in the Study Area. No special status animals were observed in the Study Area during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.
- Biological resources that could be impacted by the Project include existing disturbed habitat (particularly conversion of water treatment ponds), developed habitat (City streets), nesting birds, special status amphibians and reptiles (western spadefoot toad, Coast Range newt, northern California legless lizard, western pond turtle, and coast horned lizard), special status birds (Cooper's hawk, golden eagle, great blue heron, burrowing owl, and bank swallow), and special status mammals (Salinas pocket mouse, American Badger, and San Joaquin kit fox). Project impacts will be negligible for many special status species with potential to occur in the vicinity due to current management practices and habitat conditions within disturbed and developed habitats. Mitigation recommendations are provided to reduce potential direct and indirect impacts to sensitive biological resources mentioned above.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This report provides information regarding biological resources associated with the King City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and sites for proposed access roads and pipelines. The 229.9-acre site (Study Area) includes sections of the 467.5-acre WWTP property (Property), as well as agricultural fields and developed areas in King City, California. Results include a habitat assessment, botanical and wildlife inventory, a discussion of special status species that have potential to occur within the Study Area, and an analysis of potential impacts to biological resources from the proposed facility improvements, access road and pipeline (Project). Content of this report addresses comments and recommendations made by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW; 2021) regarding the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for this Project (SCH No. 2021050084). Additional mitigation recommendations for potential impacts to biological resources are also provided.

1.2 Project Location

The Study Area is in western King City limits, east of the Salinas River and State Highway 101, west of San Antonio Drive, and is accessible from Cemetery Road. The Study Area overlaps with 18 Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs), summarized in Table 1 below. Location coordinates are 36.21934°N, 121.5346°W (WGS 84) in the Thompson Canyon United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (

Figure 1). The Study Area is governed by zoning regulations and policies associated with the incorporated city land use designation, in the South County Area of the Monterey County Planning Area.

TABLE 1. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT

APNs		
245-111-006	245-111-032	264-510-570
245-111-007	245-111-038	264-510-630
245-111-008	245-111-044	265-310-070
245-111-010	245-111-050	265-310-140
245-111-014	261-410-010	265-610-100
245-111-031	264-510-560	266-110-080

1.3 Local and Regional Context

King City (City) is in south Salinas Valley, 51 miles south of the City of Salinas in southern Monterey County. Highway 101, a major north-south route roughly outlines the City's southern and western boundaries. The region is largely agriculture fields and row crops; however, over the years the City has maintained a rural community character (City 1998). The area surrounding the site is mostly open with agriculture to the north, south, and east. The eastern limits of the Salinas River corridor outline the site's western edge. Elevations onsite and within the vicinity are relatively flat at approximately 278 and 288 feet above mean sea level (Figure 2).

1.4 Project Background and Description

After issuance of the MND for the Project in April 2021 (Wood 2021), the City received a letter of comments and recommendations from CDFW to assist the City in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources (CDFW 2021). This BRA addresses comments in the letter and provides updated results regarding special status species with potential to occur within the updated Project area and an analysis of potential impacts affiliated with the new Project description provided by the City in January 2023.

The proposed Project will replace the City's existing WWTP headworks/ponds treatment system (approximately 6.0 acres at location of Pond 1; Figure 3) and construct a 2.0 million gallons per day (mgd) maximum month, secondary wastewater treatment plant that meets regulatory requirements and planned area growth, as well as construct a 1.8 mgd average day tertiary recycled water treatment plant within the WWTP portion of the Study Area. An approximately 5.3-mile pipeline distribution system is also proposed that will help offset approximately 1,000 acre-feet per year of potable and agricultural water use in the community. A new access road to the WWTP will be designed as the existing access road is currently in a farmer's field and has limited to no access to the plant during winter months and flooding events. Both the secondary and tertiary treatment plants would be located within the existing WWTP boundary. The tertiary recycled water treatment and distribution system is planned to serve agricultural and landscape irrigation users, as well as commercial/process uses.

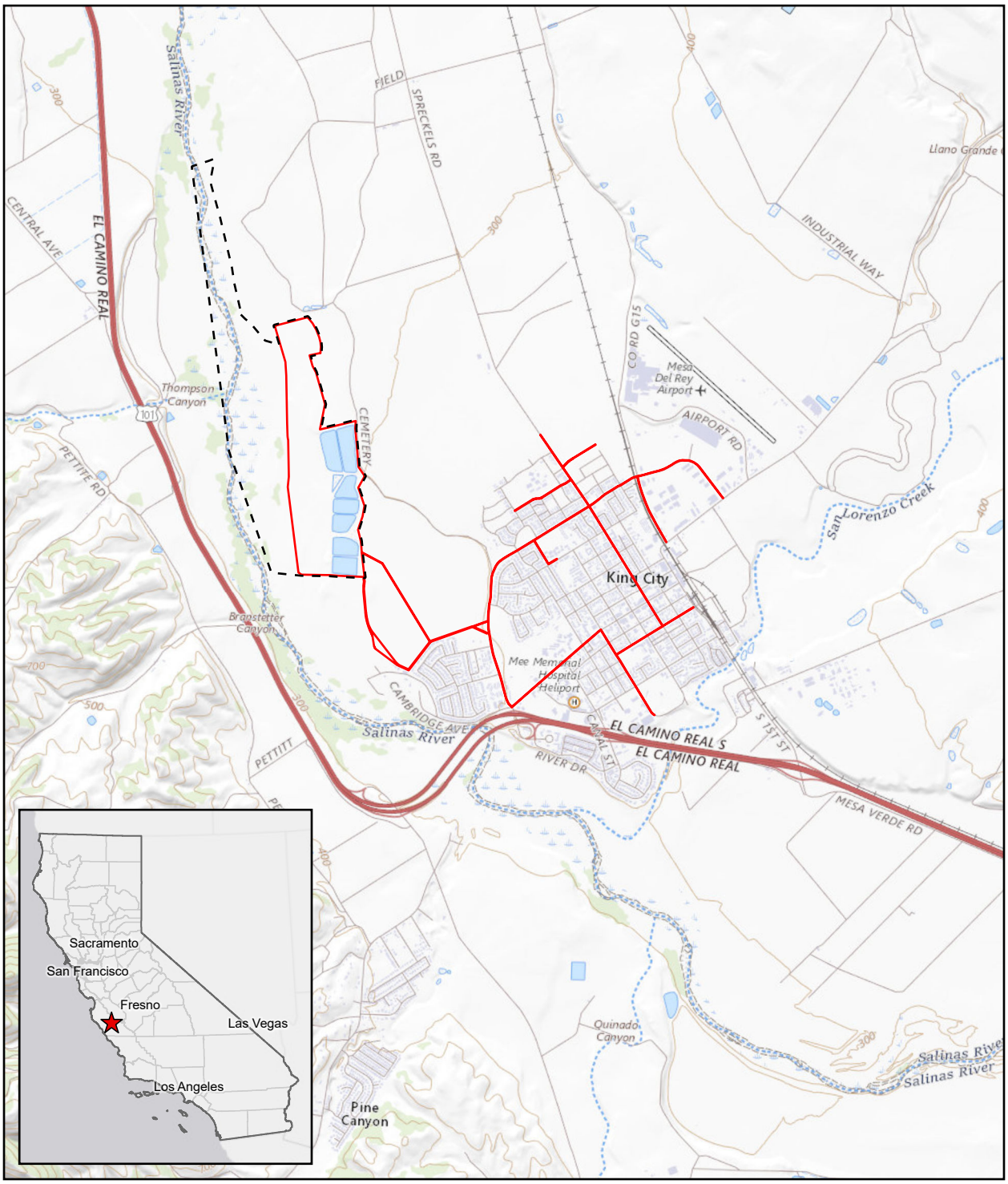
Seasonal land disposal (i.e., spray fields and/or percolation ponds) would continue to be used when recycled water demand is low or does not exist. A recycled water storage tank would be used to store the recycled water for municipal and industrial users, while a large, lined storage pond would be used for the agricultural user(s). Use of recycled water would incorporate the regulatory landscape, including recent State policies regarding the drought, the State Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and salt and nutrient management planning.

Contact information for the project applicant/project engineer, environmental consultant, biological consultant, and lead agency are provided in Table 2.

TABLE 2. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Applicant/Project Engineer	Environmental Consultant
King City WWTP c/o Octavio Hurtado, Applicant/City Engineer 212 South Vanderhurst Ave King City, CA 93930 (831) 385-3281 ohurtado@kingcity.com	**SMB Environmental, Inc.** c/o Steve Brown, Principal P.O. Box 381 Roseville, CA 95661 (916) 517-2189 Steve@smbenvironmental.com
Biological Consultant	**Lead Agency**
Althouse and Meade, Inc. c/o Kristen Anderson, Senior Biologist 1650 Ramada Drive, Suite 180 Paso Robles, CA 93446 (805) 237-9626 Kristen@alt-me.com	**City of King, Depart. of Planning** c/o Doreen Liberto, AICP, MDR Community Development Director 212 South Vanderhurst Ave King City, CA 93930 (831) 385-3281 dliberto@kingcity.com

Figure 1. United States Geological Survey Topographic Map



Legend

Study Area (229.9 acres) WWTP Property (467.5 acres)

N

0 0.5 1 Mile

King City Wastewater Treatment Plant
Map Center: 121.139°W 36.21321°N
King City, Monterey County

USGS Quadrangle: Thompson Canyon

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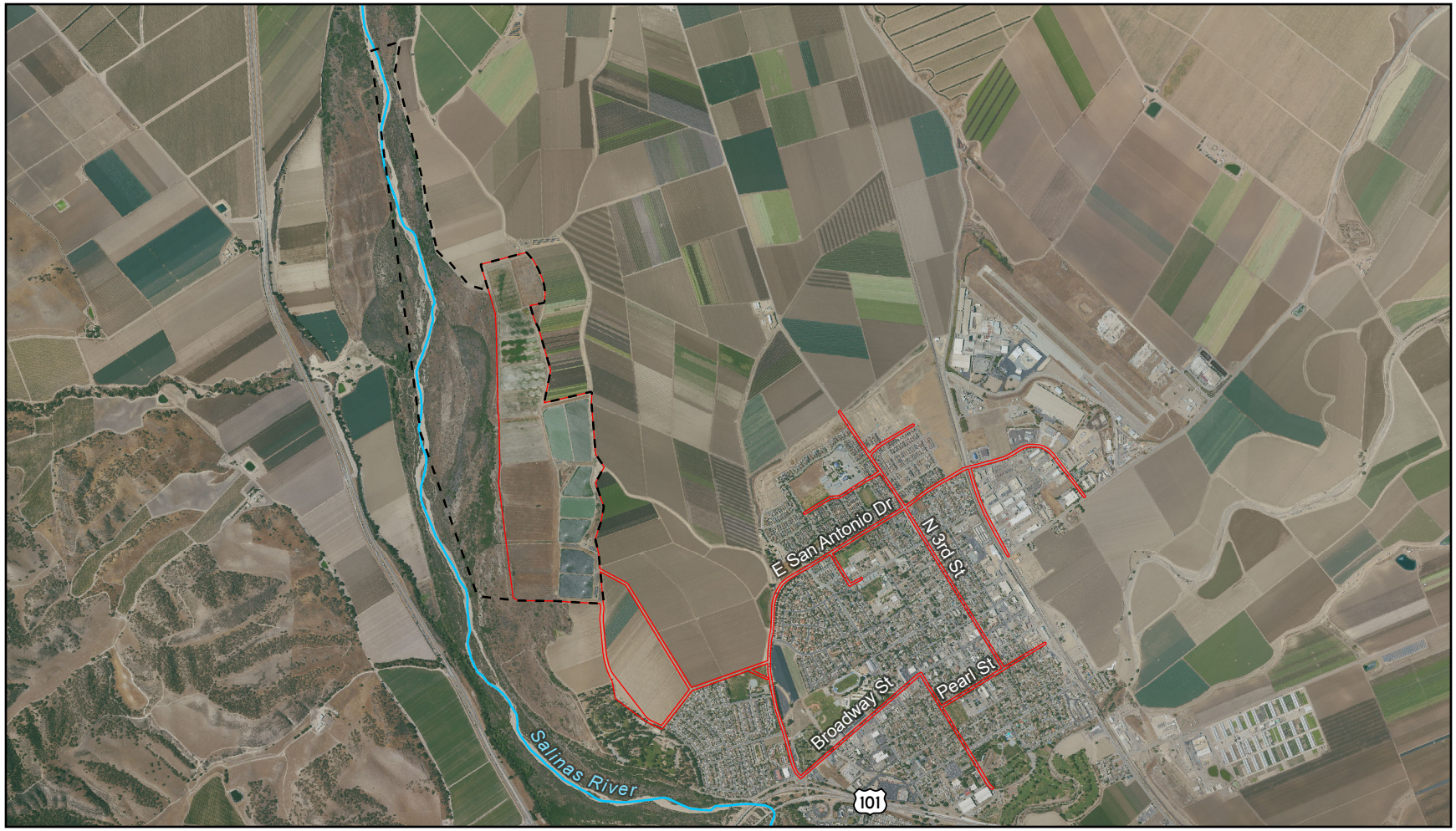
BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Map Updated:
February 27, 2023 01:49 PM by SAF

Figure 2. Aerial Photograph



Legend

Study Area (229.9 acres)

WWTP Property (467.5 acres)

N

0 0.5 1 Mile

King City Wastewater Treatment Plant
Map Center: 121.14347°W 36.22414°N
King City, Monterey County

Imagery Source: USDA NAIP, 05/13/2022

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Map Updated:
February 27, 2023 01:52 PM by SAF

1.5 Sensitivity Criteria / Regulatory Framework

Standards for environmental protection and restoration, in the form of laws and regulations, are created within three different organizational levels of government: Federal, State, and Local. Entities exist within each level to create and enforce regulations that help ensure protection of specific and pertinent regional issues threatening ecosystems and environments. The following regulations are applicable to the proposed Project.

1.5.1 Federal Law and Regulations

Endangered Species Act. The federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) provides the legal framework for the listing and protection of species (and their habitats) identified as being endangered or threatened with extinction. "Critical Habitat" is a term within the FESA designed to guide actions by federal agencies and is defined as "an area occupied by a species listed as threatened or endangered within which are found physical or geographical features essential to the conservation of the species, or an area not currently occupied by the species which is itself essential to the conservation of the species." Actions that jeopardize endangered or threatened species and/or critical habitat are considered a 'take' under the FESA. "Take" under federal definition means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

Projects that would result in "take" of any federally listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitats, are required to obtain permits from the USFWS through either Section 7 (interagency consultation with a federal nexus) or Section 10 (Habitat Conservation Plan) of FESA, depending on the involvement by the federal government in permitting and/or funding of the project. Through Section 10, it is required to prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to be approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which results in the issuance of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP). Through Section 7, which can only occur when a separate federal nexus in a project exists (prompting interagency consultation), a consultation by the various federal agencies involved can take place to determine appropriate actions to mitigate negative effects on endangered and threatened species and their habitat.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act. All migratory, non-game bird species that are native to the U.S. or its territories are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (50 C.F.R. Section 10.13), as amended under the Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act of 2004. The MBTA makes it illegal to purposefully take (pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect) any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird, except under the terms of a valid Federal permit. Migratory non-game native bird species are protected by international treaty under the federal MBTA.

1.5.2 State Law and Regulations

California Endangered Species Act. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA), similar to FESA, contains a process for listing of species and regulating potential impacts to listed species. State threatened and endangered species include both plants and wildlife, but do not include invertebrates. The designation "rare species" applies only to California native plants. State threatened and endangered plant species are regulated largely under the Native Plant Preservation Act in conjunction with the CESA. State threatened and endangered animal species are legally

protected against "take." The CESA authorizes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to enter into a memorandum of agreement for take of listed species to issue an incidental take permit for a state-listed threatened and endangered species only if specific criteria are met. Section 2080 of the CESA prohibits the take of species listed as threatened or endangered pursuant to the Act. Section 2081 allows CDFW to authorize take prohibited under Section 2080 provided that: 1) the taking is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity; 2) the taking will be minimized and fully mitigated; 3) the applicant ensures adequate funding for minimization and mitigation; and 4) the authorization will not jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA defines a "project" as any action undertaken from public or private entity that requires discretionary governmental review (a non-ministerial permittable action). All "projects" are required to undergo some level of environmental review pursuant to CEQA, unless an exemption applies. CEQA's environmental review process includes an assessment of existing resources, broken up by categories (i.e., air quality, aesthetics, etc.), a catalog of potential impacts to those resources caused by the proposed project, and a quantifiable result determining the level of significance an impact would generate. The goal of environmental review under CEQA is to avoid or mitigate impacts that would lead to a "significant effect" on a given resource; section 15382 of the CEQA Guidelines defines a "significant effect" as

> *a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment, but may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant.*

Public agencies are required to implement CEQA and execute jurisdiction to determine when applicable activities are or are not subject to CEQA. A public agency with the most prominent nexus and jurisdiction to a project is called the lead agency. The lead agencies determine the scope of what is considered an impact and what constitutes a "significant effect". "Biological resources" is one of the varying categories considered during environmental review through CEQA. A lead agency can require a biological assessment to be prepared to report on existing biological resources and recommended mitigation measures that will reduce or lessen potential negative impacts to those biological resources. The questions listed in CEQA's Appendix G: Biological Resources section, which are used to guide assessment of impacts to biological resources are as follows:

- *Does the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*
- *Does the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?*
- *Does the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*
- *Does the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*
- *Does the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

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

The lead agency has the final determination over whether a project is or is not permissible, based upon the environmental review, completed requirements and environmental documentation, and their judgement that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, or that all significant effects have been mitigated for.

California Fish and Game Code (CFGC). The California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) is one of the 29 legal codes that form the general statutory law of California. A myriad of statutes regarding fish and game are specified in the CFGC; the following codes are specifically relevant to the proposed Project:

California Native Plant Protection Act. Sections 1900-1913 of the California Fish and Game Code contain the regulations of the Native Plant Protection Act of 1977. The intent of this act is to help conserve and protect rare and endangered plants in the state. The act allowed the CFGC to designate plants as rare or endangered.

Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement. Section 1602 of the CFGC requires any person, state, or local governmental agency to provide advance written notification to CDFW prior to initiating any activity that would: 1) divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or remove material from the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake; or 2) result in the disposal or deposition of debris, waste, or other material into any river, stream, or lake. The state definition of "lakes, rivers, and streams" includes all rivers or streams that flow at least periodically or permanently through a well-defined bed or channel with banks that support fish or other aquatic life, and watercourses with surface or subsurface flows that support or have supported riparian vegetation.

Nesting Birds. Sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3513 of CFGC states that it is "unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto," and "unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds of prey or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird" unless authorized.

Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regulates impacts to water quality in federal waters of the U.S. under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, but they also regulate any isolated waters that are impacted under the state Porter Cologne Act utilizing a Waste Discharge Requirement. Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, discharge of fill material into waters of the State not subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE may require authorization pursuant to the Porter Cologne Act through application for waste discharge requirements or through waiver of waste discharge requirements.

1.6 Special Status Species and Sensitive Habitat Regulations

For purposes of this Biological Resource Assessment, special status species are those plants and animals listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered by the USFWS under the FESA; those listed or proposed for listing as rare, threatened, or endangered by the CDFW under the CESA; animals designated as "Species of Special Concern," "Fully Protected," or "Watch List" by the CDFW; and plants with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1, 2, 3, or 4. In the following sections, further details are provided to highlight the different

guidelines and qualifications that are used to help identify special status species in this report. In Sections 3.5and 3.6, the various qualifications are listed in the special status species tables (Table 5 and Table 7) for each species with potential to occur in the project area.

1.6.1 California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB)

"Special Plants" and “Special Animals” are broad terms used to refer to all the plant and animal taxa inventoried by the CNDDB, regardless of their legal or protection status (CDFW 2023b, CDFW 2023c). The Special Plants list includes vascular plants, high priority bryophytes (mosses, liverworts, and hornworts), and lichens. The Special Animals list is also referred to by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as the list of “species at risk” or “special status species.”

According to the CNDDB, Special Plants and Animals lists include: taxa that are officially listed or proposed for listing by California or the Federal Government as Endangered, Threatened, or Rare; taxa which meet the criteria for listing, as described in Section 15380 of CEQA Guidelines; taxa deemed biologically rare, restricted in range, declining in abundance, or otherwise vulnerable; population(s) in California that may be marginal to the taxon’s entire range but are threatened with extirpation in California; and/or taxa closely associated with a habitat that is declining in California at a significant rate. Separately, the Special Plants List includes taxa listed in the California Native Plant Society’s Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California, as well as taxa determined to be Sensitive Species by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or U.S. Forest Service. The Special Animals List distinctively includes taxa considered by the CDFW to be a Species of Special Concern (SSC) and taxa designated as a special status, sensitive, or declining species by other state or federal agencies.

1.6.2 Federal and State Endangered Species Listings

The Federal and California Endangered Species Acts are the regulatory documents that govern the listing and protection of species, and their habitats, identified as being endangered or threatened with extinction. Possible listing status under both Federal and California ESA includes Endangered and Threatened (FE, FT, CE, or CT). Species in the process of being listed are given the status of either Proposed Federally Endangered/Threatened, or Candidate for California Endangered/Threatened (PE, PT, CCE, or CCT). The CESA has one additional status: Rare (CR).

1.6.3 Global and State Ranks

Global and State Ranks reflect an assessment of the condition of the species or habitats across its entire range. Basic ranks assign a numerical value from 1 to 5, respectively for species with highest risk to most secure. Other ranking variations include rank ranges, rank qualifiers, and infraspecific taxon ranks. All Heritage Programs, such as the CNDDB use the same ranking methodology, originally developed by The Nature Conservancy and now maintained and recently revised by NatureServe. Procedurally, state programs such as the CNDDB develop the State ranks. The Global ranks are determined collaboratively among the Heritage Programs for the states/provinces containing the species. Rank definitions, where G represents Global and S represents State, are as follows:

- **G1/S1:** Critically imperiled globally/in state because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer populations)
- **G2/S2:** Imperiled globally/in state because of rarity (6 to 20 populations)
- **G3/S3:** Vulnerable; rare and local throughout range or in a special habitat or narrowly endemic (on the order of 21 to 100 populations)
- **G4/S4:** Apparently secure globally/in state; uncommon but not rare (of no immediate conservation concern)
- **G5/S5:** Secure; common, widespread, and abundant
- **G#G#/S#S#:** Rank range - numerical range indicating uncertainty in the status of a species, (e.g., G2G3 more certain than G3, but less certain that G2)
- **G/S#?:** Inexact numeric rank
- **Q:** Questionable taxonomy - Taxonomic distinctiveness of this entity is questionable
- **T#:** Infraspecific taxa (subspecies or varieties) – indicating an infraspecific taxon that has a lower numerical ranking (rarer) than the given global rank of species

1.6.4 California Rare Plant Ranks

Plant species are considered rare when their distribution is confined to localized areas, their habitat is threatened, they are declining in abundance, or they are threatened in a portion of their range. The California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) categories range from species with a low threat (4) to species that are presumed extinct (1A). All but a few species are endemic to California. All of them are judged to be vulnerable under present circumstances, or to have a high potential for becoming vulnerable. Threat ranks are assigned as decimal values to a CRPR to further define the level of threat to a given species. The rare plant ranks and threat levels are defined below.

- **1A:** Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere
- **1B:** Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
- **2A:** Plants presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere
- **2B:** Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
- **4:** Plants of limited distribution - a watch list
- **0.1:** Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
- **0.2:** Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
- **0.3:** Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

1.6.5 California Department of Fish and Wildlife Animal Rank

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) assigns one of three ranks to Special Animals: Watch List (WL), Species of Special Concern (SSC), or Fully Protected (FP). Unranked species are referred to by the term Special Animal (SA).

Animals listed as Watch List (WL) are taxa that were previously designated as SSC, but no longer merit that status, or taxa that which do not yet meet SSC criteria, but for which there is concern and a need for additional information to clarify status.

Animals listed as California Species of Special Concern (SSC) may or may not be listed under California or federal Endangered Species Acts. They are considered rare or declining in abundance in California. The Special Concern designation is intended to provide the CDFW biologists, land planners, and managers with lists of species that require special consideration during the planning process to avert continued population declines and potential costly listing under federal and state endangered species laws. For many species of birds, the primary emphasis is on the breeding population in California. For some species that do not breed in California but winter here, emphasis is on wintering range. The SSC designation thus may include a comment regarding the specific protection provided such as nesting or wintering.

Animals listed as Fully Protected (FP) are those species considered by CDFW as rare or faced with possible extinction. Most, but not all, have subsequently been listed under the CESA or FESA. Fully Protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no provision of the California Fish and Game code authorizes the issuance of permits or licenses to take any Fully Protected species.

1.6.6 Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive Natural Community is a state-wide designation given by CDFW to specific vegetation associations of ecological importance. Sensitive Natural Communities rarity and ranking involves the knowledge of range and distribution of a given type of vegetation, and the proportion of occurrences that are of good ecological integrity (CDFW 2018). Evaluation is conducted at both the Global (G) and State (S) levels, resulting in a rank ranging from 1 for very rare and threatened to 5 for demonstrably secure. Natural Communities with ranks of S1-S3 are considered Sensitive Natural Communities in California and may need to be addressed in the environmental review processes of CEQA and its equivalents.

2 METHODS

2.1 Literature and Data Review

Althouse and Meade, Inc. (A&M) reviewed data from the CNDDB and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) On-line Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California on February 20, 2023 (CDFW 2023a, CNPS 2023). Other database searches included herbarium specimen records for locality data within King City, as maintained by eBird (eBird 2023), and the Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH 2023). The search area included the Thompson Canyon USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle and the eight surrounding quadrangles: Bear Canyon, Cosio Knob, Espinosa Canyon, Greenfield, Paraiso Springs, Pinalito Canyon, Reliz Canyon, and San Lucas. Data were compiled for sensitive plant and wildlife species and reviewed according to each species potential to occur at the Study Area. Special status species lists produced by database and literature searches were cross-referenced with the described habitat types in the Study Area. The complete list of species and determinations is provided in Appendix A and Appendix B.

2.2 Sensitive Species Evaluation

Special status species lists produced by database and literature searches were cross-referenced and analyzed according to the described habitat types in the Study Area to identify all potential special status species that could occur in or near the Study Area. After review of the literature, and completing site visits, the following criteria were used to determine the potential for special-status species to occur within the Study Area:

- **Present:** The species was observed in the Study Area during field surveys.
- **High Potential:** Highly suitable habitat and CNDDB or CNPS occurrence records indicate the species is likely to occur in the Study Area or the immediate vicinity. Individuals may not have been observed during field surveys; however, the species likely occurs in or immediately adjacent to the Study Area and (for wildlife) could move into the Study Area in the future.
- **Moderate Potential:** Moderately suitable habitat is present in the Study Area and CNDDB occurrences or surveys have recorded the species in the vicinity of the Study Area. Individuals were not observed during field surveys, but the species could be present, at least seasonally or as a transient.
- **Low Potential:** Marginally suitable habitat is present in the Study Area, and there are no occurrence records or other historical (i.e., 50 years or older) records in the vicinity of the Study Area. Individuals were not observed during surveys and are not expected to be present.
- **No Potential:** Suitable habitat for the species is not present in the Study Area, and/or the species is not known to occur in the region.

Each special status species that could occur in or near the Study Area is individually discussed in Sections 3.5.1 and 3.6.1.

2.3 Soils

A soil report was created by importing the Study Area as an Area of Interest (AOI) into the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGRO) via their online portal. The resulting soil report was reviewed to determine soils suitable to support special status plants and wildlife (denning substrate) known to occur in the region. Soils data are summarized in Section 3.2 with a full report provided in Appendix C.

2.4 Surveys

On December 7, 2021 and January 26, 2023, A&M Senior Biologist Kristen Andersen conducted pedestrian surveys to assess existing conditions of the current facility and proposed access road to inventory plant and wildlife species, describe habitat types, and to collect photographic documentation of the Study Area. Vehicular surveys were conducted in developed areas where proposed pipelines will be constructed within roads. Each habitat type was field inspected and described by species composition, as interpreted in Section 3.3. All plant and animal species observed in the field were identified and documented in Sections 3.5.2 and 3.6.2. Transects were meandering with an emphasis on locating habitat appropriate for special status plants and animals. Observations on site were utilized to map boundaries of different vegetation types, describe general conditions and dominant species, compile species lists, and evaluate potential habitat for special status species. Table 3 provides survey dates, weather conditions, tasks conducted, and personnel.

TABLE 3. FIELD SURVEYS

Date	Weather	Tasks	Biologist
December 7, 2021	58-65°F, partly cloudy, winds calm	Biological and winter botanical surveys	Kristen Andersen
January 26, 2023	52-62°F partly cloudy, winds calm	Biological and winter botanical surveys	Kristen Andersen

2.4.1 Botanical

Identification of botanical resources include field observations and laboratory analysis of collected material (Table 6). Botanical surveys followed protocol guidelines for an early season survey (USFWS 2000, CDFW 2018, and CNPS 2001). Botanical surveys were conducted during the fall and winter seasons following early season rainfall that induced plant germination. All species identifiable during this time of year were recorded. Each habitat type occurring in the Study Area was inspected, described, and catalogued (Section 3.3). Habitats within the Study Area and surrounding areas were assessed for potential to support special status plant species known from the region (Table 5). Botanical nomenclature used in this document follows Jepson eFlora (Jepson Flora Project 2023).

2.4.2 Wildlife

Identification of wildlife resources were made by direct observations or by visual signs of animal presence such as burrows/dens, vocalization, tracks, and/or scat. Wildlife observations were recorded during Study Area field surveys (Table 8). Birds were identified by sight, using 10-power

binoculars, or by vocalizations. Reptiles and amphibians were identified by sight, often using binoculars, and by hand-captures; traps were not used. Mammals recorded in the Study Area were identified by sight, burrow/dens, scat, and tracks. Wildlife surveys were conducted during the fall and winter seasons and focused on defining habitats within the Study Area that could support special status animal species known from the region (Table 5). Wildlife nomenclature for birds is in accordance with the American Ornithological Society Checklist (Chesser et al. 2019) and Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico (Bradley et al. 2014).

2.5 Maps

Field spatial data were collected using mobile devices equipped with GPS receivers and a third-party mapping application. Maps were created by importing GPS data into ArcGIS Pro, a Geographic Information System (GIS) software program. Data were overlaid onto recent aerial imagery for further analysis and visualization (Esri 2021). Soil data were overlaid on a 2020 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) aerial of Monterey County (USDA 2021).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Existing Conditions

The Study Area is comprised of disturbed habitat (Photo 1) within the existing King City WWTP facility (originally established in 1970) and developed habitat in City areas to the east and south (Photo 2). Land use within the disturbed habitat varies depending on which phase of water treatment the land is currently facilitating, and includes conditioning and polishing ponds, spray fields, access roads, and associated facility structures. Existing ponds comprise approximately 48.6 acres of the Study Area. These ponds are actively treating domestic water in phases of conditioning and polishing. Water inputs to the site near the southeast corner of the Study Area and is processed and then discharged through the existing spray fields in the northwest portion of the Study Area.

Spray fields comprise the majority of land use within the WWTP portion of the Study Area (approximately 130.1 acres), where the northern spray field is actively being used as the final stage in domestic water treatment, occupying approximately 57.5 acres of the site. Industrial spray fields occupy approximately 72.6 acres in the southwest portion of the WWTP. This portion of the site is currently inactive and has demonstrated a subtle conversion to weedy, annual grassland habitat over time. Though land use dedicated to industrial spray fields has been inactive, this habitat shows clear signs of disturbance through semi-recent disking and still has intact piping for spraying/irrigation use, should the industrial demand for water treatment increase within the City.

Existing dirt roads encompass the WWTP, allowing access to the individual water treatment land uses, with the main entrance near the southeast corner of the site. Access roads are unvegetated and are frequently used by small and large vehicles, including tractors used for disking the spray fields. Dirt perimeter roads occupy approximately 21.5 acres of the site. Two trailer-sized facilities are located near the entrance and several patches of land within the Study Area are lined with solar panels to provide onsite energy for operations (approximately 16.9 acres). Landscaped ornamental plants comprise the vegetation along the eastern perimeter road.

Developed habitat comprises 7.2 acres of the Study Area and consists entirely of asphalted City streets surrounded by sidewalks and residential housing and/or commercial/industrial buildings with intermittent areas of landscaped vegetation.

Photo 1. View of spray fields in southern portion of the WWTP within the Study Area, facing west. December 7, 2021.

Photo 2. View of proposed pipeline location within road in northeast portion of the Study Area, facing east. January 26, 2023.

3.2 Soils

Eight soil map units are represented within the Study Area: Metz complex, Metz fine sandy loam, Mocho silt loam, 0-2 percent slopes, Mocho silty clay loam, Xerorthents loamy, Cropley silty clay 0-2 percent slopes, Corducci and Typic Xerofluvents 0-5 percent slopes, and Pico fine sandy loam (USDA 2023a). A complete soils report is provided in Appendix C.

Metz complex (Mg) soils are represented in the WWTP portion of the Study Area, accounting for nearly 60 percent. The typical soil profile is fine sandy loam/loamy sand (0 to 12 inches) over Stratified sand to very fine sandy loam (12 to 99 inches). This soil class is considered somewhat excessively drained with a medium runoff class. This soil class formed from sandy alluvium in floodplains derived from sedimentary rock and is classified as farmland of statewide importance (USDA 2023a).

Metz fine sandy loam (Mf) is located within the existing ponds, comprising approximately 23 percent of the Study Area. The typical soil profile is fine sandy loam (0 to 12 inches) over stratified sand to very fine sandy loam (12 to 99 inches). This soil class is generally located on 0- to 2 percent slopes that are somewhat excessively drained and has a low runoff class. This soil complex is made up of approximately 85 percent Metz and similar soils, with the remaining 15 percent minor components. This soil class formed from sandy alluvium floodplains derived from sedimentary rock and is prime farmland if irrigated (USDA 2023a).

Mocho silt loam, 0-2 percent slopes (MnA) soils are within the northern limits of the WWTP within existing spray fields and ponds, and eastern portion of the Study Area in developed habitat, comprising approximately 12 percent of the site. The typical soil profile is silt loam, 0 to 60 inches. Mocho silt loam is well drained with a low runoff class. This soil class formed from alluvial fans derived from sedimentary rocks and is classified as prime farmland if irrigated (USDA 2023a).

Mocho silty clay loam (MoA) is documented in the eastern portion of the WWTP and throughout developed habitat in the Study Area (3 percent). This soil type is very deep, well drained, and a nearly level soil typical of alluvial fans and plains. It formed in alluvium weathered from sedimentary rocks. Included in this map unit are minor areas of Camarillo loam, drained; Cropley clay; Marimel silty clay loam, drained; Mocho fine sandy loam; Mocho Varient fine sandy loam; Salinas loam; and Tujunga loamy sand. Permeability of this Mocho soil is moderately slow and the available water capacity is moderate. Surface runoff is slow and the hazard of erosion is slight (USDA 2023a).

Xerorthents, loamy (Xc) soils are encountered in a small area in the western section of the Study Area (1 percent). It is also very deep and well-drained on encountered on moderate and steep slopes at the end of terraces. It is derived from mixed loamy alluvium and typically its profile contains loam, clay loam within the first 60 inches. The available water storage in its profile is very high (USDA 2023a).

Cropley silty clay 0-2 percent slopes (CnA) are located within the spray fields and small area of proposed pipeline to the east, and comprise less than 1 percent within the Study Area. The typical soil profile is silty clay, 0 to 69 inches. Cropley silty clay is well drained with a high runoff class. This soil class formed from silty and clayey alluvium floodplains derived from sedimentary rock and is prime farmland if irrigated (USDA 2023a).

Corducci and Typic Xerofluvents 0-5 percent slopes (300) soils are located within the spray fields along the western Study Area edge and comprise less than 1 percent within the Study Area. The typical soil profile is fine sand (0 to 35 inches) over sand (35 to 45 inches). This soil class is considered somewhat excessively drained with a very low runoff class. This soil class formed from mixed alluvium along stream terraces, alluvial fans, floodplains and is derived from igneous and sedimentary rock and is not prime farmland (USDA 2023a).

Pico fine sandy loam (Pf) soils are very deep and well-drained and are located mostly along the area of proposed access road and southeast areas of proposed pipeline within the City, at less than 1 percent. This soil profile is typically encountered on mild to moderate slopes formed from calcareous alluvium derived from sedimentary rocks. Included in this map unit are small areas of Elder loam, gravelly sand, Cropley clay, and Tujunga fine sand. The permeability is rapid, and the available water capacity is moderate to high (USDA 2023a).

3.3 Habitat Types

Table 4 lists habitats and the various land uses that currently exist within the Study Area (Figure 3). Disturbed and developed habitats comprise the Study Area, where disturbed area is further defined by WWTP operational land uses. Developed habitat consists of urban City elements (i.e., streets, residential housing, commercial/industrial buildings, sidewalks, landscaping).

TABLE 4. LAND USES WITHIN STUDY AREA

Habitat/Land Use Type	Approximate Area (Acres)
Disturbed Habitat	**222.7**
Domestic Spray Fields	57.5
Industrial Spray Fields	72.6
Treatment Ponds	48.6
Access Roads	27.1
Miscellaneous Facilities	16.9
Developed Habitat	**7.2**
Residential/Industrial Zones	7.2
TOTAL	**229.9**

3.3.1 Disturbed Habitat

Disturbed habitat comprises approximately 222.7 acres of the Study Area, where different operational land uses offer varying degrees of micro-habitats with differing vegetation, or lack thereof. Domestic spray fields are predominantly open mud flats used to release treated water back into the water table through passive filtration. Water is sprayed rotationally across this portion of the site to allow for infiltration, and surface water ponds temporarily as a result (Photo 3 and Photo 4). Spray fields are regularly disked to allow for soil aeration and to aid in water infiltration (Photo 5 and Photo 6). Residential and migratory shorebirds were observed foraging in the mud for insects. In contrast, the inactive industrial spray fields have largely revegetated and are dominant with non-native annual grasses, such as ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*) and red brome (*Bromus rubens*), and weedy forbs including Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), and wild mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) (Photo 7 through Photo 9). Associate native forbs observed in the industrial spray fields included telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), lessingia (*Lessingia* sp.), tarplant (*Deinandra* sp.), and fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.). Sandy loam soils were observed in open bare patches within this historically disturbed grassland portion of the site, where small mammal burrows were noted semi-frequently. One red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) tree is present within the industrial spray field and a large, inactive raptor nest was observed within the tree and mapped (Photo 10). Though not located directly in the Study Area, Photo 11 depicts riparian habitat surrounding the Salinas River within the Property boundary, to the west of the site. Photo 12 shows the manmade berm that acts as the western boundary of the Study Area and separates the spray fields from the Salinas River floodplain.

Existing treatment ponds provide aquatic habitat to numerous waterfowl and other residential and migratory bird species. Flycatchers, including Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) and black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), were observed foraging on an abundant insect prey population at onsite ponds. No fish or amphibians were observed during December 2021 and January 2023 surveys but could be present in the ponds. And though ponds are a functioning part of the water treatment plant, wetland vegetation persists along the periphery of the ponds at low densities and included cattails (*Typha* sp.), California tule (*Schoenoplectus californicus*), umbrella sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), and willow dock (*Rumex salicifolius*), providing marginal wetland habitat and refugia for potential aquatic resources (Photo 13 and Photo 14).

Access roads and areas around existing structures are mostly unvegetated and have a relatively high level of human disturbance from daily operations on site and within adjacent agricultural fields (Photo 15 through Photo 18). Solar panels, power poles, and buildings provide roosting structures used by many bird species, including birds of prey. Bats may utilize some onsite structures as occasional roosting sites.

Photo 3. Domestic spray field ponded water and mud flats, view west. December 7, 2021.

Photo 4. Domestic spray field between sprays, view east. December 7, 2021.

Photo 5. Disking of domestic spray fields, view south. December 7, 2021.

Photo 6. Disking of domestic spray field, view southeast. December 7, 2021.

Photo 7. Industrial spray field with disked rows, view southwest. December 7, 2021.

Photo 8. Industrial spray field with spray component line and regrowth of annual grasses, view west. December 7, 2021.

Photo 9. Portion of recently disked industrial spray field, view east. December 7, 2021.

Photo 10. Raptor nest observed in red gum tree in industrial spray fields. December 7, 2021.

Photo 11. Riparian habitat along Salinas River, west of Study Area boundary, view west. December 7, 2021.

Photo 12. Photo from top of berm that borders western boundary of Study Area between developed habitat and Salinas River, view north. December 7, 2021.

Photo 13. Active treatment pond with wetland vegetation in foreground, view east. December 7, 2021.

Photo 14. Active treatment pond, view north. December 7, 2021.

Photo 15. Solar panels along perimeter roads as part of WWTP facilities, view southwest. December 7, 2021.

Photo 16. Associated WWTP facilities including office, storage container, and parking, view east. December 7, 2021.

Photo 17. Location of current and proposed access road and adjacent agricultural fields. January 26, 2023.

Photo 18. Location of current and proposed access road and adjacent agricultural fields. January 26, 2023

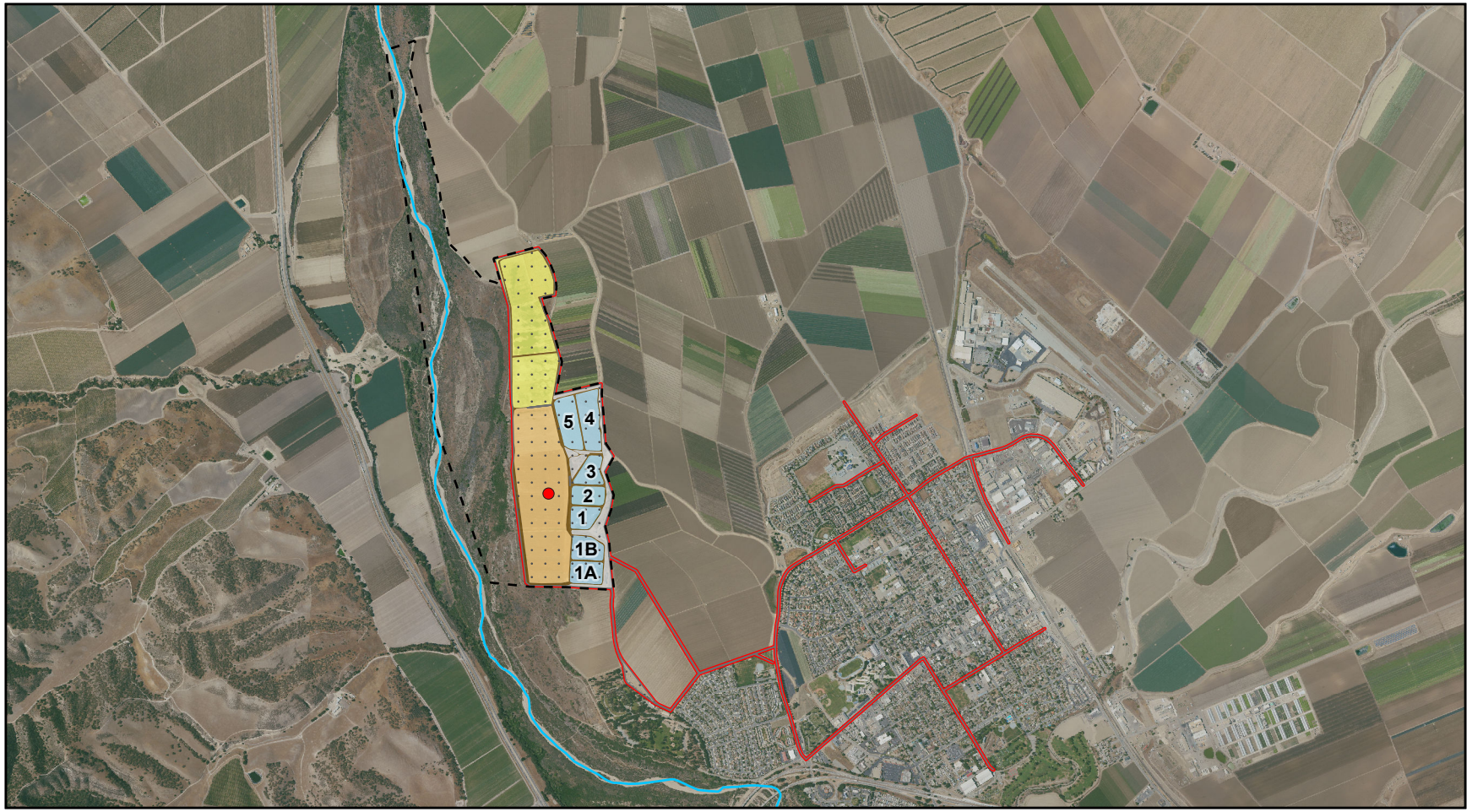
3.3.2 Developed Habitat

Developed habitat within the Study Area, which comprises the majority of proposed and existing pipeline locations, consists entirely of residential, commercial and industrial developments with paved streets and sidewalks (Photo 19 and Photo 20), totaling 7.2 percent of the site. Where present, ornamental and non-native species comprise most of the landscaped vegetation. Due to the ongoing presence of human disturbance and lack of natural environmental features, it is unlikely for special status species to utilize this developed urban habitat. However, common bird species could nest in landscaped vegetation and trees.

Photo 19. Location of proposed 8-inch pipeline section along Broadway Street. Commercial zone, view southwest. January 26, 2023.

Photo 20. Location of proposed 6-inch pipeline section along Calcagno Street. Residential zone, view east. January 26, 2023.

Figure 3. Biological Resources



Legend

- Study Area (229.9 acres)
- WWTP Property (467.5 acres)

Habitats

- Developed (7.2 acres)
- Disturbed (222.7 acres)
- Raptor Nest

Current WWTP Land Use

- Dirt Perimeter Roads
- Domestic Spray Field - Active
- # Existing Treatment Ponds - Active
- Industrial Spray Field - Inactive
- WWTP Misc. Facilities

N

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

King City Wastewater Treatment Plant
Map Center: 121.14347°W 36.22414°N
King City, Monterey County

Imagery Source: USDA NAIP, 05/21/2020

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BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Map Updated:
February 28, 2023 11:45 AM by SAF

3.4 Potential Wetlands and Jurisdictional Waters

Potentially jurisdictional wetlands and waters are not present in the Study Area. Manmade water treatment ponds are present on the site as part of water treatment operations, but do not provide wetland function nor connectivity to other aquatic resources. The Salinas River and any potential wetlands affiliated with this riverine system are partially on the WWTP Property but are over 1,000 feet west of the proposed Project area. Proposed pipelines will have no impact on aquatic features.

3.5 Botanical Resources

Updated research on special status plant occurrences conducted within the designated search area (see Methods) determined 44 special status plant species are known to occur in the region (Appendix A, CDFW 2023b, CNPS 2023. Figure 4 and Figure 6 depict the current GIS data for special status plants mapped near the Study Area by the CNDDB.

3.5.1 Special Status Plant Species

Based on an analysis of known ecological requirements for the special status plant species reported from the region, and the habitat conditions that were observed in the Study Area, it was determined that three special status plant species have low potential to occur within the Study Area, and no potential to occur in the Project area: Douglas' spineflower, elegant wild buckwheat, and pale-yellow layia. Two additional species, umbrella larkspur and Davidson's bush mallow, have no potential to occur but are further discussed to address CDFW comments (CDFW 2021). Five species are discussed below and summarized in Table 5. The Project would be constructed within disturbed areas of existing ponds, access roads, and City streets, therefore no special status plants would likely be impacted.

1. **Douglas' Spineflower** (*Chorizanthe douglasii*) is a CRPR 4.3 species endemic to San Benito, Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. It is known to occur on sandy or gravelly soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and lower montane coniferous forests habitats between 55- and 1600-meters elevation. It is an annual herb that typically blooms between April and July. The closest known record is approximately 1.7 miles east of the Study Area in 1944 (CCH #SD43530). The sandy loam soils in the Study Area are marginally suitable for this species; however, appropriate habitat is not present and the developed land uses of the site reduce the potential for this species to occur. Douglas' spineflower was not detected during our December 2021 and January 2023 surveys and is not present within the proposed Project footprint.
2. **Elegant Wild Buckwheat** (*Eriogonum elegans*) is a CRPR 4.3 species endemic to the central coast of California. It is known to occur on sandy or gravelly soil in cismontane woodlands, grasslands; and washes between 200- and 1,525-meters elevation. It is an annual herb that typically blooms between May and November. The closest known record is approximately 0.6 miles south of the Study Area in 1931 (CCH SBBG179105). Roadside habitat along the western edge of the Study Area could support this species, however if present, it is likely that forensic specimens would have been detected during off-season surveys. Elegant wild buckwheat could also occur in wash habitat along the Salinas River, but has very low potential to occur in the Study Area due to disturbed conditions, and has no potential to occur within the Project footprint. Elegant wild buckwheat was not detected in the Study Area during December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.

3. **Pale-yellow Layia** (*Layia heterotricha*) is a CRPR 1B. 1 species endemic to central California. It is known to occur on alkaline or clay soils in cismontane woodland, chaparral, and grassland habitat between 300- and 1,705-meters elevation. It is an annual herb that typically blooms between March and May. The closest known record is approximately 2.0 miles northeast of the Study Area in 1962 (CCH #PGM H-5428). This occurrence was observed in farmland habitat with similarly disturbed conditions. All occurrences in the vicinity of the site are historic, and with only marginally suitable habitat and soils present in the Study Area, this species has low potential to occur. Pale-yellow layia was not detected in the Study Area during December 2021 and January 2023 surveys and is not likely to be present. This species does not occur within the Project area.

Two special status plants, umbrella larkspur and Davidson's bush mallow, have no potential to occur in the Study Area due to lack of suitable habitat but warrant further discussion due to proximity of known occurrences and CDFW concern for their potential presence in the Study Area.

4. **Umbrella Larkspur** (*Delphinium umbraculorum*) is a CRPR 1B.3 species endemic to Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. It is known to occur in chaparral, cismontane, and moist oak forest habitats between 400- and 1,600-meters elevation. It is a perennial herb that typically blooms between April and June. Two closest known records are approximately 2.3 miles west and south of the Study Area in 1962 (CNDDB #24, 67). Suitable oak forest or chaparral habitat is not present in the Study Area and this species has no potential to occur on the site. Umbrella larkspur was not detected during off-season surveys conducted in December 2021 and January 2023 and is not likely to occur in the disturbed or developed habitat where Project activities are proposed.
5. **Davidson's Bush Mallow** (*Malacothamnus davidsonii*) is a CRPR 1B.2 species that occurs from San Mateo County south to Los Angeles County and is endemic to California. It is known to occur in sandy wash, chaparral, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, and riparian woodland habitats between 185- and 1,140-meters elevation. It is a perennial deciduous shrub that typically blooms between June and January. The closest known record is approximately 3.4 miles south of the Study Area in 1962 within chaparral habitat (CNDDB #37). An updated record was reported near the same location in 1997 (CCH PGM H-4648) and this species is likely present at this location. Sandy wash habitat occurs within the Salinas River, west of the Study Area boundary. Suitable habitat is not present in the Study Area, and though there is a relatively close occurrence, this species has no potential occur on the site. Davidson's bush mallow was not observed in the Study Area during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys and would have been detected due to its perennial shrub habit and overlapping bloom period, if present.

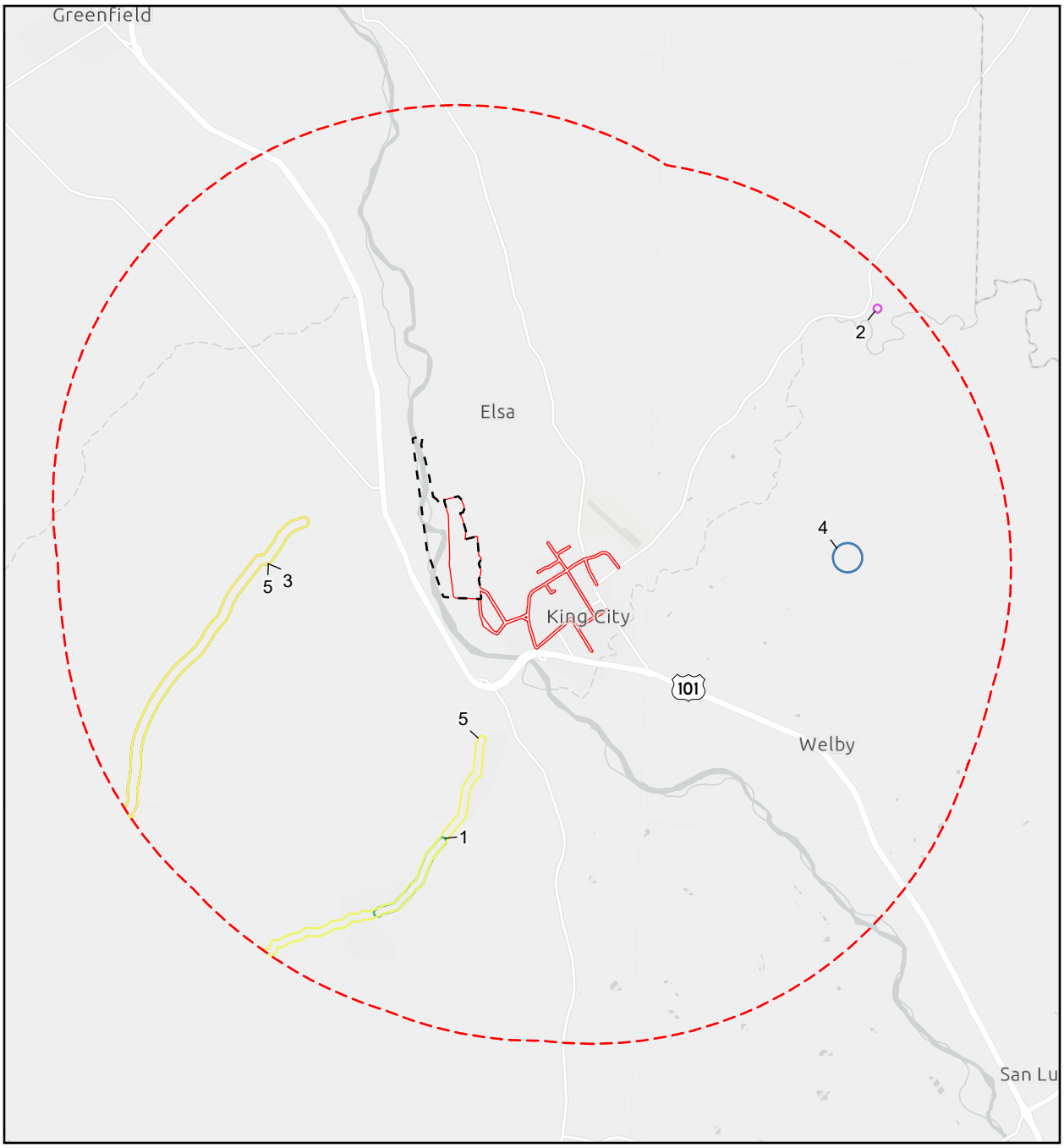
TABLE 5. SPECIAL STATUS PLANT LIST

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CA Rare Plant Rank	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
1.	***Chorizanthe douglasii***	Douglas' Spineflower	-/- G4/S4 4. 3	Apr-Jul	Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland; in sand or gravel.	**Low.** Suitable soils are present though limited, and the site is heavily disturbed. Nearest occurrence is historic (from 1944) 1.7 mi east of the Study Area (CCH #SD43530).
2.	***Delphinium umbraculorum***	Umbrella Larkspur	-/- G3/S3 1B.3	Apr-Jun	Moist oak forest	**No Potential.** Appropriate oak forest habitat is not present and historic farming of the area is not suited for this species. Nearest occurrence is 2.1 mi east of the Study Area in 1962 (CNDDB #24).
3.	***Eriogonum elegans***	Elegant Wild Buckwheat	-/- G4G5/S4S5 4. 3	May-Nov	Uncommon. Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Usually in sandy or gravelly substrates; often in washes, sometimes roadsides.	**Low**. Marginal habitat is present in Industrial Spray Fields. Nearest occurrence is historic (from 1931), 0.6 mi south of the Study Area (CCH SBBG179105).

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CA Rare Plant Rank	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
4.	***Layia heterotricha***	Pale-Yellow Layia	-/- G2/S2 1B. 1	Mar-Jun	Open clayey or sandy soil, sometimes +- alkaline	**Low.** Suitable soils are present in the Study Area; however, the site has been historically disturbed. Nearest occurrence is 2 mi northeast in similar farmland habitat (CCH #PGM H-5428) from 1962.
5.	***Malacothamnus davidsonii***	Davidson's Bush Mallow	-/- G2/S2 1B.2	Jun-Jan	Sandy washes in coastal scrub, riparian woodland, chaparral	**No Potential.** Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area and site is heavily disturbed. Conspicuous bush mallow shrubs were not observed at the time of survey.

See section 1.6 for status and rank definitions

Figure 4. California Natural Diversity Database Plant Records



Label	Common Name
1	Davidson's bush-mallow
2	Indian Valley bush-mallow
3	Pale-yellow layia
4	Recurved larkspur
5	Umbrella larkspur

Legend

- Study Area (229.9 acres)
- WWTP Property (467.5 acres)
- 5-Mile Buffer

N

0 1 2 Miles

King City Wastewater Treatment Plant
Map Center: 121.13965°W 36.21864°N
King City, Monterey County

CNDDB GIS Data Last Updated: February 2023

3.5.2 Botanical Survey Results

Botanical surveys conducted on December 7, 2021 and January 26, 2023 identified 45 species, subspecies, and varieties of vascular plant taxa in the Study Area (Table 6). The list includes 21 species native to California and 24 introduced (naturalized or planted) species. Native plant species account for approximately 47 percent of the Study Area flora; introduced species account for approximately 53 percent.

TABLE 6. VASCULAR PLANT LIST

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status	Origin
Trees - 4 Species			
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	Red gum	None	Introduced
Morus sp.	Mulberry	None	Introduced
Populus fremontii	Cottonwood	None	Native
Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak	None	Native
Salix sp.	Willow	None	Native
Shrubs - 3 Species			
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote brush	None	Native
Baccharis salicifolia subsp. *salicifolia*	Mule fat	None	Native
Phoradendron leucarpum subsp. *macrophyllum*	Big leaf mistletoe	None	Native
Forbs - 31 Species			
Amaranthus albus	Tumbleweed amaranth	None	Introduced
Amsinckia sp.	Fiddleneck	None	Native
Atriplex semibaccata	Australian saltbush	None	Introduced
Centaurea melitensis	Tocolote	None	Introduced
Centaurea solstitialis	Yellow star thistle	None	Introduced
Chenopodium album	Lamb's-quarters	None	Introduced
Croton californicus	California croton	None	Native
Cyperus eragrostis	Umbrella sedge	None	Native
Deinandra sp.	Tarplant	None	Native
Epilobium ciliatum	Willow herb	None	Native
Erigeron bonariensis	Asthma weed	None	Introduced
Erodium cicutarium	Redstem filaree	None	Introduced

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status	Origin
Erigeron canadensis	Common horseweed	None	Native
Euphorbia serpens	Matted sandmat	None	Native
Gnaphalium palustre	Lowland cudweed	None	Native
Heliotropium curassavicum var. *oculatum*	Seaside heliotrope	None	Native
Heterotheca grandiflora	Telegraph weed	None	Native
Hirschfeldia incana	Wild mustard	None	Introduced
Lepidium latifolium	Perennial pepperweed	None	Introduced
Lessingia sp.[1]	Lessingia	None	Native
Malva parviflora	Cheeseweed	None	Introduced
Marrubium vulgare	Horehound	None	Introduced
Plantago lanceolata	English plantain	None	Introduced
Pseudognaphalium californicum	California everlasting	None	Native
Rumex crispus	Curly dock	None	Introduced
Rumex salicifolius	Willow dock	None	Native
Salsola tragus	Russian thistle	None	Introduced
Schoenoplectus californicus	California tule	None	Native
Stephanomeria virgata	Twiggy wreath plant	None	Native
Typha sp.	Cattail	None	Introduced
Xanthium spinosum	Spiny cocklebur	None	Introduced
Graminoids - 7 Species			
Bromus diandrus	Ripgut brome	None	Introduced
Bromus madritensis subsp. *rubens*	Red top brome	None	Introduced
Distichlis spicata	Saltgrass	None	Native
Festuca myuros	Rattail sixweeks grass	None	Introduced
Hordeum marinum subsp. *gussoneanum*	Barley	None	Introduced

[1] *Lessingia* sp. observed during the December 2021 site survey was partially in bloom, but nearly senesced and not completely identifiable due to lack of all phenological parts necessary to key to species. The rare species, *L. tenuis* or spring lessingia, has a bloom period of May through July, and would not be in bloom in December. Additionally, habitat where observed is not suitable for *L. tenuis*. Therefore, Special Status was determined to be None.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status	Origin
Hordeum murinum	Foxtail barley	None	Introduced
Polypogon monspeliensis	Annual beardgrass	None	Introduced

See Section 1. 6 for status and rank definitions.

3.6 Wildlife Resources

Updated research on special status animal occurrences conducted within the designated search area (see Methods) determined 29 special status animal species are known to occur in the region (Appendix B, CDFW 2023c). Figure 5 and Figure 6 depict the current GIS data for special status species mapped near the Study Area by the CNDDB and USFWS Critical Habitat.

3.6.1 Special Status Animal Species

Based on an analysis of known ecological requirements for the special-status wildlife species reported or known from the region (Appendix B), and the habitat conditions that were observed in the Study Area, it was determined that 16 special status animal species have some potential to occur within the Study Area. Potential for special status bird species to occur is defined by nesting and inflight/foraging potential, and include Cooper's hawk, tricolored blackbird, golden eagle, great blue heron, burrowing owl, bank swallow, and least Bell's vireo. Other special status animals with potential to occur include those with low potential (northern California legless lizard, western bumble bee, Salinas pocket mouse, coast horned lizard, western spadefoot, coast range newt, and San Joaquin kit fox) and moderate potential (western pond turtle and American badger). The Study Area is within known critical habitat for two special status species, vernal pool fairy shrimp and steelhead – South/Central California Coast DPS, and a third species, Monterey hitch, is known to occur along the Salinas River. These three species have no potential to occur, and a rationale for this determination is provided in the following discussion. Each species is discussed in detail below and summarized in Table 7.

1. **Cooper's Hawk** (*Accipiter cooperii*) is a CDFW Watch List species (for nesting occurrences only) that occurs regularly in California during the winter months and during spring and fall migration (CDFW 2018a). It is generally regarded as a regular but uncommon nesting species in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties (Hall et al. 1992; Lehman 2020), and several observations are reported on eBird within Monterey County (eBird 2021). Cooper's hawks frequent oak and riparian woodland habitats, and increasingly urban areas, where they prey primarily upon small birds (Curtis et al. 2006). The closest reported occurrence of nesting Cooper's hawk is located approximately 15 miles south of the Study Area in 1999 in a coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) tree within oak woodland habitat (CNDDB #68). Nesting habitat is not present in the Study Area, aside from one red gum tree which currently hosts a potential red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) nest. Several more recent occurrences have been reported on eBird, with the closest record approximately 0.4 miles northeast of the site (Hoff 2007). Cooper's hawks are likely more abundant in the area than records show in the CNDDB and have high potential to be seen either in flight or foraging on small birds within the Study Area. Woodland habitat in the vicinity could support nesting Cooper's hawks, but due to minimal

nesting habitat directly in the Study Area, they have low potential to nest on the site. Cooper's hawks were not detected during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.

2. **Tricolored Blackbird** (*Agelaius tricolor*) is a California Species of Special Concern (nesting colonies) and is listed as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. Tricolored blackbird occurs predominately in the Central Valley of California and in smaller disjunctive nesting colonies southwest of the Cascade Sierra axis and at higher elevations only in northwestern California (Shuford and Gardali 2008). Within its restricted range, the tricolored blackbird will migrate during the breeding season, moving north after the first nesting efforts, and in winter moving to lower elevations (Shuford and Gardali 2008) . The breeding season is generally from April to July, but in the Central Valley there has been active breeding reported in October and November (CDFW 2014). Historically, the tricolored blackbird nested in emergent wetlands, marshes and swamps making their nests in tall, dense cattails, tules, tall herbs, thickets of willows and blackberries. The species also requires foraging space with an abundance of insect prey that can sustain the nesting colony (Weintraub et al. 2016). In a recent study, it was found that the tricolored blackbird had a higher breeding success nesting in non-native invasive vegetation like the Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) over the native cattail (*Typha* spp.) (Cook and Toft 2005). The closest reported occurrence of a tricolored blackbird nesting colony is approximately 8.4 miles southeast of the Study Area in 1997 (CNDDB #993). Several observations of this species in flight are documented on eBird with the nearest occurrence approximately 1.8 miles east of the Study Area (Rinkert 2021), where a large flock was observed in flight. Due to very limited reed substrate, it is unlikely for tricolored blackbirds to nest in the WWTP area and suitable habitat is not present in the areas of proposed pipeline locations. Tricolored blackbirds were not observed in the Study Area during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.

3. **Northern California Legless Lizard** (*Anniella pulchra*) is a California Species of Special Concern that occurs from Contra Costa to Santa Barbara County. It has a Global Rank of G3 and a State Rank of S3, both of which indicate that this species is considered Vulnerable. This species includes the subspecies formerly treated as *A. pulchra nigra* and *A. pulchra pulchra* which was shown to be an invalid designation (Pearse and Pogson 2000). Northern California legless lizard inhabits friable soils in a variety of habitats from coastal dunes to oak woodlands and chaparral. Adapted to subterranean life, the legless lizard thrives near native coastal shrubs that produce an abundance of leaf litter and have strong roots systems (Kuhnz et al. 2005). Areas of exotic vegetation and open grassland do not provide suitable habitat for the legless lizard since these plant communities support smaller populations of insect prey and offer little protection from higher ground temperatures and soil desiccation (Slobodchikoff and Doyen 1977; Jennings and Hayes 1994). The closest reported occurrence of the northern California legless lizard is located approximately 1.9 miles southeast from Study Area in 2018 (CNDDB #362), where one adult was observed within a drainage of Pine Canyon. Loose loamy soils occur in the inactive Industrial Spray Fields land use area; however, is not the typical habitat for legless lizards There is potential for this species to inhabit the riparian habitat that occupies the Salinas River banks, where suitable soils are present and leaf litter is abundant. Due to the proximity of suitable conditions, there is low potential for legless lizards to occur in the WWTP portion of the Study Area, but they are not likely to be present near the treatment ponds where most of the proposed Project activities will occur. Northern California legless lizard was not detected during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.

4. **Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is designated a Fully Protected species by the CDFW and is federally protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The species range extends throughout much of North America and in California is found in broadleaved upland and montane coniferous forests, cismontane, pinon and juniper woodlands, coastal prairie, great basin scrub and great basin, valley and foothill grassland habitat types (CDFW 2018a). Most golden eagles in California are residents year-round, but in the winter months this population will be augmented with individuals from other nearby western states. The breeding season in California is generally from late January through August. The golden eagle prefers open habitat and in California it extensively utilizes grazed grasslands and open shrublands for preying on its main food source of hares or rabbits and marmots or ground squirrels (Hunt 1995; Watson 2010). Studies have shown that both the golden eagle's reproduction rate and success declines with a decrease in prey abundance. Golden eagle's will even refrain from egg laying when prey numbers are low (Driscoll 2010). In California, the golden eagle nests almost exclusively in trees (82% trees in central California) but in montane regions it also has a preference for cliffs and will avoid nesting in densely forested habitat (Hunt 1995; Pagel et al. 2010). The golden eagle is highly sensitive to anthropogenic presences and will avoid nesting near urban areas (Pagel et al. 2010). Golden eagles will even abandon nests when human activity and development increases in their territory (Driscoll 2010). The closest reported occurrence of nesting golden eagles is located approximately 10.3 miles west of the Study Area in 2008 (CNDDB #132) on a cliff above Vaqueros Creek. More recent occurrences are reported on eBird, with the nearest observation of one adult in flight approximately 0.9 mi south over San Lorenzo County Park (Roberson 2021). Due to the high presence of human activity and lack of nesting substrate, golden eagles have no potential to nest on the site but could be seen in flight or occasionally hunting in the open spray field areas. The raptor nest found within the Study Area was too small for this species. Golden eagle was not observed during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.
5. **Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*) is a CDFW Special Animal and a colonial nesting waterbird whose nesting colonies are tracked by the CNDDB. Adaptable and widespread, the great blue heron is found in a wide variety of habitats. When feeding, it is usually seen in slow-moving or calm salt, fresh, or brackish water. Great blue herons inhabit brackish and freshwater marshes, estuaries, swamps, riparian forests, and wetlands. They nest colonially in tall trees, cliffsides, and sequestered spots on marshes. Rookery sites are typically in proximity to foraging areas such as marshes, lake margins, tide-flats, rivers and streams, and wet meadows. Great blue herons hunt predominantly by day though they may also be active at night. The closest reported occurrence of a great blue heron rookery is approximately 11.4 miles east of the Study Area in 2008 (CNDDB #87). Several occurrences of great blue heron have been reported on eBird, with the nearest occurrence directly overhead the Study Area in 2002 (Yough 2002). There is no suitable rookery habitat present in the Study Area but it is highly likely that this species could be seen in flight or utilizing onsite treatment ponds. Great blue heron was not observed during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.
6. **Burrowing Owl** (*Athene cunicularia*) is a California Species of Special Concern. It is a small, rare owl that occupies abandoned mammal holes in the ground, most notably those of the California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*). In California, the burrowing owl is a year-round resident in the Carrizo Plain, Central Valley, Imperial Valley, and the San Francisco Bay region. In the winter months, burrowing owl individuals from other western populations will augment the year-round Californian populations (Shuford and Gardali 2008).

The breeding season is generally from March through August. Suitable habitat types for the burrowing owl are dry, open annual or perennial grasslands and deserts with an abundance of burrows (CDFW 2014; CDFW 2018). More specifically, the owl is found in coastal prairie, coastal scrub, great basin, Mojavean and Sonoran Desert scrub and great basin, valley and foothill grassland habitats (CDFW 2018). The burrowing owl commonly nests in abandoned holes in the ground, most notably those of the California Ground squirrel, but the owl is also known to inhabit badger and fox dens and man-made holes, such as pipes and culverts. Rarely it has been known to dig its own burrow in softer soil types(Coulombe 1971; Gervais et al. 2008). Burrows with high horizontal visibility and low vegetation coverage are preferred but burrows with dense vegetation with high perch sites will be used (Green and Anthony 1989). *Orthoptera* are the main food source for the owl but it will also consume other insects, as well as amphibians, carrion, small mammals, reptiles and birds (York et al. 2002; Gervais et al. 2008; CDFW 2014). The closest reported occurrence of the burrowing owl is approximately 2.0 miles east from the Study Area in 2002 (CNDDB #436) where burrowing owl was observed denning in soil mounds within a corporation yard. Though more likely to occur in the interior, the inactive Industrial Spray Field could provide suitable denning habitat for burrowing owl, but due to high activity in the area, potential to den and/or hunt on site is low. Burrowing owl was not detected during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.

7. **Western Bumble Bee** (*Bombus occidentalis*) is a candidate Endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act and is a designated Sensitive species under the United States Forest Service (USFS), with a Global Rank of G2G3 (imperiled and vulnerable) and a State Rank of S1 (critically imperiled). According to NatureServe (2014), the overall global rank of the species has to be G4 because one or two of the subspecies appears to be secure based on substantial information from 2009 and more recently. However, western bumblebee is clearly not secure in most of its range. The conservation status of the two subspecies appears to be very different, and each is now (as of 2014) ranked and document separately. Though once widespread, disease is stipulated to be the cause of the precipitous decline in this species from southern British Columbia to central California. Rangewide, example food plants of WBB include genera *Ceanothus*, *Centaurea*, *Chrysothamnus*, *Cirsium*, *Geranium*, *Grindellia*, *Lupinus*, *Melilotus*, *Monardella*, *Rubus*, *Solidago*, and *Trifolium* (Williams et al. 2014). The nearest occurrences of WBB are approximately 10 miles northwest and southeast of the Study Area in 1967 and 1935, respectively (CNDDB #293, 277). Due to limited host plants, lack of burrows in the Project area, and overall decline of the species, western bumblebee has very no potential to occur in the Study Area. Western bumble bee was not detected, nor were any bumble bee species observed, during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.

8. **Western Pond Turtle** (*Emys marmorata* [*Actinemys marmorata*]) has a Global Rank of G3G4 and a State Rank of S3. It is a California Species of Special Concern that has a widespread distribution in north and south California west of the Sierra-Cascade crest (Jennings and Hayes 1994; CDFW 2014) . The western pond turtle requires permanent to semi-permanent and slack or slow-moving water type habitat, including ponds, rivers, streams, reservoirs and wetlands found in grasslands, open forests and woodlands. It has also been observed in abandoned gravel pits, sewage treatment lagoons, irrigation ditches and stock ponds (Pilliod et al. 2013; CDFW 2014; CDFW 2018). Suitable water habitat will have plenty of basking and cover sites such as logs, reeds, rocks and muddy banks. The western pond turtle also requires suitable upland habitat for nests, migration, overwintering and aestivation (Pilliod et al. 2013; CDFW 2014; CDFW 2018). Nests are laid on dry and unshaded south-facing slopes that are < 25º and of

high clay or silt fraction (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Females lay eggs from April to August, depending on the latitude, and will travel as far as 400 meters from the water to find a suitable nesting spot (Jennings and Hayes 1994; Reese and Welsh 1997). Hatchling turtles leave the nest the following spring and spend their time in shallow highly vegetated waters (Jennings and Hayes 1994). The western pond turtle is omnivorous and has a diet that consists mostly of aquatic invertebrates, vegetation, small fish and duck carrion (Jennings and Hayes 1994; CDFW 2014). The biggest threat to the western pond turtle is the destruction of wetland habitat, but its population size is also affected by the American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) which will prey on hatchlings and can even eliminate recruitment in some populations (USFWS 1992; Overtree and Collings 1997). The closest reported occurrence of western pond turtle is located approximately 1.3 miles southeast from the Study Area in the Salinas River (CNDDB #1054). The active water treatment ponds could attract pond turtles and they have a moderate potential to occur in the Study Area. Western pond turtle was not detected during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys but could be present.

9. **Salinas Pocket Mouse** (*Perognathus inornatus psammophilus*) is a rare pocket mouse listed as a California Species of Special Concern (CDFW 2018). It has a Global Rank of G4T2 (rounded status T2 – Imperiled) and a State Rank of S1 (Critically Imperiled). The Salinas pocket mouse is one of three subspecies located from the Sacramento Valley, south to the San Joaquin and contiguous valleys (including Salinas Valley). Like other species of pocket mice, the Salinas pocket mouse is nocturnal and spends the day in a burrow with a plugged entrance. During periods of low temperatures, these mice will enter a period of torpor, emerging occasionally from their burrow if its cache needs to be replenished. The Salinas pocket mouse forages on the seeds of grasses and forbs as well as seasonal vegetation. The closest reported occurrence of the Salinas pocket mouse is located over 14 miles northwest from the Study Area in 1936 (CNDDB #7). Documented occurrences of this species are rare and historic, suggesting that either the species has been extirpated from the area or that more research is required to determine presence in the County. Though suitable habitat is present in the Industrial Spray Fields portion of the Study Area, it is unlikely that Salinas pocket mouse are present, and they have very low potential to occur. Salinas pocket mouse or its sign was not detected during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.

10. **Coast Horned Lizard (or Blainville's Horned Lizard)** (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) is a California Species of Special Concern. The coast horned lizard is distributed from northern Baja California through Northern California occurring in open areas of valley foothill hardwood, conifer, riparian, pine-cypress, juniper and annual grassland habitats (Laudenslayer 2007). The horned lizard needs friable sandy soil with rocks and logs essential for burrows and reproduction (Laudenslayer 2007, Gerson 2011). Appropriate habitat for the horned lizard must include an abundance of the native harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex* and *Messor*). The non-native Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*) is detrimental to horned lizard food resources as it is out competing the native harvester ant, and the lizard will not eat the Argentine ant (Gerson 2011). Very little data exists on the habitat requirement for reproduction of the coast horned lizard; however, it has been reported that in southern California the egg laying season is from late May through June (CDFW 2014). The closest reported occurrence of the coast horned lizard is located approximately 10.3 miles west of the Study Area in 2008 (CNDDB #681), where horned lizard was observed along Vaqueros Creek, adjacent to oak woodland habitat. Wash habitat with sandy soils is present along the Salinas River and coast horned lizard could be present, but is less likely to disperse into the WWTP portion of the Study Area and has low

potential to occur. Coast horned lizard was not observed during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.

11. **Bank Swallow** (*Riparia riparia*) is a state-listed threatened species with a Global Rank of G5 (Secure) and a State Rank of S2 (Imperiled). It typically nests in colonies, excavating tunnels into vertical sandbanks along rivers, streams, lakes, and ocean coasts. This species forages over any habitat, especially near water. The closest reported observation of bank swallow colonies is located approximately 1.4 miles south of the Study Area observed in 1993 (CNDDB #93), along the Salinas River. More recent occurrences of bank swallow sightings are documented on eBird, with the nearest observation approximately 1.4 miles northeast of the Study Area along Metz Road (Rinkert 2014). Nesting habitat is not present in the Study Area but breeding colonies of bank swallow are documented in the area and there is moderate potential for this species to be seen foraging or in flight within the Study Area. Bank swallows were not observed during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.
12. **Western Spadefoot Toad** (*Spea hammondii*) is a California Species of Special Concern and has a Global Rank of G3 (Vulnerable) and a State Rank of S3 (Vulnerable). The species is endemic to California and northern Baja California, Mexico. Western spadefoot toad is primarily an inland species, occurring in grassland habitats with friable soils and seasonal rain pools (CNDDB 2017). Spadefoot toads remain underground for most of the year, emerging to breed in seasonal wetland pools during the rainy season and if enough rain occurs, they can be found above ground from October through April. Typical breeding season is from December to March. Development of the larvae from egg to metamorphosis can be very quick (3-11 weeks), depending upon water temperature and food resources. Recruitment will most often fail if breeding ponds are habited by predators such as bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeiana*) and crayfishes (CDFW 2014, Jennings and Hayes 1994). The closest reported occurrence of western spadefoot toad is located approximately 9.6 miles north of the Study Area in 1943 (CNDDB #840), however due to suitable conditions within and surrounding the Salinas River, this species is likely to occur more closely to the site. Western spadefoot toad was not detected during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys but could be present in low numbers as suitable upland habitat and soils are present in the Industrial Spray Field that could be used by burrowing spadefoot during estivation.
13. **Coast Range Newt** (*Taricha torosa*) has a Global Rank of G4 and a State Rank of S4, meaning this species is considered Apparently Secure on a global and state scale according to NatureServe (2018). It is also a California Species of Special Concern that has a disjunctive range along the coastline of California from Mendocino County to San Diego County. Coast range newts spend most of the year in terrestrial habitats but move to slow-moving streams, lakes and reservoirs to breed in the wet winter months (CNDDB 2017, Gamradt 1997, Jennings and Hayes 1994). Suitable habitat types for the coast range newt are coastal drainages of oak forest, mixed chaparral, annual grassland, valley-foothill hardwood, coastal scrub and mixed conifer (CDFW 2014). Within its preferred habitat, the coast range newt uses mammal burrows, fallen logs and rocks for shelter on land and in the water, females lay eggs within dense vegetation and larvae seek shelter under fallen debris, rocks and undercut banks (CDFW 2014). The movement of Coast Range newts has not been studied in depth, but it is thought that it can migrate long distances, sometimes over one kilometer, to breeding sites (Jennings and Hayes 1994). The closest reported occurrence of this species is located approximately 10.3 miles east of the Study Area in 2008 along a riparian corridor (CNDDB #57). Suitable stream

habitat is not directly present in the Study Area, but due to the proximity of the Salinas River there is low potential that Coast Range newt could utilize the site. Coast range newt was not detected during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.

14. **American Badger** (*Taxidea taxus*) is a California Species of Special Concern with a widespread range across the state (Brehme et. al. 2015, CDFW 2014). It is a permanent but uncommon resident in all parts of California, except for forested regions of the far northwestern corner, and is more abundant in dry, open areas of most shrub and forest habitats (CDFW 2021c). The American badger requires friable soil in order to dig burrows for cover and breeding. The main food source for the species is fossorial rodents, mainly ground squirrels and pocket gophers (CDFW 2014). The breeding season for badgers is in summer and early fall, and females give birth to litters usually in March and April (CDFW 2014). The closest reported occurrence of the American badger is located approximately 1.6 miles east of the Study Area (CNDDB #300), with no observation date. Suitable soils are present for denning badger in the Industrial Spray Fields and there is moderate potential for this species to occur on the site. Fragmented habitat and relatively high human activity in the area reduce potential for this species to more frequently occur. American badger or its sign was not detected during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.

15. **Least Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) is one of four subspecies of Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii*) and is both state and federally listed as endangered. Least Bell's vireo winters in Baja California, Mexico and migrates to California during the breeding season (generally March to September), where it is found in scattered populations from Central to Southern California. They are a small, olive colored bird whose habitat consists of low, dense riparian growth near dry and intermittent streams (USFWS 1994). Preferred nesting habitat is on low branches of willows (*Salix* spp.), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and mesquite bushes (*Prosopis* spp.) where insects can be found for feeding (Brown 1993). Range wide decline has occurred due to habitat loss, and brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) throughout range of California (CNDDB 2017). The closest reported occurrence of the least Bell's vireo is historic and is located over 10 miles southeast of the Study Area in 1919 (CNDDB #512). Records of least Bell's vireo on eBird are over 30 miles southeast. Due to the lack of riparian habitat in the Study Area and no recent occurrences, there is no potential for this species to nest on site but could potentially nest in the riparian habitat along the Salinas River. Few isolated mule fat shrubs were noted within the Industrial Spray Fields; however, not enough to create the suitably dense, shrubby nesting habitat preferred by this species. Due to the lack of suitable nesting habitat on the site, there is no potential for least Bell's vireo to occur in the Study Area. Least Bell's vireo was not observed in the Study Area during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys but could nest within 0.5 mile of the Project.

16. **San Joaquin Kit Fox** (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*; SJKF) is federally listed as endangered and state listed as threatened. The SJKF is one of two subspecies of the kit fox, *Vulpes macrotis*, which is the smallest canid species in North America. It is endemic to the San Joaquin Valley and a few adjacent valleys in the central region of California (Cypher et al. 2013). The SJKF is primarily nocturnal and typically occurs in annual grassland or mixed shrub/grassland habitats throughout low, rolling hills and in valleys. They need loose sandy soils in order to dig their burrows and a prey population of black-tailed jackrabbits, rodents, desert cottontails, insects, some birds, reptiles and vegetation (CDFW 2014, CNDDB 2017). The most suitable habitat for SJKF has low precipitation, sparse vegetation coverage with high densities of

kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys* spp.). For the SJKF to succeed in an area it needs large expanses of non-fragmented suitable habitat. This type of habitat is decreasing rapidly by conversion into agricultural land or degraded by urban development (Cypher et al. 2013). Female SJKF began preparing natal dens in September and October and then breeding occurs from December through February. Pups are born from January to March and family groups typically split up the following October (Meaney et al. 2006). The closest reported occurrence of the SJKF is located approximately 2.2 miles from the Study Area in 1986 (CNDDB #940), with no known details of the occurrence. Several other observations east and north of the site are from 1975 and these populations are likely extirpated. The most recent occurrence is located approximately 9.4 miles southeast in 2002 (CNDDB #50). Agricultural land use in the area is heavily active, and though kit fox are known to occupy croplands, soils are heavily impacted through regular disking and planting and potential burrows or mounds were not observed in adjacent farmlands during the December 2021 and January 2023 site visits. Resurgent grassland with friable soils in the Industrial Spray Fields could support denning SJKF, but access to this portion of the site is not within direct connectivity to any other suitable habitat aside from the Salinas River corridor (for which kit fox do not typically utilize). Due to the lack of recent occurrences in the area, it is very unlikely for SJKF to utilize the site for denning or hunting, but measures should be observed to ensure protection of this federally and state listed species. SJKF or its sign was not detected during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys.

The following three special status species, which are listed under the FESA, CESA, and/or are SSC by the state of California, are not likely to occur in the Study Area but are known to occur in the region and therefore warrant further discussion: vernal pool fairy shrimp, Monterey hitch, and steelhead (South/Central California Coast DPS). Each species is discussed below and summarized in Table 7.

17. **Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp** (*Branchinecta lynchi*) is a small freshwater crustacean that is federally listed as threatened and occurs in the Central Valley of California from Shasta County to Tulare County and the central and southern Coast Ranges from northern Solano County to Ventura County, California (USFWS 2003). This shrimp is found in grasslands in cool, clear-water sandstone-depression, grassed swale, earth slump and basalt-flow depression pools with a higher occurrence in Redding, Corning and Red Bluff soils (Helm 1998; CDFW 2018a). Preferred pool depth by the shrimp ranges from 2-122 cm. Individuals hatch from cysts during cold-weather winter storms and require water temperatures of 50°F or lower to hatch (Helm 1998; Eriksen and Belk 1999). The time to maturity and reproduction is temperature dependent, varying between 18 days and 147 days, with a mean of 39.7 days. Immature and adult shrimp are known to die off when water temperatures rise to approximately 75°F (Helm 1998). The species is typically associated with smaller and shallower vernal pools (typically about 6 inches deep) that have relatively short periods of inundation (Helm 1998) and relatively low to moderate total dissolved solids (TDS) and alkalinity. The Study Area is with the 5-mile radius of vernal pool fairy shrimp habitat, however no CNDDB occurrences are reported within the 9-quad search area. Existing treatment ponds are not seasonal and have greater depth and higher temperatures than preferred fairy shrimp vernal pool habitat. Due to the lack of suitable habitat, active operation of the facility, and no occurrences in the vicinity of the Project, vernal pool fairy shrimp have no potential to occur on the site.

18. **Monterey Hitch** (*Lavinia exilcauda harengus*) is a California Species of Special Concern, which is widely distributed in the Pajaro River and Salinas River systems, both tributary to Monterey Bay. When the sandbar forms at its mouth in early summer, the Salinas River lagoon can substantially convert to fresh water with a lens of salt water near the bottom. Monterey hitch apparently tolerate such brackish conditions, as indicated by the fact that they have been captured in the lagoon from water with salt concentrations as high as nine parts per thousand (ppt; Habitat Restoration Group 1992). Hitch are deep-bodied cyprinids with a terminal, slightly upturned mouth that can grow to over 350 mm standard length. Young fish are silver and have a dark, triangular blotch on the caudal peduncle. As fish age, they become duller in color, with the dorsal area turning brownish yellow (Moyle 2002). The hitch prefers the lower, sandy to muddy, slow-moving stretches of rivers or the quiet pools of creeks, generally in fairly warm water. According to Murphy (1948) it appears to require gravel-bottomed streams for successful spawning. It feeds, in large part at least, on fine microscopic organisms (plankton), as shown by the rather numerous gill rakers, the long intestine and the grinding type of pharyngeal teeth. Monterey hitch exist in a rapidly changing environment where flows are often tenuous and intermittent as the result of intensive agricultural land use, an arid climate, and increasing human demand for water. This is compounded by the fact that the majority of Monterey hitch habitat occurs on private lands, where there is little formal protection for aquatic organisms. Nearest occurrence of Monterey hitch is approximately 0.2 miles west of the Study Area along the Salinas River in 2018 (CNDDB #1). Monterey hitch could be present in the Salinas River but have no potential to occur in the Study Area due to the lack of riverine habitat directly on the site.
19. **Steelhead - South/Central California Coast DPS** (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) is the anadromous form of rainbow trout. Adults spawn in freshwater, while juveniles remain in freshwater before migrating to the ocean to grow and become sexually mature prior to returning as adults to spawn in freshwater. Steelhead in the South/Central California Coast Distinct Population Segment (SCCCDPS) include naturally spawned *O. mykiss* occurring downstream from natural and manmade barriers from the Pajaro River, south to but not including the Santa Maria River. A Distinct Population Segment (DPS) is a group of steelhead that is genetically distinct from other California steelhead populations. Steelhead are known to occur in coastal streams and rivers in San Luis Obispo County, including but not limited to Arroyo Grande Creek, Pismo Creek, San Luis Obispo Creek, Chorro Creek, San Simeon Creek, and other coastal streams. Steelhead are known to occur in the Salinas River and its tributaries from Monterey south to the vicinity of Santa Margarita. The Salinas River and coastal streams in Monterey County are critical habitat for migrating steelhead. Steelhead generally require cool, fast-flowing streams with rock and cobble substrate for spawning and rearing. Though the Property is in designated steelhead critical habitat, no portion of the Study Area is within riverine habitat. Project activities will occur within the existing plant footprint, over 1,200 feet from the Salinas River. Project activities would not impact steelhead directly or indirectly with adherence to the current King City WWTP Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPPP) measures in place during construction and operation.

TABLE 7. SPECIAL STATUS ANIMAL LIST

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
1.	***Accipiter cooperii***	Cooper's Hawk	-/- G5/S4 WL	Oak woodland, riparian, open fields. Nests in dense trees, esp. coast live oak.	**Low** (nesting). Suitable nesting habitat is located west of the site along the Salinas River, with one tree directly in the Study Area. **High** (in flight/foraging). Potential nesting habitat is located just off-site, and several occurrences have been reported in the vicinity. High prey-base of small birds is present.
2.	***Agelaius tricolor***	Tricolored Blackbird	-/CT G2G3/S1S2 SSC	Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, & foraging area with insect prey near nesting colony.	**No Potential** (nesting). Reed and nesting substrate is not sufficiently present, with only a few small patches of tule and cattails occurring in the Study Area. Nesting colonies require dense reed habitat. **High** (in flight/foraging). Numerous occurrences of large flocks have been reported in the vicinity and insect prey-base is present in the Study Area.
3.	***Anniella pulchra***	Northern California Legless Lizard	-/- G3/S3 SSC	Sandy or loose loamy soils under coastal scrub or oak trees. Soil moisture essential.	**Low**. Loose litter and loamy soils are present though appropriate habitat is not directly within the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is 2.0 mi south in drainage along Jolon Road (CNDDB #362) in 2018.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
4.	***Aquila chrysaetos***	Golden Eagle	-/- G5/S3 FP	Nests in large, prominent trees in valley and foothill woodland. Requires adjacent food source.	**No Potential** (nesting). Suitable nesting substrate is not present in the Study Area. **Low** (in flight/foraging). Not prominent in the area. Nearest occurrence is over 10 west (CNDDB #132 in 2008) and limited open space is present. Several eBird occurrences near King City.
5.	***Ardea herodias***	Great Blue Heron	-/- G5/S4 SA	Rookeries located in tall trees near foraging areas.	**No Potential** (nesting). Suitable rookery habitat is not present in the Study Area. **High** (in flight/foraging). Onsite water detention ponds likely attract great blue herons, and an observation was made within the Study Area in 2002 (Yough 2002). Numerous occurrences documented in the area on eBird.
6.	***Athene cunicularia***	Burrowing Owl	-/- G4/S3 SSC	Burrows in squirrel holes in open habitats with low vegetation.	**Low** (nesting/burrowing). Covering grassland is present in the Industrial Spray Fields, which could provide suitable denning habitat for burrowing owls. Nearest occurrence is 2.0 mi east (CNDDB #436) in 2002, where soil mounds were observed in corporation yard. **Low** (in flight/foraging). Nearest occurrence is 2.0 mi east (CNDDB #436) in 2002, where soil mounds were observed in corporation yard. Nearest occurrence on eBird is incomplete and more species common in the interior.

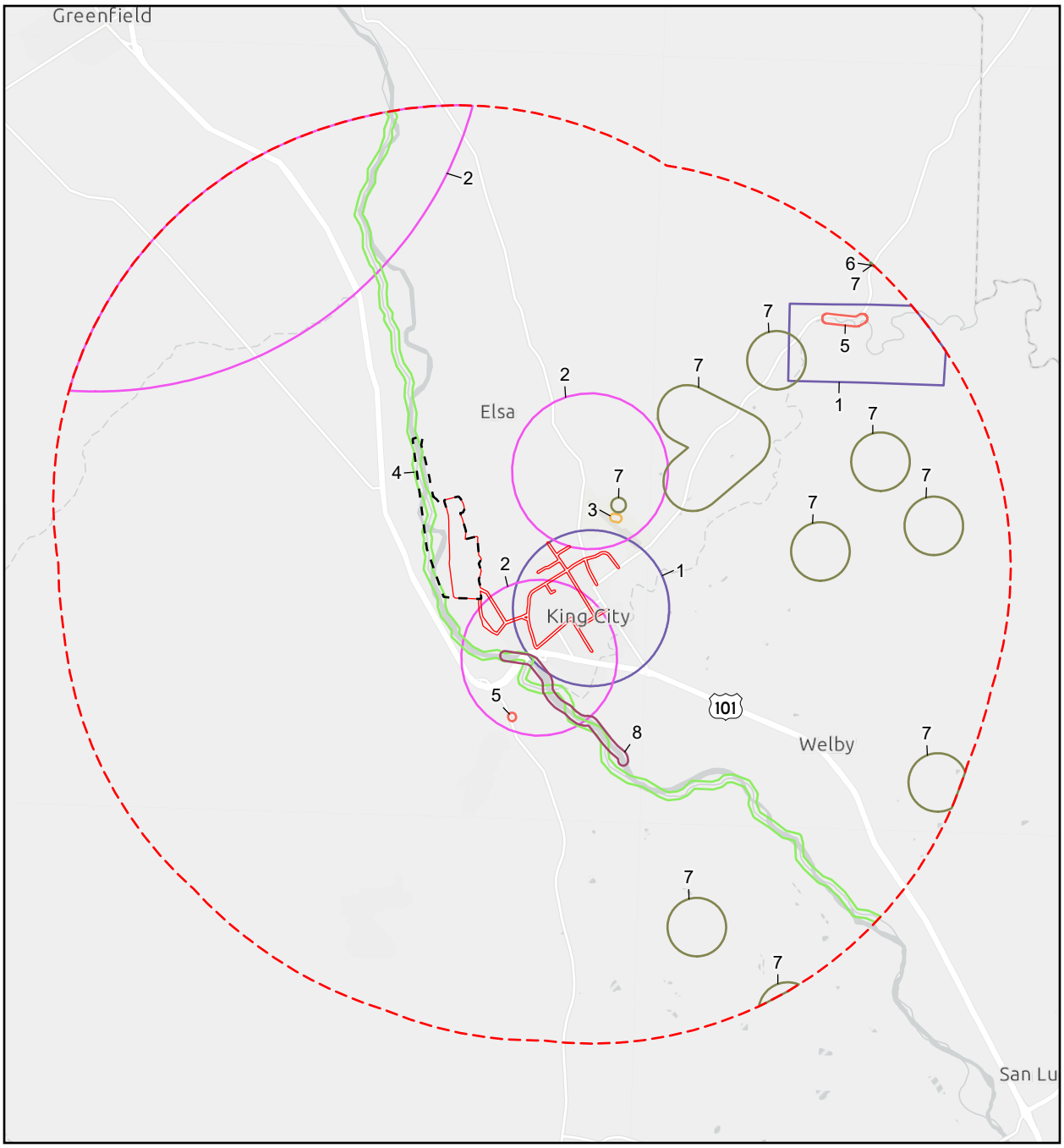
	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
7.	***Bombus occidentalis***	Western Bumble Bee	-/CCE G2G3/S1 SA	Wide variety of natural, agricultural, urban, and rural habitats. Flower-rich meadows of forests and subalpine zones.	**No Potential.** Nearest occurrences are historic, and site is void of most host plant species. Land Use in the WWTP is heavily disturbed and no burrows occur in the Project area.
8.	***Branchinecta lynchi****	Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp	FT/- G3/S3 SA	Clear water sandstone depression pools, grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt flow depression pools.	**No Potential.** Vernal pool habitat is not present in the Study Area. Study Area is within 5-mi radius of critical habitat for VPFS.
9.	***Emys marmorata***	Western Pond Turtle	-/- G3G4/S3 SSC	Permanent or semi-permanent streams, ponds, lakes.	**Moderate**. Retention ponds on site could attract pond turtles and Salinas River adjacency could provide connectivity during normal rain years. Nearest occurrence is 1.3 mi southeast along Salinas River in King City (CNDDB #1054).
10.	***Lavinia exilcauda harengus***	Monterey Hitch	-/- G4T2T4/S2S4 SSC	Rivers	**No Potential.** Riverine habitat is not present in the Study Area. Nearest documented occurrence mapped nonspecifically along the 110-mile-long Salinas River (CNDDB #1) in 2018.
11.	***Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 9***	Steelhead - South-Central California Coast Dps	FT/- G5T2Q/S2 SA	Federal listing refers to runs in coastal basins from the Pajaro River south to, but not including, the Santa Maria River.	**No Potential.** Not documented in this portion of the Salinas River by the CNDDB. Property is within known critical habitat for this species, but no riverine habitat in the Study Area. New project operations would not indirectly impact steelhead trout.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
12.	***Perognathus inornatus psammophilus***	Salinas Pocket Mouse	-/- G4T2?/S1 SSC	Annual grassland and desert shrub in Salinas Valley, with friable soils	**Low.** Disturbed habitat with marginally suitable grassy conditions is present within the inactive industrial spray fields. Nearest occurrence is over 14 northwest and historic, from 1936 (CNDDB #7). No potential within the Project footprint.
13.	***Phrynosoma blainvillii***	Coast Horned Lizard	-/- G3G4/S3S4 SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes.	**Low**. Dry, sandy washes are seasonally present along the Salinas River, adjacent to the Study Area, however nearest occurrence is >10 mi west in 2008 (CNDDB #681).
14.	***Riparia riparia***	Bank Swallow	-/CT G5/S2 SA	Nests colonially in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert. Requires vertical banks or cliffs with sandy soils (to dig cavities) near streams, lakes, or the ocean.	**No Potential** (nesting). Suitable nesting substrate is not present in the Study Area. **Moderate** (in flight/foraging). Breeding colonies are known to occur in the area and species could be seen in the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is 1.3 mi southeast (CNDDB #93) in 1991, at known breeding colony. More recent occurrences at same locations on eBird.
15.	***Spea hammondii***	Western Spadefoot	-/- G3/S3 SSC	Grassland and woodland habitats with vernal pools for breeding. Most of year spent underground.	**Low**. Suitable upland conditions for underground estivation are present and the Salinas River could support breeding spadefoots when water ponds. Retention ponds may also provide breeding habitat, but no records of breeding in the vicinity are known to date. Nearest occurrence is historic and 9.7 mi north (CNDDB #840 in 1943).

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
16.	***Taricha torosa***	Coast Range Newt	-/- G4/S4 SSC	Lives in terrestrial habitats & will migrate over 1 km to breed in ponds, reservoirs & slow moving streams.	**Low**. Retention ponds could attract this species as suitable breeding habitat, though nearest occurrence is >10 west and no records are documented along the Salinas River.
17.	***Taxidea taxus***	American Badger	-/- G5/S3 SSC	Needs friable soils in open ground with abundant food source such as California ground squirrels.	**Moderate**. Known to occur in the area and suitable soils are present. Potential denning habitat is limited on the site to the Industrial Spray Fields.
18.	***Vireo bellii pusillus***	Least Bell's Vireo	FE/CE G5T2/S2 SA	Riparian habitat, near water or dry streambed, <2000 ft. Nests in willows, mesquite, Baccharis.	**No Potential** (nesting). Riparian habitat with suitable nesting substrate is not present in the Study Area. **No Potential** (in flight/foraging). Riparian habitat adjacent to the Study Area is suitable to support nesting least Bell's vireos however none have been documented in the area to date and this species is unlikely to occur. Nearest occurrence is historic and >10 southeast (CNDDB #512 in 1919). Nearest eBird record is in Bradley, >30 southeast.
19.	***Vulpes macrotis mutica***	San Joaquin Kit Fox	FE/CT G4T2/S2 SA	Annual grasslands or grassy open stages with scattered shrubby vegetation. Needs loose textured sandy soil and prey base.	**Low.** Limited recovering grassland habitat is present in the Industrial Spray Fields, but the mapped historical range for kit fox shows no observations in the immediate area beyond 1990 (CDFW 2020).

*Not listed in the CNDDB for the search area, but species is a possibility for the location.
See section 1.6 for status and rank definitions.

Figure 5. California Natural Diversity Database Animal Records



Label	Common Name
1	American badger
2	Bank swallow
3	Burrowing owl
4	Monterey hitch
5	Northern California legless lizard
6	San Joaquin coachwhip
7	San Joaquin kit fox
8	Western pond turtle

Legend

- Study Area (229.9 acres)
- WWTP Property (467.5 acres)
- 5-Mile Buffer

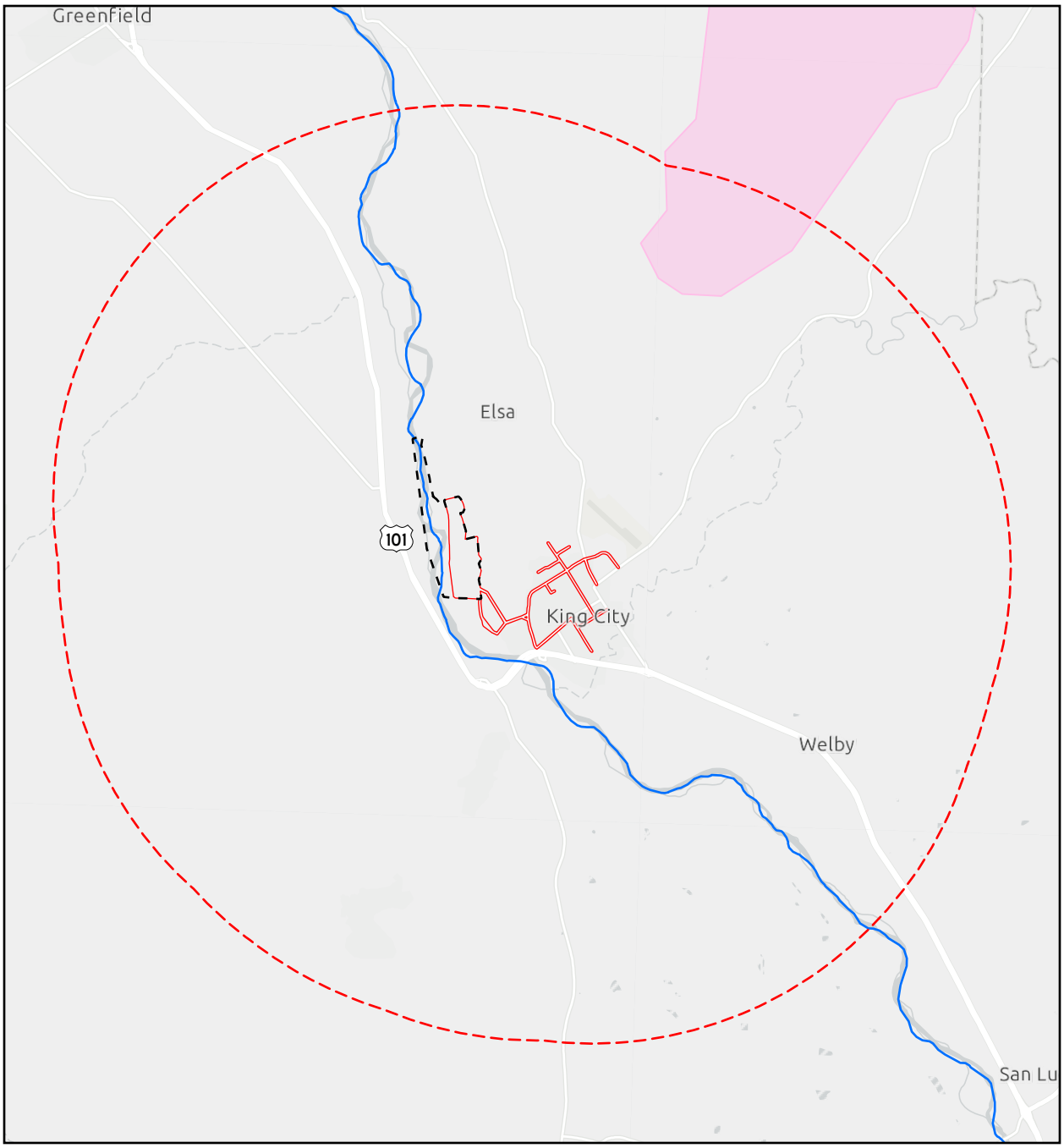
N

0 1 2 Miles

King City Wastewater Treatment Plant
Map Center: 121.13965°W 36.21864°N
King City, Monterey County

CNDDB GIS Data Last Updated: February 2023

Figure 6. National Marine Fisheries Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat



Legend

- Study Area (229.9 acres)
- WWTP Property (467.5 acres)
- 5-Mile Buffer

NMFS Critical Habitat

- Steelhead trout

USFWS Critical Habitat

- Vernal pool fairy shrimp

N

0 1 2 Miles

King City Wastewater Treatment Plant
Map Center: 121.13965°W 36.21864°N
King City, Monterey County

NMFS/USFWS Critical Habitat Data Last Updated: February 2023

3.6.2 Wildlife Survey Results

A total of 28 wildlife taxa were observed within the Study Area during the December 2021 and January 2023 surveys: 23 birds and five mammals. Table 8 provides a list of the wildlife observed in the Study Area. Numerous small mammal burrows were identified throughout the WWTP portion of the Study Area, likely affiliated with unidentified mouse species (Family Muridae). California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) burrows were limited across the site. One coyote (*Canis latrans*) was observed hunting along the western boundary of the Study Area, near the Salinas River, and other large mammal tracks were detected in muddy soils on WWTP property including wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). One raptor nest was observed and mapped outside the nesting season in the singular red gum tree within the Industrial Spray Field and was guarded by one adult red-tailed hawk within the tree. Ponds associated with the existing treatment facility were utilized by waterfowl, including mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), western grebes (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), American coots (*Fulica americana*), and buffleheads (*Bucephala albeola*). Shorebirds and other migratory bird species, including western sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) and killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), were abundantly foraging within the muddy flats where open spray fields operated as part of the final water treatment process.

TABLE 8. WILDLIFE LIST

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status	Habitat Type
Birds – 23 Species			
Aechmophorus occidentalis	Western Grebe	None	Aquatic habitats
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard	None	Lakes, ponds, streams
Aphelocoma californica	California Scrub-jay	None	Oak, riparian woodlands
Bucephala albeola	Bufflehead	None	Ponds, lakes
Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed Hawk	None	Open, semi-open country
Calidris mauri	Western Sandpiper	None	Shorelines, flats, agricultural fields, sewage treatment ponds, saltmarshes, and freshwater marshes
Charadrius vociferous	Killdeer	None	Mud flats, stream banks, grazed fields
Circus cyaneus	Northern Harrier	None	Nest on ground in tall reeds or grasses
Colaptes auratus	Northern Flicker	None	Woodlands
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American Crow	None	Many habitats, esp. urban
Euphagus cyanocephalus	Brewer's Blackbird	None	Open habitats
Falco sparverius	American Kestrel	None	Open, semi-open country
Fulica americana	American Coot	None	Aquatic habitats

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status	Habitat Type
Haemorhous mexicanus	House Finch	None	Riparian, grasslands, chaparral, woodlands, urban
Larus californicus	California Gull	None	Beach, urban areas
Melospiza melodia	Song Sparrow	None	Oak, riparian woodland
Passerculus sandwichensis	Savannah Sparrow	None	Open habitats, marshes, grasslands
Sayornis nigricans	Black Phoebe	None	Near water in natural and urban settings
Sayornis saya	Say's Phoebe	None	Open country, grassland
Sturnella neglecta	Western Meadowlark	None	Open habitats, grasslands
Sturnus vulgaris	European Starling	None	Agricultural, livestock areas
Zenaida macroura	Mourning Dove	None	Open and semi-open habitats
Zonotrichia leucophrys	White-crowned Sparrow	None	Oak, riparian woodlands, open or shrubby habitats, meadows, forest edges
Mammals – 5 Species			
Canis latrans	Coyote	None	Open woodlands, brushy areas, wide ranging.
Odocoileus hemionus	Mule Deer	None	Many habitats
Otospermophilus beecheyi	California Ground Squirrel	None	Grasslands
Sus scrofa	Wild Boar	None	Variety of habitats with water source and dense vegetation for cover
Sylvilagus audubonii	Desert Cottontail	None	Brushy habitats

See Section 1.6 for status and rank definitions.

3.6.3 Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement

Wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity are important for the movement of wildlife between different populations and habitats. Wildlife movement corridors are defined as areas that connect suitable wildlife habitat areas in a region otherwise fragmented by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, or human disturbance. Natural features such as canyon drainages, ridgelines, or areas with vegetation cover provide corridors for wildlife travel. Wildlife movement corridors are important because they provide access to mates, food, and water; allow the dispersal of individuals away from high population density areas; and facilitate the exchange of genetic traits between populations (Beier and Loe 1992). Wildlife movement corridors are considered sensitive by resource and conservation agencies.

The western edge of the Study Area is separated from the Salinas River by a vegetated berm approximately 6 to 10 feet high. The Salinas River flows northbound through three counties with a length of approximately 175 miles. This river system provides food, aquatic resources, refugia,

and suitable breeding habitat to a wide variety of wildlife species. As evidenced by coyote, wild boar, mule deer, desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), and California ground squirrel activity, it is reasonable to assume that terrestrial wildlife occurs locally in and around the Study Area and for use of the Salinas River. The Salinas River is the most significant regional corridor associated with the Study Area and provides a major thoroughfare for unobstructed terrestrial wildlife movement.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION

Disturbed habitat with associated WWTP land uses, and developed habitat with associated commercial, residential and industrial land uses, comprise the 229.9-acre Study Area. As proposed, the Project would affect various biological resources, including impacts to disturbed and developed habitat, nesting birds, special status amphibians and reptiles, potentially nesting special status birds (Cooper's hawk and burrowing owl,), in flight and/or foraging special status birds, and special status mammals including Salinas pocket mouse, American badger, and San Joaquin kit fox. Due to the presence of human activity and urban development within the City, the Project area of focus for special status species with potential to occur is within the WWTP portion of the Study Area where suitable habitat is present. This section provides mitigation recommendations (**BIO**) designed to reduce impacts to biological resources onsite, as summarized by Table 9.

TABLE 9. IMPACTS AND MITIGATION SUMMARY

Biological Resource	Potential Effect from Proposed Project	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation, Measures
Disturbed Habitat	Negligible. Conversion of existing disturbed habitat.	No Mitigation Required See impacts to nesting birds and special status species below (BIO-4 through BIO-23)
Developed Habitat	Negligible. Temporary disturbance within existing City streets (developed habitat).	No Mitigation Required See impacts to nesting birds below (BIO-4)
Oak Trees	No Impacts Proposed	No Mitigation Required Recommended Avoidance & Minimization Measures: BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3
Special Status Plants	None detected, no potential to occur in Project area.	No Mitigation Required
Nesting Birds	Minimal loss of potential habitat for ground-nesters. Potential indirect impacts to special status birds nesting within specified distances.	BIO-4 See impacts to special status birds below (BIO-6 through BIO-8)
Western Bumble Bee	No Impacts Proposed. Suitable habitat is not present in the Project Area.	No Mitigation Required
Special Status Amphibians and Reptiles	Mitigable. Loss of potential aquatic habitat during pond conversion.	BIO-5

Biological Resource	Potential Effect from Proposed Project	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation, Measures
Special Status Birds (foraging)	Negligible. Indirect impacts to foraging birds during Project activities.	No Mitigation Required
Tricolored Blackbird	No Effect. Project would avoid impacts.	No Mitigation Required
Burrowing Owl	Mitigable. Indirect impacts to potentially denning BUOW.	BIO-6 through BIO-8
Least Bell's Vireo	No Effect. Project would avoid impacts.	No Mitigation Required
Salinas Pocket Mouse	Mitigable. Minimal loss of potential habitat.	BIO-5
American Badger	Mitigable. Indirect impacts if dens are within 150 feet of Project activities.	BIO-9
San Joaquin Kit Fox	No Effect. Project would avoid impacts.	BIO-10 through BIO-23

4.1 Habitats

The proposed Project would occur within the existing project footprint, along an existing access road through an agricultural area, and through developed residential and commercial areas. Impacts would occur primarily in already disturbed and developed habitats. A total of 14.0 acres of the existing facility would be permanently impacted by site improvements to facilitate additional growth in King City (Figure 7). Proposed pipelines and staged equipment will be within the existing facility boundaries and/or within City streets. Impacts to disturbed and developed habitats are not considered significant except where these habitat impacts affect other sensitive biological resources such as nesting birds or sensitive animals (see following Section 4.3).

4.1.1 Riparian Habitat and Jurisdictional Wetlands/Waters

No impacts are proposed to riparian habitat or potentially jurisdictional wetlands and/or waters.

4.1.2 Oak Trees

No impacts to oak trees are proposed by the Project. Coast live oak trees are present within riparian habitat along the Salinas River. One oak tree is present along the shoulder of the existing access road and will be avoided during construction. Oak tree limbs that may impede over the existing fence line along the western boundary of the Study Area will not be impacted by the Project. To ensure oak trees are protected during work, we recommend the following measures to avoid impacts to native oak trees.

BIO-1. Oak Tree Avoidance and Protection. Native oak trees in and near the Project footprint shall be protected in place. Canopy pruning may be conducted by a licensed Arborist in a manner that would not result in a decrease in tree health. The CRZs of native oak trees shall be defined as an area of root space equivalent to 1.5 times the radius of the canopy dripline (e.g.: a 10-foot radius canopy has a CRZ of 15-feet around the trunk). Impacts include any ground disturbance within the CRZ, such as grading, trenching, parking vehicles, or staging materials. Prior to commencement of construction, protective high visibility fencing shall be installed at the outer limit of the CRZ. The fencing shall be marked with signage indicating No Access – Tree Protection Zone or similar text. Fencing shall be maintained in good condition for the duration of construction.

BIO-2. Monitoring and As-Built Impact Report. A licensed Arborist or qualified Botanist shall inspect and approve tree protective fencing prior to start of earthwork. If tree protection fencing placed at the limits of the CRZ must be temporarily removed to complete construction activities, an Arborist or Botanist shall be present. If grading or other ground disturbance occurs within oak tree CRZ, or if trimming or pruning of oak tree limbs/branches occur, the tree and area of impact shall be mapped in the field and recorded. Any roots of 1-inch diameter or greater that are exposed during grading that cannot be saved, should be cut clean with a sharp pruning tool or Sawzall. Treatment of the cut roots is at the discretion of the Arborist. Upon completion of work, an As-built Impact Report will be provided to the City that will include an assessment of impacts that occurred during work. The report will include the number of impacted trees and type of mitigation recommended to reduce impacts to native oak trees (typically replaced at a 2:1 mitigation ratio for impacted oak trees and 4:1 ratio for removed oak trees).

BIO-3. Oak Tree Mitigation Plan. Impacted and removed oaks documented in the As-built Impact Report shall be replaced using the appropriate mitigation ratio and a mitigation plan shall be prepared and approved by the City. The mitigation plan shall incorporate the most current City standards for mitigating impacts to oak trees. Impacts to native trees with a DBH of 4 inches or greater shall be mitigated by planting additional trees on site. Oaks removed shall be replaced in kind at a 4:1 ratio (i.e., four replacement trees per one removed tree). Oaks impacted shall be replaced in kind at a 2:1 ratio. Removal of individual California bay trees shall be mitigated at a 2:1 ratio (i.e., two replacement trees per one removed tree). Replacement trees shall be a minimum of one gallon in size, of local origin, and of the same species as was impacted. Replacement trees shall be seasonally maintained (browse protection, weed reduction and irrigation, as needed) and monitored annually for at least five years. A mitigation monitoring plan will be prepared that outlines success criteria and provides a timeline for monitoring replacement oak trees. Annual reports will be provided to the City that will include monitoring results and recommendations for tree establishment success.

Figure 7. Proposed Impacts to Biological Resources

Legend

- Study Area (229.9 acres)
- WWTP Property (467.5 acres)
- Proposed Impact Area* (14.0 acres)
- Proposed Road
- Existing Pipeline
- Proposed Pipeline
- Salinas River
- Raptor Nest

Habitats

- Developed (7.2 acres)
- Disturbed (222.7 acres)

Current WWTP Land Use

- Dirt Perimeter Roads
- Domestic Spray Field - Active
- # Existing Treatment Ponds - Active
- Industrial Spray Field - Inactive
- WWTP Misc. Facilities

*Includes Proposed Pipeline and Proposed Road

N

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

King City Wastewater Treatment Plant
Map Center: 121.1309°W 36.21876°N
King City, Monterey County

Imagery Source: USDA NAIP, 05/13/2022

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BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Map Updated:
February 28, 2023 11:45 AM by SAF

4.2 Botanical Resources

Special status plants with potential to occur in the Study Area are not likely to occur within the existing facility or proposed Project area. Portions of the site that are marginally suited to support special status plants will not be impacted as part of the Project. Appropriately timed botanical surveys were not conducted as part of this assessment, however no special status plants, in bloom or senesced, were detected during December 2021 and January 2023 surveys. Due to regular long-term disturbance of natural habitat and lack of appropriate habitat in the Project area, the Project is not expected to affect special status plants. No further mitigation measures or botanical surveys are recommended.

4.3 Wildlife Resources

4.3.1 Nesting Birds

Impacts to or take of nesting birds could occur if Project activities are conducted during the nesting season (February 1 through September 15; CDFW nesting season). Ground nesting is not anticipated to occur within developed areas, but ornamental trees, buildings and other structures have the potential to support nests. To reduce potential adverse effects of the proposed Project on nesting birds, the following mitigation measure is recommended.

BIO-4. Nesting Bird Surveys. Within one week of ground disturbance activities, if work occurs between February 1 and September 15, nesting bird surveys shall be conducted. If surveys do not locate nesting birds, construction activities may be conducted. If nesting birds are located, no construction activities shall occur within 100 feet of nests until chicks are fledged. Once construction begins, a qualified biologist will continuously monitor nests to detect behavioral changes resulting from the Project. If behavioral changes occur, work causing that change shall cease and CDFW will be consulted for additional avoidance and minimization measures. If continuous monitoring of identified nests by a qualified wildlife biologist is not feasible, CDFW recommends a minimum no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet around active nests of non-listed bird species and a 500-foot no-disturbance buffer around active nests of non-listed raptors. These buffers are advised to remain in place until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival. A preconstruction survey report shall be submitted to the lead agency immediately upon completion of the survey. The report shall detail appropriate fencing or flagging of the buffer zone and make recommendations on additional monitoring requirements. A map of the Project site and nest locations shall be included with the report. The Project biologist conducting the nesting survey shall have the authority to reduce or increase the recommended buffer depending upon site conditions.

4.3.2 Invertebrates

4.3.2.1 Western Bumble Bee

Project activities are proposed within existing treatment pond land use and existing access road areas and would not impact potential nesting habitat for western bumblebee.

4.3.3 Amphibians and Reptiles

Special status amphibians (western spadefoot toad and Coast Range newt) and special status reptiles (northern California legless lizard, western pond turtle, and coast horned lizard) each have some potential to occur in the WWTP portion of the Study Area based on the habitat assessment conducted on December 7, 2021 and January 26, 2023. However, due to the Project area being restricted to the treatment pond and highly disturbed or developed areas, it is unlikely for all but western pond turtle to be directly impacted by Project-related activities. The following mitigation measure is recommended to protect special status amphibians and reptiles from Project-related impacts.

BIO-5. Biological Monitoring. A qualified biological monitor shall be present during all earth disturbing construction activities and draining of treatment ponds associated with developing the Project within the WWTP portion of the Study Area, including but not limited to grading, excavations, tilling, draining, and dredging. The biologist shall conduct a morning clearance survey of the WWTP Project area each day that ground disturbing activities are proposed. Special status animals (i.e., western spadefoot toad, coast range newt, northern California legless lizard, western pond turtle, coast horned lizard, Salinas pocket mouse) captured during surveys or during construction monitoring shall be relocated to the nearest suitable habitat outside of the Project area. A letter report shall be submitted to the City.

4.3.4 Special Status Birds

Special status birds with potential to occur in the Study Area include Cooper's hawk, tricolored blackbird, golden eagle, great blue heron, burrowing owl, bank swallow, and least Bell's vireo. Only Cooper's hawks and burrowing owl have the potential to nest in or immediately adjacent to the Project footprint within disturbed habitat. The following sections provide recommended mitigation measures for each bird species, where applicable.

4.3.4.1 Cooper's Hawk

Suitable nesting habitat is limited to one tree in the WWTP portion of the Study Area approximately 400 feet from the Project area, and no trees are present in the WWTP Project area. Nesting bird surveys (BIO-4) will ensure no nesting Cooper's hawks are impacted by the Project. Impacts to foraging hawks would be negligible and no additional mitigation measures are recommended.

4.3.4.2 Tricolored Blackbird

Nesting habitat is not present in the Study Area to support nesting tricolored blackbirds. A few individual reeds have recruited at low-density within the active treatment ponds but have not significantly established enough to create suitable nesting habitat for this species. No further mitigation measures or focused surveys are recommended.

4.3.4.3 Golden Eagle

Suitable nesting habitat is not present in the Study Area or within one mile of the Project. Impacts to foraging eagles would be negligible and no further mitigation measures are recommended.

4.3.4.4 Great Blue Heron

Rookery habitat is not present in the Study Area and no known nesting colonies are within the vicinity of the Project. Impacts to foraging herons would be negligible and no mitigation measures are recommended.

4.3.4.5 Burrowing Owl

Resurgent grassland habitat suitable for denning BUOW is present within the inactive Industrial Spray Fields and there is potential for Project-related activities to impact burrowing owl, if present. The following mitigation measures are provided to reduce impacts to burrowing owl to less than significant.

BIO-6. **Preconstruction Surveys.** Where suitable habitat is present on or in the vicinity of the Project area, a qualified biologist shall conduct focused BUOW surveys following the California Burrowing Owl Consortium (1993) "Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines" and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG; 2012) "Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation". Specifically, these documents suggest three or more surveillance surveys conducted during daylight, with each visit occurring at least three weeks apart during the peak breeding season of April 15 to July 15, when burrowing owl are most detectable. In addition, CDFW advises that surveys include a minimum 500-foot survey radius around the Project area.

BIO-7. **Avoidance.** No-disturbance buffers, as outlined by CDFG (2012), shall be implemented prior to and during any ground-disturbing activities, and specifically that impacts to occupied burrows be avoided in accordance with the following table unless a qualified biologist verifies through non-invasive methods that either: 1) the birds have not begun egg laying and incubation; or 2) that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival. The following table defines appropriate buffer size according to the level of Project disturbance and time of year:

BIO-8. **Burrowing Owl Eviction and Mitigation.** If burrowing owls are found within these recommended buffers and avoidance is not possible, it is important to note that according to CDFG (2012), evicting birds from burrows is not a take avoidance, minimization, or mitigation method and is instead considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA. If it is necessary for Project implementation, CDFW recommends that burrow exclusion be conducted by qualified biologists and only during the non-breeding season, before breeding behavior is exhibited and after the burrow is confirmed empty through non-invasive methods, such as surveillance. Mitigation in the form of replacement of occupied burrows with artificial burrows at a minimum ratio of one burrow collapsed to one artificial burrow constructed (1:1) shall be implemented to mitigate for evicting burrowing owl and the loss of burrows. burrowing owl may attempt to colonize or re-colonize an area that will be impacted; thus, CDFW recommends ongoing surveillance at a rate that is sufficient to detect burrowing owl if they return.

4.3.4.6 Bank Swallow

Suitable nesting habitat is not present in the Project area for bank swallow. There is potential for bank swallow to nest in riparian habitat along the Salinas River, along the west boundary of the Study Area, however facility improvements will occur over 1,300 feet (0.2 miles) east of any potential nesting habitat. Project activities would not impact nesting bank swallow, and no further mitigation measures are recommended.

4.3.4.7 Least Bell's Vireo

Suitable nesting habitat is not present in the Project area for least Bell's vireo. There is potential for vireos to nest in shrubby riparian habitat along the Salinas River, along the west boundary of the Study Area, however facility improvements will occur over 1,300 feet (0.2 miles) east of any potential nesting habitat. No impacts to least Bell's vireo are anticipated and no further mitigation measures or focused surveys are recommended.

4.3.5 Mammals

Special status mammals, including Salinas pocket mouse, American badger, and San Joaquin kit fox, each have some potential to occur in the Study Area and could be impacted by Project-related activities. The following sections provide mitigation measures suitable for each species to reduce impacts to less than significant.

4.3.5.1 Salinas Pocket Mouse

Salinas pocket mouse are unlikely to occur but could be present in the Study Area. Implementation of BIO-5 would reduce impacts to Salinas pocket mouse to less than significant through pre-activity surveys, biological monitoring, and relocation.

4.3.5.2 American Badger

Habitat conditions are suitable to support denning badger in the Industrial Spray Fields. The following mitigation measure is recommended to reduce impacts to American badger.

BIO-9. Preconstruction Survey. A preconstruction survey shall be conducted on the Property to locate occupied American badger dens within 100 feet of Project areas. The survey shall be conducted within 15 days of starting any grading, grubbing, or oak tree removal. Orange construction fencing, or other easily identifiable buffer material, shall be installed under the direction of a project biologist in a manner sufficient to protect the dens from construction equipment. A buffer of 50 feet shall be used for occupied non-maternal dens. A buffer of 150 feet shall be installed if the den is determined to be a maternal pupping den. Construction activities shall not commence within the exclusion area until the badger has moved of its own accord. A preconstruction survey letter report shall be submitted to the lead agency for review within one week after completion of the survey.

4.3.5.3 San Joaquin Kit Fox

SJKF occurrences have been documented in the vicinity of the Study Area. A habitat assessment was conducted of the site on December 7, 2021 and on January 26, 2023 which determined that marginally suitable habitat in the inactive Industrial Spray Fields could support denning kit fox,

should the spray fields remain inactive (i.e., not be irrigated or sprayed; see habitat discussion in Section 3.3.1). No known or potential kit fox dens are known to be present in the Study Area. Surrounding land use is actively farmed and would impede kit fox movement into the Study Area from less developed areas to the east and south. Locations of proposed pipelines are within developed habitat not suitable for kit fox and are not included in the survey area. Though not likely to occur on the site, the following measure is recommended to ensure avoidance of San Joaquin kit fox.

BIO-10. San Joaquin Kit Fox Surveys and Minimization. A qualified biologist will conduct surveys to assess for presence or absence of kit fox in the project area. The survey area will consist of the Project area within the WWTP property and surrounding 500-foot buffer. In addition, recommendations made by the USFWS (2011) for kit fox shall be followed during Project implementation (see below).

The following mitigation measures (BIO-11 through BIO-23) are extracted from the USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior To or During Ground Disturbance (2011), and shall be implemented as specified to protect kit fox:

BIO-11. Project-related vehicles should observe a daytime speed limit of 20-mph throughout the site in all project areas, except on county roads and State and Federal highways; this is particularly important at night when kit foxes are most active. Night-time construction should be minimized to the extent possible. However if it does occur, then the speed limit should be reduced to 10-mph. Off-road traffic outside of designated project areas should be prohibited.

BIO-12. To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes or other animals during the construction phase of a project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2-feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the Service and CDFG shall be contacted as noted under Measure 26 (BIO-26) referenced below.

BIO-13. Kit foxes are attracted to den-like structures such as pipes and may enter stored pipes and become trapped or injured. All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4-inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods should be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe should not be moved until the Service has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped.

BIO-14. All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.

BIO-15. No firearms shall be allowed on the project site.

BIO-16. No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the project site to prevent harassment, mortality of kit foxes, or destruction of dens.

BIO-17. Use of rodenticides and herbicides in project areas should be restricted. This is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of kit foxes and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and Federal legislation, as well as additional project-related restrictions deemed necessary by the Service. If rodent control must be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of a proven lower risk to kit fox.

BIO-18. A representative shall be appointed by the project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The representative will be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number shall be provided to the Service.

BIO-19. An employee education program should be conducted for any project that has anticipated impacts to kit fox or other endangered species. The program should consist of a brief presentation by persons knowledgeable in kit fox biology and legislative protection to explain endangered species concerns to contractors, their employees, and military and/or agency personnel involved in the project. The program should include the following: A description of the San Joaquin kit fox and its habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of kit fox in the project area; an explanation of the status of the species and its protection under the Endangered Species Act; and a list of measures being taken to reduce impacts to the species during project construction and implementation. A fact sheet conveying this information should be prepared for distribution to the previously referenced people and anyone else who may enter the project site.

BIO-20. Upon completion of the project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances, including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc. should be re-contoured if necessary, and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to preproject conditions. An area subject to "temporary" disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the project, but after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated. Appropriate methods and plant species used to revegetate such areas should be determined on a site-specific basis in consultation with the Service, CDFW, and revegetation experts.

BIO-21. In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures should be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the Service should be contacted for guidance.

BIO-22. During the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, any contractor or employee that inadvertently kills or injures a San Joaquin kit fox or who finds any such animal either

dead, injured, or entrapped shall be required to report the incident immediately to the applicant and City. In the event that any observations are made of injured or dead kit fox, the applicant shall immediately notify the USFWS and CDFW by telephone. In addition, formal notification shall be provided in writing within three working days of the finding of any such animal(s). Notification shall include the date, time, location and circumstances of the incident. Any threatened or endangered species found dead or injured shall be turned over immediately to CDFW for care, analysis, or disposition.

BIO-23. New sightings of kit fox shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). A copy of the reporting form and a topographic map clearly marked with the location of where the kit fox was observed should also be provided to the Service at the address below.

4.3.6 Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement

This Project does not propose impacts that would impede or block wildlife from utilizing this site for movement; therefore, no mitigation measures are recommended.

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6 APPENDICES

- **Appendix A. Special Status Plants Reported from the Region**
- **Appendix B. Special Status Animals Reported from the Region**
- **Appendix C. USDA Soils Survey (USDA 2023)**

APPENDIX A. SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS REPORTED FROM THE REGION

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CA Rare Plant Rank	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
1.	***Acanthomintha obovata* subsp. *cordata***	Heart-Leaved Thorn-Mint	-/- G4T3/S3 4.2	Apr-Jul	Grassy slopes, oak woodland, chaparral, vertic clay	No Potential. Suitable soils are not present in the Study Area.
2.	***Acanthomintha obovata* subsp. *obovata***	San Benito Thorn-Mint	-/- G4T3T4/S3S4 4.2	Apr-Jul	Grassy slopes, oak woodland, chaparral, vertic clay, occasionally serpentine	No Potential. Suitable soils are not present in the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is over 11 mi south (CCH #SBBG 111081) in 1995.
3.	***Amsinckia douglasiana***	Douglas' Fiddleneck	-/- G4/S4 4.2	Mar-May	Valley and foothill grassland. Dry habitats with unstable shaly sedimentary slopes. 150-1600 m.	No Potential. Sloping habitat is not present and all occurrences in the vicinity are historic.
4.	***Aristocapsa insignis***	Indian Valley Spineflower	-/- G1/S1 1B.2	May-Sep	Sandy soil in grassland communities, and in pine-oak or juniper woodlands	No Potential. Site conditions are heavily disturbed and nearest occurrence is over 12 miles south (CNDDB #4).
5.	***Astragalus macrodon***	Salinas Milk-Vetch	-/- G4/S4 4.3	Apr-Jul	Eroded pale shales or sandstone, serpentine alluvium	No Potential. Suitable soils are not present in the Study Area.
6.	***Calandrinia breweri***	Brewer's Calandrinia	-/- G4/S4 4.2	Mar-Jun	Chaparral, coastal scrub. Disturbed sites, burns. Sandy to loamy soil. <1200 m.	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CA Rare Plant Rank	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
7.	***Calycadenia villosa***	Dwarf Calycadenia	-/- G3/S3 1B.1	May-Oct	Dry, rocky hills, ridges, grassland, openings in foothill woodland	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area.
8.	***Camissoniopsis hardhamiae***	Hardham's Evening-Primrose	-/- G2/S2 1B.2	Mar-May	Sandy soil, limestone, disturbed oak woodland	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area.
9.	***Caulanthus lemmonii***	Lemmon's Jewelflower	-/- G3/S3 1B.2	Feb-May	Grassland, chaparral, scrub	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area and site is heavily disturbed. Nearest occurrences are over >10 mi north/northwest, however similar conditions occur in the Study Area.
10.	***Chorizanthe douglasii***	Douglas' Spineflower	-/- G4/S4 4.3	Apr-Jul	Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland; in sand or gravel.	**Low.** Suitable soils are present though limited, and the site is heavily disturbed. Nearest occurrence is historic (from 1944) 1.7 mi east of the Study Area (CCH #SD43530).
11.	***Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens***	Monterey Spineflower	FT/- G2T2/S2 1B.2	Apr-Aug	Sand; dunes, coastal	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is historic (from 1920) and over

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CA Rare Plant Rank	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
12.	***Clarkia jolonensis***	Jolon Clarkia	-/- G2/S2 1B.2	Apr-Jun	Dry woodland	No Potential. Appropriate woodland habitat is not present in the Study Area.
13.	***Clarkia lewisii***	Lewis' Clarkia	-/- G4/S4 4.3	May-Jul	Coastal scrub, woodland, chaparral	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is historic and over 9 mi south (CCH UC114022).
14.	***Clinopodium mimuloides***	Monkey-Flower Savory	-/- G3/S3 4.2	Jun-Oct	Moist places, streambanks, chaparral, woodland	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area and no occurrences in the vicinity.
15.	***Collinsia antonina***	San Antonio Collinsia	-/- G2/S2 1B.2	Mar-May	Margins of oak scrub on white shale scree	No Potential. Open scrub habitat with shale scree substrate is not present in the Study Area.
16.	***Collinsia multicolor***	San Francisco Collinsia	-/- G2/S2 1B.2	Feb-May	Moist, +- shady scrub, forest	No Potential. Mesic conditions with shaded canopy are not present in the Study Area.
17.	***Convolvulus simulans***	Small-Flowered Morning-Glory	-/- G4/S4 4.2	Mar-Jul	Clay substrates, occasionally serpentine, annual grassland, coastal-sage scrub, chaparral	No Potential. Suitable soils are not present in the Study Area.
18.	***Cryptantha rattanii***	Rattan's Cryptantha	-/- G4/S4 4.3	Apr-Jul	Rocky, gravelly slopes, grassland, coastal scrub, chaparral, foothill woodland	No Potential. Rocky slope habitat is not present in the Study Area.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CA Rare Plant Rank	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
19.	***Delphinium recurvatum***	Recurved Larkspur	-/- G2?/S2? 1B.2	Mar-Jun	Poorly drained, fine, alkaline soils in grassland, Atriplex scrub	No Potential. Suitable soils are not present in the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is 4.9 mi east of the Study Area (CNDDB #66).
20.	***Delphinium umbraculorum***	Umbrella Larkspur	-/- G3/S3 1B.3	Apr-Jun	Moist oak forest	No Potential. Appropriate oak forest habitat is not present and historic farming of the area is not suited for this species. Nearest occurrence is 2.1 mi east of the Study Area in 1962 (CNDDB #24).
21.	***Eriastrum luteum***	Yellow-Flowered Eriastrum	-/- G2/S2 1B.2	May-Jun	Bare sandy decomposed granite slopes in cismontane woodland, chaparral, forest	No Potential. Suitable soils are not present in the Study Area and the site is heavily disturbed.
22.	***Eriastrum virgatum***	Virgate Eriastrum	-/- G3/S3 4.3	May-Jul	Sandy soils often in coastal strand or chaparral	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area and soils are predominantly sandy loam, farmland. Nearest occurrences are historic (CCH #LA106806) or over 12 miles northwest.
23.	***Eriogonum butterworthianum***	Butterworth's Buckwheat	-/CR G2/S2 1B.3	Jun-Jul	Sandstone, chaparral	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CA Rare Plant Rank	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
24.	***Eriogonum elegans***	Elegant Wild Buckwheat	-/- G4G5/S4S5 4.3	May-Nov	Uncommon. Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Usually in sandy or gravelly substrates; often in washes, sometimes roadsides.	**Low**. Marginal habitat is present in Industrial Spray Fields. Nearest occurrence is historic (from 1931), 0.6 mi south of the Study Area (CCH SBBG179105).
25.	***Eriogonum nudum* var. *inductum***	Protruding Buckwheat	-/- G5T4/S4 4.2	Apr-Dec	Clay soils in shadscale scrub, foothill woodland, or chaparral	No Potential. Suitable soils are not present are not present and there are no known occurrences in the vicinity.
26.	***Eschscholzia hypecoides***	San Benito Poppy	-/- G4/S4 4.3	Mar-Jun	Grassy areas in woodland, chaparral	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area and the site is heavily disturbed.
27.	***Fritillaria agrestis***	Stinkbells	-/- G3/S3 4.2	Mar-Jun	Clay, often vertic, occasionally serpentine	No Potential. Suitable soils are not present are not present and there are no known occurrences in the vicinity.
28.	***Galium andrewsii* subsp. *gatense***	Phlox-Leaf Serpentine Bedstraw	-/- G5T3/S3 4.2	Apr-Jul	Dry, rocky places in serpentine soil, chaparral or open oak/pine woodland	No Potential. Appropriate habitat with serpentine soils is not present in the Study Area.
29.	***Galium californicum* subsp. *luciense***	Cone Peak Bedstraw	-/- G5T3/S3 1B.3	Mar-Sep	Pine, oak forests	No Potential. Forest habitat is not present in the Study Area.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CA Rare Plant Rank	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
30.	***Gilia tenuiflora* subsp. *amplifaucalis***	Trumpet-Throated Gilia	-/- G3G4T3/S3 4.3	Mar-Apr	Sandy soil of dry creeks, floodplains, slopes	No Potential. Sandy soils are partially present in the Industrial Spray Fields of the WWTP but site is disturbed and appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area.
31.	***Hooveria purpurea* var. *purpurea***	Santa Lucia Purple Amole	FT/- G2T2/S2 1B.1	Apr-Jun	Often in grassy areas with blue oaks in foothill woodland. Gravelly clay soils.	No Potential. Suitable soils are not present in the Study Area.
32.	***Horkelia yadonii***	Santa Lucia Horkelia	-/- G3/S3 4.2	Apr-Jul	Sandy meadow edges, seasonal streambeds in chaparral or foothill-pine woodland	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is 9 mi southwest of the site (CCH #SBBG165897) in 1996.
33.	***Juncus luciensis***	Santa Lucia Dwarf Rush	-/- G3/S3 1B.2	Apr-Jul	Wet, sandy soils of seeps, meadows, vernal pools, streams, roadsides	No Potential. Study Area is outside the known range for this species. Nearest occurrence is 12 mi south from 1956 (CNDDB #35).
34.	***Lasthenia leptalea***	Salinas Valley Goldfields	-/- G3/S3 4.3	Feb-Apr	Openings in woodland	No Potential. Appropriate woodland habitat is not present in the Study Are and the site has been historically disturbed.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CA Rare Plant Rank	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
35.	***Layia heterotricha***	Pale-Yellow Layia	-/- G2/S2 1B.1	Mar-Jun	Open clayey or sandy soil, sometimes +- alkaline	**Low**. Suitable soils are present in the Study Area; however, the site has been historically disturbed. Nearest occurrence is 2 mi northeast in similar farmland habitat (CCH #PGM H-5428) from 1962.
36.	***Lessingia tenuis***	Spring Lessingia	-/- G4/S4 4.3	May-Jul	Openings in chaparral, woodland	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area.
37.	***Malacothamnus aboriginum***	Indian Valley Bush-Mallow	-/- G3/S3 1B.2	Apr-Oct	Open rocky slopes	No Potential. Appropriate rocky slope habitat is not present in the Study Area and site is heavily disturbed.
38.	***Malacothamnus davidsonii***	Davidson's Bush-Mallow	-/- G2/S2 1B.2	Jun-Jan	Sandy washes in coastal scrub, riparian woodland, chaparral	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area and site is heavily disturbed. Conspicuous bush mallow shrubs were not observed at the time of survey.
39.	***Malacothamnus palmeri* var. *involucratus***	Carmel Valley Bush-Mallow	-/- G3T2Q/S2 1B.2	Apr-Oct	Valleys, chaparral	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area and site is heavily disturbed.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CA Rare Plant Rank	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
40.	***Navarretia nigelliformis* subsp. *radians***	Shining Navarretia	-/- G4T2/S2 1B.2	Mar-Jul	Grassland and cismontane woodland. Often on clay and alkaline sites, sometimes vernal pools. 65-1,000 m.	No Potential. Suitable soils are not present in the Study Area and species is not common for Monterey County. Nearest occurrence is over 14 mi south (CNDDB #25) in 1994.
41.	***Pentachaeta exilis* subsp. *aeolica***	San Benito Pentachaeta	-/- G5T2/S2 1B.2	Mar-May	Grassland, woodland	No Potential. Appropriate habitat is not present in the Study Area and site is heavily disturbed. Nearest occurrence is over 11 mi southwest (CCH #SBBG 122051).
42.	***Plagiobothrys uncinatus***	Hooked Popcornflower	-/- G2/S2 1B.2	Apr-May	Chaparral, canyon sides, rocky outcrops, +- fire follower	No Potential. Appropriate rocky canyon habitat is not present in the Study Area.
43.	***Senecio astephanus***	San Gabriel Ragwort	-/- G3/S3 4.3	May-Jul	Steep rocky slopes in chaparral/coastal-sage scrub and oak woodland	No Potential. Appropriate rocky sloping habitat is not present in the Study Area.
44.	***Sidalcea hickmanii* subsp. *hickmanii***	Hickman's Checkerbloom	-/- G3T2/S2 1B.3	May-Jul	Chaparral	No Potential. Appropriate chaparral habitat is not present in the study Area.

State/Rank Abbreviations:

FE: Federally Endangered
FT: Federally Threatened
PE: Proposed Federally Endangered
PT: Proposed Federally Threatened
CE: California Endangered
CR: California Rare
CT: California Threatened
CCE: Candidate for California Endangered
CCT: Candidate for California Threatened

California Rare Plant Ranks:

CRPR 1A: Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere
CRPR 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
CRPR 2A: Plants presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere
CRPR 2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
CRPR 4: Plants of limited distribution - a watch list
0.1 - Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
0.2 - Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
0.3 - Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

Global/State Ranks:

G1/S1 – Critically Imperiled
G2/S2 – Imperiled
G3/S3 – Vulnerable G4/S4 – Apparently Secure
G5/S5 – Secure
Q – Element is very rare but there are taxonomic questions associated with it.
Range rank – (e.g., S2S3 means rank is somewhere between S2 and S3)
? – (e.g., S2? Means rank is more certain than S2S3 but less certain that S2)

APPENDIX B. SPECIAL STATUS ANIMALS REPORTED FROM THE REGION

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
1.	***Accipiter cooperii***	Cooper's Hawk	-/- G5/S4 WL	Oak woodland, riparian, open fields. Nests in dense trees, esp. coast live oak.	**Low** (nesting). Suitable nesting habitat is located west of the site along the Salinas River, with one tree directly in the Study Area. **High** (in flight/foraging). Potential nesting habitat is located just off-site, and several occurrences have been reported in the vicinity. High prey-base of small birds is present.
2.	***Agelaius tricolor***	Tricolored Blackbird	-/CT G2G3/S1S2 SSC	Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, & foraging area with insect prey near nesting colony.	**No Potential** (nesting). Reed and nesting substrate is not sufficiently present, with only a few small patches of tule and cattails occurring in the Study Area. Nesting colonies require dense reed habitat. **High** (in flight/foraging). Numerous occurrences of large flocks have been reported in the vicinity and insect prey-base is present in the Study Area.
3.	***Ambystoma californiense pop. 1***	California Tiger Salamander – Central California DPS	FT/CT G2G3T3 WL	Need underground refuges, ground squirrel burrows & vernal pools or other seasonal water for breeding.	No Potential. Suitable breeding habitat is not present and nearest occurrence is over 13 miles southwest from 1996 (CNDDB #75). Conditions of treatment ponds are not suitable for breeding.
4.	***Anaxyrus californicus***	Arroyo Toad	FE/- G2G3/S2S3 SSC	Rivers with sandy banks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores. Prefers loose gravelly soils in drier portions of their range.	No Potential. Riverine and suitable wash habitat is not present in the Study Area and nearest occurrence is over 15.8 mi south (CNDDB #58) in 1998.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
5.	***Anniella pulchra***	Northern California Legless Lizard	-/- G3/S3 SSC	Sandy or loose loamy soils under coastal scrub or oak trees. Soil moisture essential.	**Low**. Loose litter and loamy soils are present though appropriate habitat is not directly within the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is 2.0 mi south in drainage along Jolon Road (CNDDB #362) in 2018.
6.	***Antrozous pallidus***	Pallid Bat	-/- G5/S3 SSC	Rock crevices, caves, tree hollows, mines, old buildings, and bridges.	No Potential. Disturbed quality of the site is not appropriate for this species and roosting habitat is minimal to none.
7.	***Aquila chrysaetos***	Golden Eagle	-/- G5/S3 FP	Nests in large, prominent trees in valley and foothill woodland. Requires adjacent food source.	**No Potential** (nesting). Suitable nesting substrate is not present in the Study Area. **Low** (in flight/foraging). Not prominent in the area. Nearest occurrence is over 10 west (CNDDB #132 in 2008) and limited open space is present. Several eBird occurrences near King City.
8.	***Ardea herodias***	Great Blue Heron	-/- G5/S4 SA	Rookeries located in tall trees near foraging areas.	**No Potential** (nesting). Suitable rookery habitat is not present in the Study Area. **High** (in flight/foraging). Onsite water detention ponds likely attract great blue herons, and an observation was made within the Study Area in 2002 (Yough 2002). Numerous occurrences documented in the area on eBird.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
9.	***Athene cunicularia***	Burrowing Owl	-/- G4/S3 SSC	Burrows in squirrel holes in open habitats with low vegetation.	**Low** (nesting/burrowing). Covering grassland is present in the Industrial Spray Fields, which could provide suitable denning habitat for burrowing owls. Nearest occurrence is 2.0 mi east (CNDDB #436) in 2002, where soil mounds were observed in corporation yard. **Low** (in flight/foraging). Nearest occurrence is 2.0 mi east (CNDDB #436) in 2002, where soil mounds were observed in corporation yard. Nearest occurrence on eBird is incomplete and more species common in the interior.
10	***Bombus occidentalis***	Western Bumble Bee	-/CCE G2G3/S1 SA	Wide variety of natural, agricultural, urban, and rural habitats. Flower-rich meadows of forests and subalpine zones.	**No Potential.** Nearest occurrences are historic, and site is void of most host plant species. Land Use in the WWTP is heavily disturbed and no burrows occur in the Project area.
11	***Branchinecta lynchi****	Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp	FT/- G3/S3 SA	Clear water sandstone depression pools, grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt flow depression pools.	No Potential. Vernal pool habitat is not present in the Study Area. Study Area is within 5-mi radius of critical habitat for VPFS.
12	***Corynorhinus townsendii***	Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	-/- G3G4/S2 SSC	Roosts in caves, abandoned buildings, tunnels. Roosting sites limiting. Sensitive to human disturbance.	No Potential. Site heavily disturbed and potential roosting sites are minimal to none.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
13	***Emys marmorata***	Western Pond Turtle	-/- G3G4/S3 SSC	Permanent or semi-permanent streams, ponds, lakes.	**Moderate**. Retention ponds on site could attract pond turtles and Salinas River adjacency could provide connectivity during normal rain years. Nearest occurrence is 1.3 mi southeast along Salinas River in King City (CNDDB #1054).
14	***Lavinia exilicauda harengus***	MontereyHitch (Pajaro/Salinas Hitch)	-/- G4T2T4/S2S4 SSC	Rivers	No Potential. Riverine habitat is not present in the Study Area. Nearest documented occurrence mapped nonspecifically along the 110-mile-long Salinas River (CNDDB #1) in 2018.
15	***Lavinia symmetricus subditus***	Monterey Roach	-/- G4T2T3/S2S3 SSC	Tributaries to Monterey Bay, specifically the Salinas, Pajaro, & San Lorenzo drainages.	No Potential. Riverine habitat is not present in the Study Area. Not known to occur in the vicinity according to CNDDB records. Nearest is over 14 mi southwest in 2016 (CNDDB #4), found in shallow San Antonio River.
16	***Masticophis flagellum ruddocki***	San Joaquin Coachwhip	-/- G5T2T3/S2? SSC	Open, dry, treeless areas, including grasslands and saltbush scrub; takes refuge in burrows and under shaded vegetation	No Potential. Appropriate dry open grassland habitat is not present in the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is 6.6 mi east (CNDDB #48) in 1987. More common in the interior.
17	***Neotoma macrotis luciana***	Monterey Dusky-Footed Woodrat	-/- G5T3/S3 SSC	Variety of habitats with moderate to dense understory vegetation	No Potential. Appropriate woodland or other dense woody habitat is not present in the Study Area and not known to occur in the vicinity.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
18	***Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 9***	Steelhead - South-Central California Coast Dps	FT/- G5T2Q/S2 SA	Federal listing refers to runs in coastal basins from the Pajaro River south to, but not including, the Santa Maria River.	No Potential. Not documented in this portion of the Salinas River by the CNDDB. Property is within known critical habitat for this species, but no riverine habitat in the Study Area. New project operations would not indirectly impact steelhead trout.
19	***Optioservus canus***	Pinnacles Optioservus Riffle Beetle	-/- G1/S1 SA	Found on rocks and in gravel of riffles in cool, swift, clear streams.	No Potential. Stream habitat is not present in the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is over 10 mi northwest (CNDDB #9) in Arroyo Seco River. No date affiliated with record.
20	***Perognathus inornatus psammophilus***	Salinas Pocket Mouse	-/- G4T2?/S1 SSC	Annual grassland and desert shrub in Salinas Valley, with friable soils	**Low.** Disturbed habitat with marginally suitable grassy conditions is present within the inactive industrial spray fields. Nearest occurrence is over 14 northwest and historic, from 1936 (CNDDB #7). No potential within the Project footprint.
21	***Phrynosoma blainvillii***	Coast Horned Lizard	-/- G3G4/S3S4 SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes.	**Low**. Dry, sandy washes are seasonally present along the Salinas River, adjacent to the Study Area, however nearest occurrence is >10 mi west in 2008 (CNDDB #681).
22	***Rana boylii***	Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog	-/CCT G3/S3 SSC	Partly shaded, shallow streams and riffles with rocky substrate. Min. 15 weeks for larval development.	No Potential. Appropriate stream habitat is not present in the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is 7.6 mi southwest and historic (CNDDB #2394 in 1938).

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
23	***Rana draytonii***	California Red-Legged Frog	FT/- G2G3/S2S3 SSC	Lowlands and foothills in or near sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks for larval development.	No Potential. No occurrences in the vicinity, and Study Area is not within known critical habitat for CRLF. Nearest occurrence >10 mi west in 2008 along Vaqueros Creek in Greenfield (CNDDB #1002).
24	***Riparia riparia***	Bank Swallow	-/CT G5/S2 SA	Nests colonially in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert. Requires vertical banks or cliffs with sandy soils (to dig cavities) near streams, lakes, or the ocean.	**No Potential** (nesting). Suitable nesting substrate is not present in the Study Area. **Moderate** (in flight/foraging). Breeding colonies are known to occur in the area and species could be seen in the Study Area. Nearest occurrence is 1.3 mi southeast (CNDDB #93) in 1991, at known breeding colony. More recent occurrences at same locations on eBird.
25	***Spea hammondii***	Western Spadefoot	-/- G3/S3 SSC	Grassland and woodland habitats with vernal pools for breeding. Most of year spent underground.	**Low**. Suitable upland conditions for underground estivation are present and the Salinas River could support breeding spadefoots when water ponds. Retention ponds may also provide breeding habitat, but no records of breeding in the vicinity are known to date. Nearest occurrence is historic and 9.7 mi north (CNDDB #840 in 1943).
26	***Taricha torosa***	Coast Range Newt	-/- G4/S4 SSC	Lives in terrestrial habitats & will migrate over 1 km to breed in ponds, reservoirs & slow moving streams.	**Low**. Retention ponds could attract this species as suitable breeding habitat, though nearest occurrence is >10 west and no records are documented along the Salinas River.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CDFW Status	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
27	***Taxidea taxus***	American Badger	-/- G5/S3 SSC	Needs friable soils in open ground with abundant food source such as California ground squirrels.	**Moderate**. Known to occur in the area and suitable soils are present. Potential denning habitat is limited on the site to the Industrial Spray Fields.
28	***Vireo bellii pusillus***	Least Bell's Vireo	FE/CE G5T2/S2 SA	Riparian habitat, near water or dry streambed, <2000 ft. Nests in willows, mesquite, Baccharis.	**No Potential** (nesting). Riparian habitat with suitable nesting substrate is not present in the Study Area. **No Potential** (in flight/foraging). Riparian habitat adjacent to the Study Area is suitable to support nesting least Bell's vireos however none have been documented in the area to date and this species is unlikely to occur. Nearest occurrence is historic and >10 southeast (CNDDB #512 in 1919). Nearest eBird record is in Bradley, >30 southeast.
29	***Vulpes macrotis mutica***	San Joaquin Kit Fox	FE/CT G4T2/S2 SA	Annual grasslands or grassy open stages with scattered shrubby vegetation. Needs loose textured sandy soil and prey base.	**Low.** Limited recovering grassland habitat is present in the Industrial Spray Fields, but the mapped historical range for kit fox shows no observations in the immediate area beyond 1990 (CDFW 2020).

*Species not listed in CNDDB 9-quad search but is within 5-mile radius of critical habitat for the species under USFWS.

Federal and State Status Abbreviations:
FE: Federally Endangered
FT: Federally Threatened
PE: Proposed Federally Endangered
PT: Proposed Federally Threatened
CE: California Endangered
CT: California Threatened
CCE: Candidate for California Endangered
CCT: Candidate for California Threatened

Global/State Ranks:
G1/S1 – Critically Imperiled
G2/S2 – Imperiled
G3/S3 – Vulnerable
G4/S4 – Apparently Secure
G5/S5 – Secure
Q – Element is very rare but there are taxonomic questions associated with it.
Range rank – (e.g., S2S3 means rank is somewhere between S2 and S3)
? – (e.g., S2? Means rank is more certain than S2S3 but less certain that S2)

CDFW Rank:
WL: Watch List
SSC: Species of Special Concern
FP: Fully Protected
SA: Special Animal

APPENDIX C. USDA SOILS SURVEY (USDA 2023)

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

A product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants

Custom Soil Resource Report for Monterey County, California

King City Wastewater Treatment Plant

February 6, 2023

Preface

Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in survey areas. They highlight soil limitations that affect various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the survey areas. Soil surveys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the surveys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil surveys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations.

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2_053951).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the site for official soil survey information.

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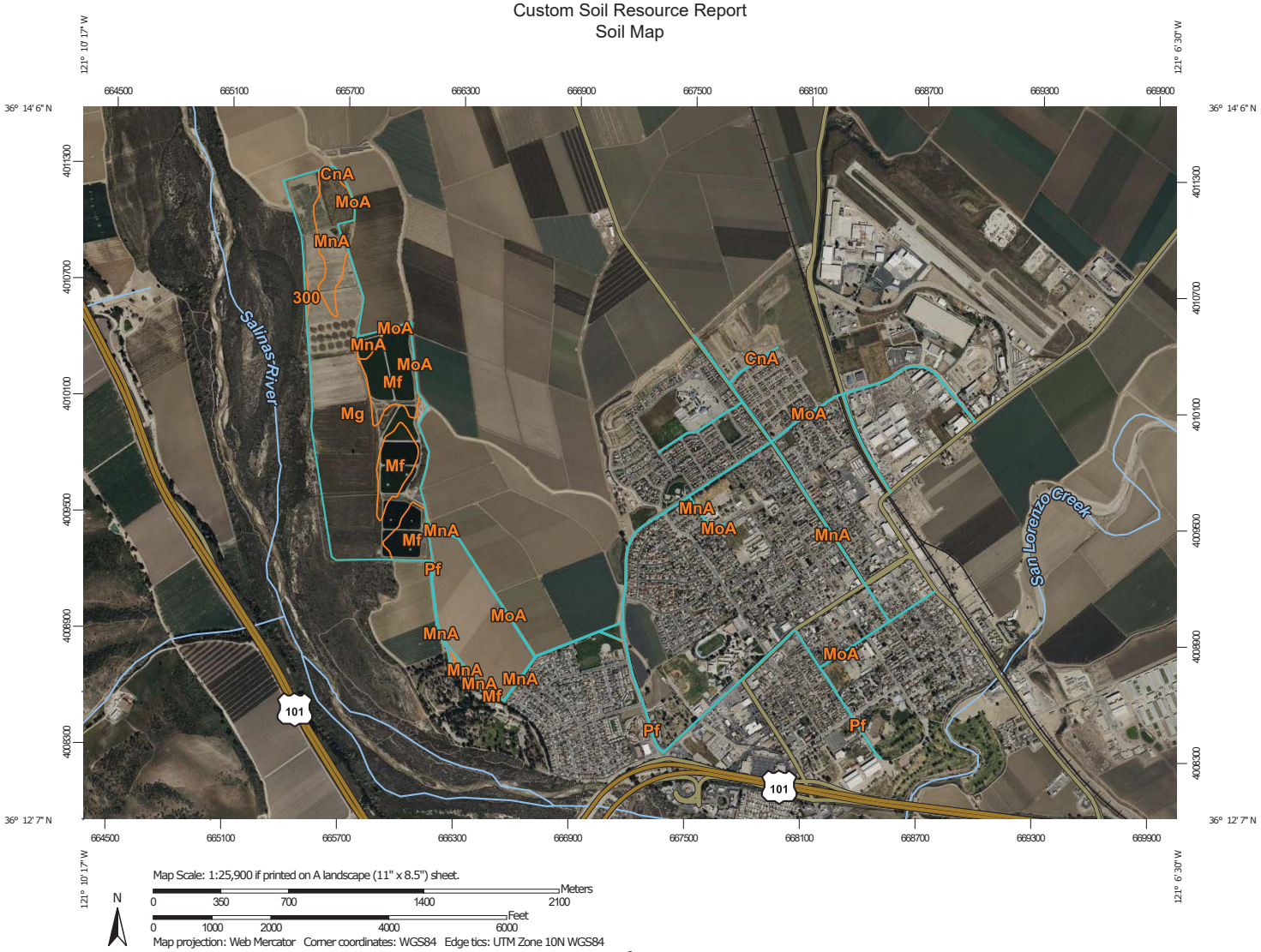
Contents

Soil Map

The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.

Custom Soil Resource Report
Soil Map



Map Scale: 1:25,900 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.

N

Meters
0 350 700 1400 2100

Feet
0 1000 2000 4000 6000

Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 10N WGS84

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Monterey County, California
Survey Area Data: Version 19, Sep 14, 2022

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Mar 11, 2022—May 29, 2022

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
300	Corducci and Typic Xerofluvents, 0 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded, MLRA 14	0.7	0.3%
CnA	Cropley silty clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes	0.8	0.4%
Mf	Metz fine sandy loam	53.3	23.2%
Mg	Metz complex	137.4	59.8%
MnA	Mocho silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, MLRA 14	27.8	12.1%
MoA	Mocho silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, MLRA 14	7.2	3.1%
Pf	Pico fine sandy loam	0.5	0.2%
Xc	Xerorthents, loamy	2.0	0.9%
Totals for Area of Interest		**229.8**	**100.0%**

Map Unit Descriptions

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit

descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

Monterey County, California

300—Corducci and Typic Xerofluvents, 0 to 5 percent slopes, occasionally flooded, MLRA 14

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: 2xm5w
Elevation: 70 to 2,480 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 9 to 24 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 58 to 61 degrees F
Frost-free period: 219 to 346 days
Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Corducci and similar soils: 50 percent
Typic xerofluvents and similar soils: 30 percent
Minor components: 20 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Corducci

Setting

Landform: Stream terraces, flood plains, alluvial fans
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread, talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Mixed alluvium derived from igneous and sedimentary rock

Typical profile

A - 0 to 5 inches: fine sand
C1 - 5 to 35 inches: fine sand
C2 - 35 to 45 inches: sand
C3 - 45 to 59 inches: coarse sand

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 5 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Runoff class: Very low
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): High to very high (5.99 to 19.99 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: OccasionalNone
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 3.2 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 6e
Hydrologic Soil Group: A
Ecological site: R014XG913CA - Dry Sandy Terrace
Hydric soil rating: No

Description of Typic Xerofluvents

Setting

Landform: Stream terraces, flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread, talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Mixed alluvium derived from igneous and sedimentary rock

Typical profile

A - 0 to 4 inches: sand
C1 - 4 to 31 inches: sand
C2 - 31 to 35 inches: fine sandy loam
C3 - 35 to 59 inches: sand

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 5 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Runoff class: Very low
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): High (2.00 to 5.99 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: OccasionalNone
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 3.9 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 6e
Hydrologic Soil Group: A
Ecological site: R014XG914CA - Sandy Terrace
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Xeropsamments, frequently flooded

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Landform: Drainageways
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Microfeatures of landform position: Channels
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Concave
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Tujunga, very rarely flooded

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Landform: Stream terraces, flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread, talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Hydric soil rating: No

Xerofluvents, frequently flooded
Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Landform: Drainageways
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Microfeatures of landform position: Channels
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Concave
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Metz, very rarely flooded
Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Landform: Stream terraces, flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread, talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Hydric soil rating: No

CnA—Cropley silty clay, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting
National map unit symbol: h923
Elevation: 30 to 2,100 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 12 to 30 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 57 to 61 degrees F
Frost-free period: 200 to 360 days
Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated

Map Unit Composition
Cropley and similar soils: 85 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Cropley

Setting
Landform: Flood plains, alluvial fans
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope, footslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear, convex
Parent material: Silty and clayey alluvium derived from sedimentary rock

Typical profile
H1 - 0 to 69 inches: silty clay

Properties and qualities
Slope: 0 to 2 percent

Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Well drained
Runoff class: High
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately low to moderately high (0.06 to 0.20 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Moderate (about 9.0 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 2s
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3s
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: R014XG916CA - Clayey Fan
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Sorrento

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Salinas

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Mocho

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Clear lake

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Landform: Basin floors
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Dip
Down-slope shape: Concave
Across-slope shape: Concave
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Antioch

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Mf—Metz fine sandy loam

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: h94s
Elevation: 30 to 2,500 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 12 to 20 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 57 to 61 degrees F

Frost-free period: 175 to 340 days
Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated

Map Unit Composition

Metz and similar soils: 85 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Metz

Setting

Landform: Flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Sandy alluvium derived from sedimentary rock

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 12 inches: fine sandy loam
H2 - 12 to 99 inches: stratified sand to very fine sandy loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 2 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Runoff class: Low
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high (0.57 to 1.98 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Moderate (about 6.1 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 2s
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3s
Hydrologic Soil Group: B
Ecological site: R014XG906CA - Dry Loamy Bottom
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Pacheco

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Landform: Flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Mocho

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Metz, loamy sand
Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Fluvents
Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Landform: Flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Psamments
Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Landform: Flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Tujunga
Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Pico
Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Mg—Metz complex

Map Unit Setting
National map unit symbol: h94t
Elevation: 0 to 1,820 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 11 to 15 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 57 to 61 degrees F
Frost-free period: 235 to 360 days
Farmland classification: Farmland of statewide importance

Map Unit Composition
Metz and similar soils: 40 percent
Metz and similar soils: 30 percent
Minor components: 30 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Metz

Setting
Landform: Flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope

Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Sandy alluvium derived from sedimentary rock

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 12 inches: fine sandy loam
H2 - 12 to 99 inches: stratified sand to very fine sandy loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 2 to 9 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Runoff class: Medium
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high (0.57 to 1.98 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Moderate (about 6.1 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 2e
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3e
Hydrologic Soil Group: B
Ecological site: R014XG906CA - Dry Loamy Bottom
Hydric soil rating: No

Description of Metz

Setting

Landform: Flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Sandy alluvium derived from sedimentary rock

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 12 inches: loamy sand
H2 - 12 to 99 inches: stratified sand to very fine sandy loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 2 to 9 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Runoff class: Medium
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high (0.57 to 1.98 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 5.4 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified

Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 4e
Hydrologic Soil Group: B
Ecological site: R014XG908CA - Dry Sandy Bottom
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Metz, sand
Percent of map unit: 10 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Psamments
Percent of map unit: 10 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Tujunga
Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Unnamed
Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

MnA—Mocho silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, MLRA 14

Map Unit Setting
National map unit symbol: 2tyyr
Elevation: 10 to 1,320 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 11 to 23 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 56 to 61 degrees F
Frost-free period: 270 to 360 days
Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated

Map Unit Composition
Mocho and similar soils: 85 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Mocho

Setting
Landform: Flood plains, alluvial fans
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread, talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium derived from sedimentary rock

Typical profile
Ap1 - 0 to 3 inches: silt loam
Ap2 - 3 to 16 inches: silt loam

C - 16 to 23 inches: silt loam
Ab - 23 to 43 inches: silt loam
C' - 43 to 60 inches: silt loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 2 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Well drained
Runoff class: Low
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high (0.20 to 1.98 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Calcium carbonate, maximum content: 5 percent
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: High (about 9.6 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 1
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3c
Hydrologic Soil Group: B
Ecological site: R014XG906CA - Dry Loamy Bottom
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Salinas

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Mocho, silty clay loam

Percent of map unit: 2 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Pacheco

Percent of map unit: 2 percent
Landform: Flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Pico

Percent of map unit: 2 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Metz

Percent of map unit: 2 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Mocho, loam

Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Sorrento

Percent of map unit: 1 percent

Docas

Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Mocho, fine sandy loam

Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

MoA—Mocho silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, MLRA 14

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: 2tyz2
Elevation: 10 to 1,900 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 11 to 19 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 56 to 61 degrees F
Frost-free period: 270 to 360 days
Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated

Map Unit Composition

Mocho and similar soils: 85 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Mocho

Setting

Landform: Flood plains, alluvial fans
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread, talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium derived from sedimentary rock

Typical profile

Ap - 0 to 11 inches: silty clay loam
A - 11 to 18 inches: silty clay loam
C1 - 18 to 38 inches: fine sandy loam
C2 - 38 to 39 inches: silty clay loam
C3 - 39 to 60 inches: stratified sand

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 2 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Well drained
Runoff class: Medium
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high (0.20 to 0.60 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None

Calcium carbonate, maximum content: 5 percent
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Moderate (about 6.8 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 1
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3c
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: R014XG917CA - Dry Loamy Fan
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Cropley

Percent of map unit: 7 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Metz

Percent of map unit: 2 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Sorrento

Percent of map unit: 2 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Pico

Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Mocho, silt loam

Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Camarillo, drained

Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Landform: Alluvial flats
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Salinas

Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Pf—Pico fine sandy loam

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: h95n
Elevation: 0 to 1,900 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 11 to 16 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 57 to 61 degrees F

Frost-free period: 225 to 365 days
Farmland classification: Prime farmland if irrigated

Map Unit Composition

Pico and similar soils: 70 percent
Metz and similar soils: 15 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Pico

Setting

Landform: Flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Coarse-loamy alluvium derived from sedimentary rock

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 55 inches: fine sandy loam
H2 - 55 to 72 inches: stratified sand to silty clay loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 2 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Well drained
Runoff class: Very low
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high (0.57 to 1.98 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Moderate (about 7.9 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): 1
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3c
Hydrologic Soil Group: A
Ecological site: R014XG906CA - Dry Loamy Bottom
Hydric soil rating: No

Description of Metz

Setting

Landform: Flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Coarse-loamy alluvium derived from sedimentary rock

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 12 inches: fine sandy loam
H2 - 12 to 99 inches: stratified sand to very fine sandy loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 2 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high (0.57 to 1.98 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Moderate (about 6.1 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Hydrologic Soil Group: B
Ecological site: R014XG906CA - Dry Loamy Bottom
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Pacheco

Percent of map unit: 4 percent
Landform: Flood plains
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Mocho

Percent of map unit: 4 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Salinas

Percent of map unit: 4 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Tujunga

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Xc—Xerorthents, loamy

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: h97q
Elevation: 20 to 2,000 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 10 to 25 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 57 to 61 degrees F
Frost-free period: 245 to 350 days
Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Xerorthents, loamy, and similar soils: 85 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Xerorthents, Loamy

Setting

Landform: Terraces, alluvial fans
Landform position (two-dimensional): Footslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread, talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear, convex
Parent material: Mixed loamy alluvium

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 60 inches: clay loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 15 to 50 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Well drained
Runoff class: Medium
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high (0.20 to 0.57 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Moderate (about 7.8 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 6e
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: R015XD024CA - FINE LOAMY
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Cropley

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Mocho

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Salinas

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Badland

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Xerorthents, sandy

Percent of map unit: 3 percent

Hydric soil rating: No

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Appendix C

SHPO Correspondence

KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

June 16, 2022

Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95816

RE: WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLAN– KING CITY, CALIFORNIA (MONTEREY COUNTY)

To Whom it May Concern:

The City of King is proposing to construct a new wastewater treatment facility to comply with new discharge requirements. (Reference **Exhibit 1** for Site Location.) *The facility will be located within a reduced development footprint of the existing wastewater treatment facility.* The site has undergone prior site disturbance and grading to accommodate the existing wastewater treatment facility.

A mitigated negative declaration (MND) has been prepared and states the site is highly disturbed and is not expected to contain any known archaeological sites, paleontological resources or historical structures. The City may pursue federal funding to help upgrade the facility to meet new discharge requirements. In keeping with the intent of Section 106, no cultural resources will be adversely affected by this project and there are no known historical structures on the site. The City will include the City's standard cultural resources condition of approval/mitigation measure related to steps that need to be taken in the event cultural resources or human remains are uncovered during any future soil disturbing activities.

Based on the MND, the City has determined the project has no potential to affect identified historic properties and cultural resources and there are no further Section 106 obligations. Please notify our office at (831) 385-3281 if you have any additional questions related to the project.

Sincerely,

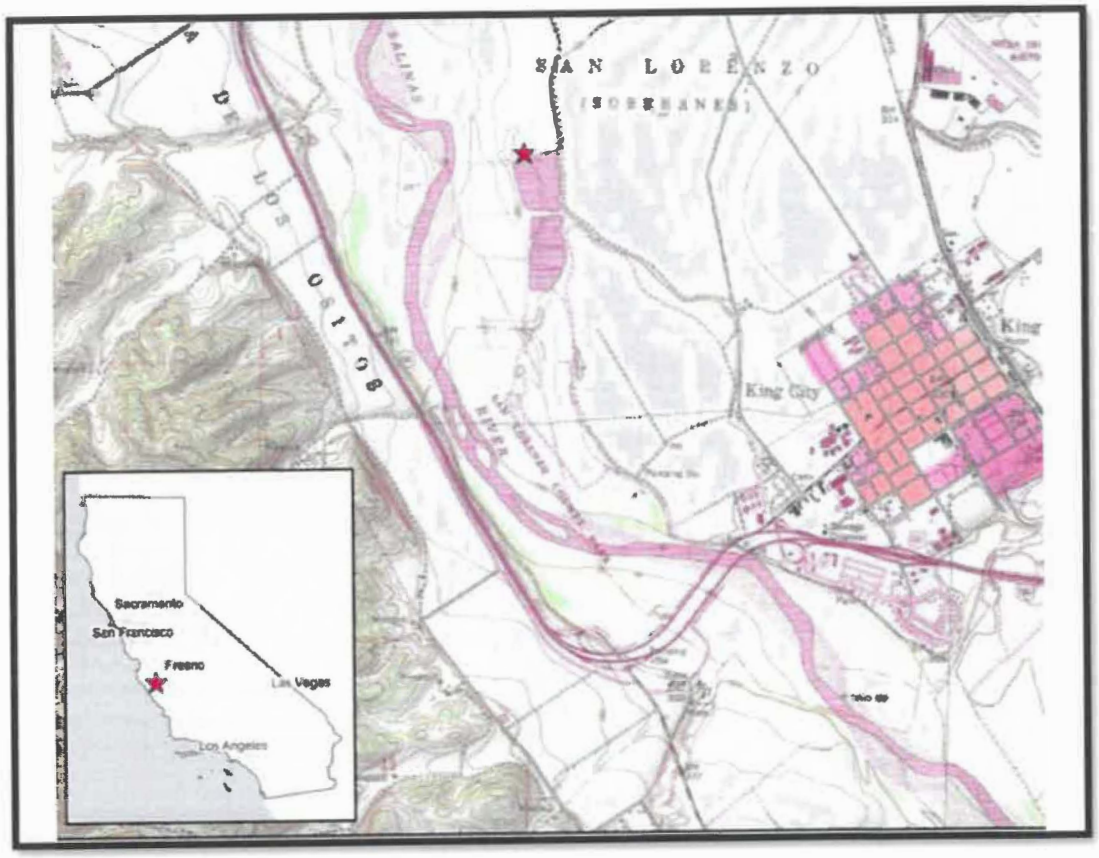
Doreen Liberto, AICP
Community Development Director

Exhibits:
Exhibit 1: Site Location

c: City Engineer
Community Development

212 S. VANDERHURST AVENUE • KING CITY, CA 93930
PHONE: (831) 385-3281 • FAX: (831) 385-6887
WWW.KINGCITY.COM

EXHIBIT 1: SITE LOCATION



State of California • Natural Resources Agency
Gavin Newsom, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Armando Quintero, *Director*

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

July 11, 2022
[VIA EMAIL]

Refer to HUD_2022_0615_001

Ms. Doreen Liberto, AICP
Community Development Director
City of King
21 South Vanderhurst Avenue
King City, CA 93930

Re: King City Waste Water Plant Reconstruction Project, King City, CA

Dear Ms. Liberto,

The California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) received the consultation submittal for the above referenced undertaking for review and comment pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. The regulations and advisory materials are located at www.achp.gov.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d) the SHPO does not object to the City of King's finding of *No historic properties affected* for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded waste water treatment plant reconstruction project. The City may have additional Section 106 responsibilities under certain circumstances set for in 36 CFR Part 800. For example, in the event that historic properties are discovered during the implementation of the undertaking, the City is required to consult further pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.13(b).

SHPO appreciates the City of King's consideration of historic properties in the project planning process. If you have questions please contact Shannon Lauchner Pries, Historian II, with the Local Government & Environmental Compliance Unit at shannon.pries@parks.ca.gov .

Note that we are only sending this letter in electronic format. Please confirm receipt of this letter. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, respond to this email to request a hard copy be mailed.

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Appendix D

Cultural Resources Survey Report

This Appendix is Not Available to the Public

Appendix E

Native American Outreach

January 18, 2022

Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Subject: **Sacred Land Files and Native American Contact List Request for the City of King City WWTP Upgrade and Recycled Water Project**

To Whom It May Concern:

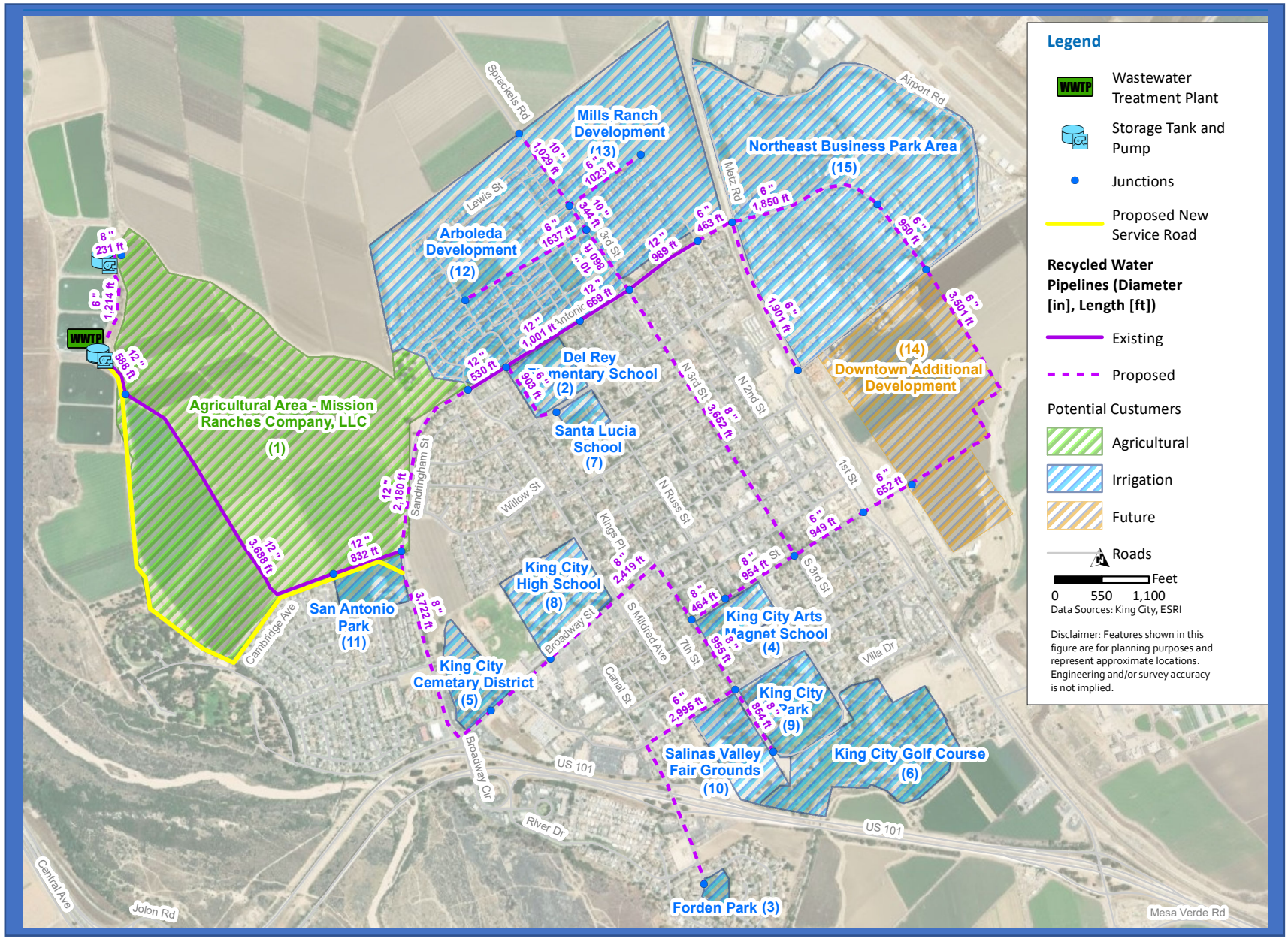
SMB Environmental, Inc. (SMB) is assisting the City of King City (City) on its proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project (Proposed Project). The purpose of the Proposed Project is to comply with new Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast RWQCB) permit effluent requirements with additional treatment plant processes than currently exist, prepare for planned growth, offset existing and future potable water demands and help maintain a sustainable groundwater supply. The City has identified three beneficial uses for recycled water within the City planning area. These include: landscape irrigation, agricultural irrigation, and commercial use. Please see attached map and request form.

We would appreciate you checking the Sacred Lands Files and report to us if there are any culturally sensitive areas within the immediate project vicinity. We would also like to receive a list of Native American organizations that may have knowledge in the area and we will attempt to contact them to solicit their written input/concerns about the Proposed Project.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. I look forward to your earliest possible reply. If any questions, please feel free to contact me at 916-517-2189 or at steve@smbenvironmental.com.

Sincerely,

Steve Brown
Principal



SMB ENVIRONMENTAL

Figure 1
Overview of Proposed Project

Local Government Tribal Consultation List Request

Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
916-373-3710
916-373-5471 – Fax
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Type of List Requested

☒ **CEQA Tribal Consultation List (AB 52)** – ***Per Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1, subs. (b), (d), (e) and 21080.3.2***

☐ **General Plan (SB 18)** - ***Per Government Code § 65352.3.***
Local Action Type:
___ General Plan ___ General Plan Element ___ General Plan Amendment

___ Specific Plan ___ Specific Plan Amendment ___ Pre-planning Outreach Activity

Required Information

Project Title: City of King City Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Local Government/Lead Agency

Contact Person: Steve Brown

Street Address: P.O. Box 381

City: Roseville **Zip:** 95661

Phone: 916-517-2189 **Fax:**

Email: Steve@smbenvironmental.com

Specific Area Subject to Proposed Action

County: Monterey **City/Community:** King City, CA

Project Description:

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Additional Request

☒ **Sacred Lands File Search** - ***Required Information:***

USGS Quadrangle Name(s): San Lucas and Thompson Canyon

Township: T20S **Range:** R8E **Section:** 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON
Laura Miranda
Luiseño

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Reginald Pagaling
Chumash

SECRETARY
Sara Dutschke
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Luiseño

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Stanley Rodriguez
Kumeyaay

COMMISSIONER
[Vacant]

COMMISSIONER
[**Vacant**]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Raymond C. Hitchcock
Miwok/Nisenan

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

February 7, 2023

Steve Brown
SMB Environmental, Inc.

Via Email to: Steve@smbenvironmental.com

Re: Native American Tribal Consultation, Pursuant to the Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014), Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 (m), 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2 and 21084.3, City of King City Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project, Monterey County

Dear Mr. Brown:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (c), attached is a consultation list of tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the above-listed project. Please note that the intent of the AB 52 amendments to CEQA is to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)) ("Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource.")

Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21084.3(c) require CEQA lead agencies to consult with California Native American tribes that have requested notice from such agencies of proposed projects in the geographic area that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribes on projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration has been filed on or after July 1, 2015. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) provides:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section.

The AB 52 amendments to CEQA law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction prior to receiving requests for notification of projects in the tribe's areas of traditional and cultural affiliation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends, but does not require, early consultation as a best practice to ensure that lead agencies receive sufficient information about cultural resources in a project area to avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources.

The NAHC also recommends, but does not require that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:

- A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
- Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
- Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate, or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:

- Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

  All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code section 6254.10.

3. The result of any Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.

4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and

5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a tribal cultural resource. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: Cody.Campagne@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cody Campagne

Cody Campagne
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Tribal Consultation List
Monterey County
2/7/2023

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
Valentin Lopez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 5272
Galt, CA, 95632
Phone: (916) 743 - 5833
vlopez@amahmutsun.org
Costanoan
Northern Valley Yokut

Amah MutsunTribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista
Irene Zwierlein, Chairperson
3030 Soda Bay Road
Lakeport, CA, 95453
Phone: (650) 851 - 7489
Fax: (650) 332-1526
amahmutsuntribal@gmail.com
Costanoan

Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen-Mutsen Tribe
Patrick Orozco, Chairman
644 Peartree Drive
Watsonville, CA, 95076
Phone: (831) 728 - 8471
yanapvoic97@gmail.com
Ohlone

Esselen Tribe of Monterey County
Tom Little Bear Nason, Chairman
P. O. Box 95
Carmel Valley, CA, 93924
Phone: (831) 659 - 2153
Fax: (831) 659-0111
TribalChairman@EsselenTribe.org
Costanoan
Esselen

Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
Kanyon Sayers-Roods, MLD Contact
1615 Pearson Court
San Jose, CA, 95122
Phone: (408) 673 - 0626
kanyon@kanyonkonsulting.com
Costanoan

Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
Ann Marie Sayers, Chairperson
P.O. Box 28
Hollister, CA, 95024
Phone: (831) 637 - 4238
ams@indiancanyons.org
Costanoan

Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation
Louise Miranda-Ramirez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1301
Monterey, CA, 93942
Phone: (408) 629 - 5189
ramirez.louise@yahoo.com
Costanoan
Esselen

Salinan Tribe of Monterey, San Luis Obispo Counties
Patti Dunton, Tribal Administrator
7070 Morro Road, Suite A
Atascadero, CA, 93422
Phone: (805) 464 - 2650
info@salinantribe.com
Salinan

Tule River Indian Tribe
Neil Peyron, Chairperson
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA, 93258
Phone: (559) 781 - 4271
Fax: (559) 781-4610
neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov
Yokut

Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band
Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas, CA, 93906
Phone: (831) 443 - 9702
kwood8934@aol.com
Foothill Yokut
Mono

Xolon-Salinan Tribe
Karen White, Chairperson
P. O. Box 7045
Spreckels, CA, 93962
Phone: (831) 238 - 1488
xolon.salinan.heritage@gmail.com
Salinan

Rumsen Am:a Tur:ataj Ohlone
Dee Dee Ybarra, Chairperson
14671 Farmington Street
Hesperia, CA, 92345
Phone: (760) 403 - 1756
rumsenama@gmail.com
Costanoan

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for consultation with Native American tribes under Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 for the proposed City of King City Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project, Monterey County.

KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Karen White, Chairperson
Xolon-Salinan Tribe
P.O. Box 7045
Spreckels, CA, 93962

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Dear Chairperson Karen White:

Pursuant towards compliance with the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) for tribal cultural resources, King City (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Recycled Water Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project is located at the City's WWTP and new recycled water pipelines would be placed in the streets throughout the City. See attached map for the proposed site improvements.

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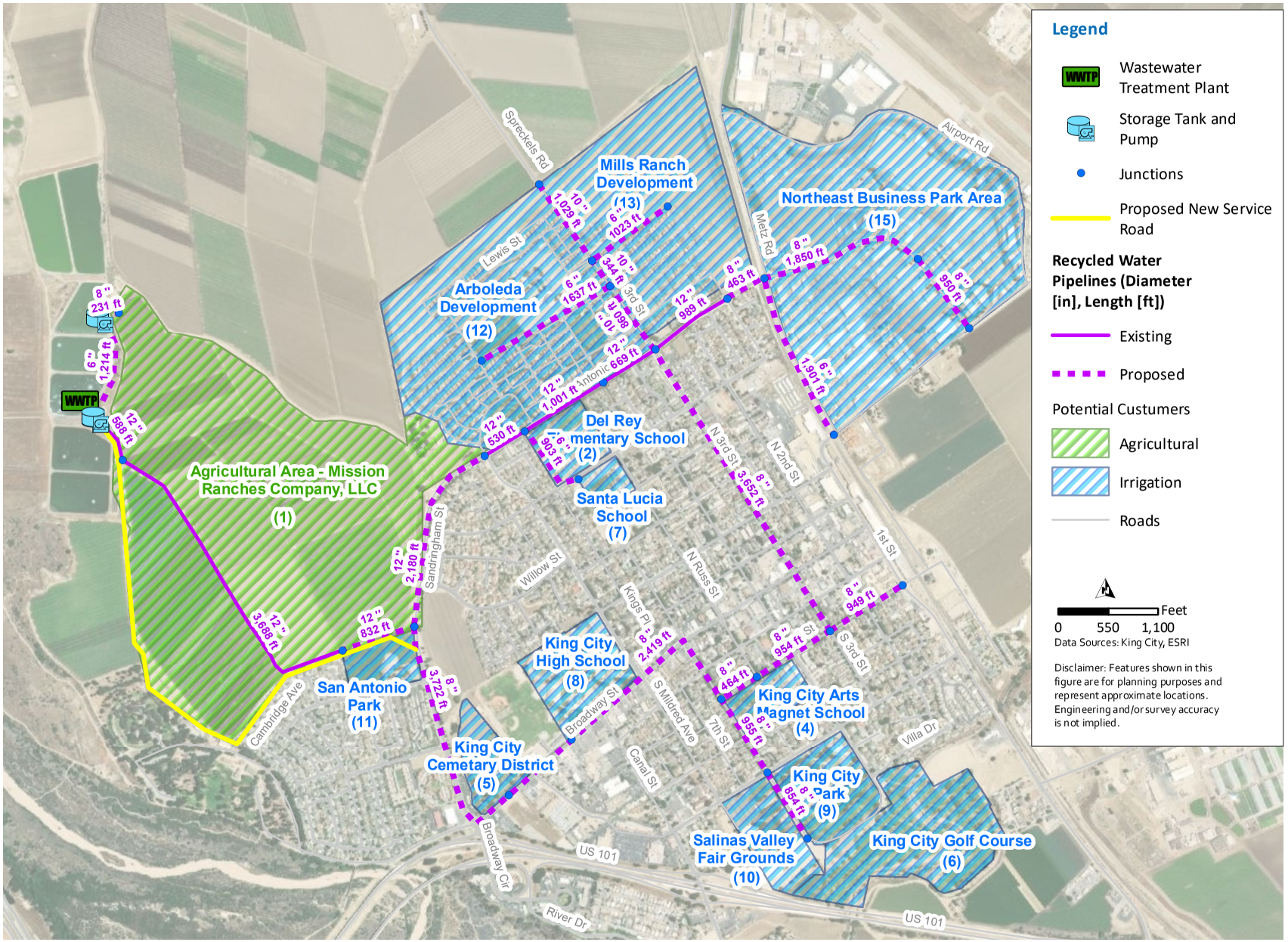
Sincerely,

Esmeralda Alvarez
Planning Technician

c: Steve Brown, Principal



SMB ENVIRONMENTAL

Figure 1
Overview of Proposed Project

KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas, CA, 93906

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Dear Chairperson Kenneth Woodrow:

Pursuant towards compliance with the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) for tribal cultural resources, King City (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Recycled Water Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project is located at the City's WWTP and new recycled water pipelines would be placed in the streets throughout the City. See attached map for the proposed site improvements.

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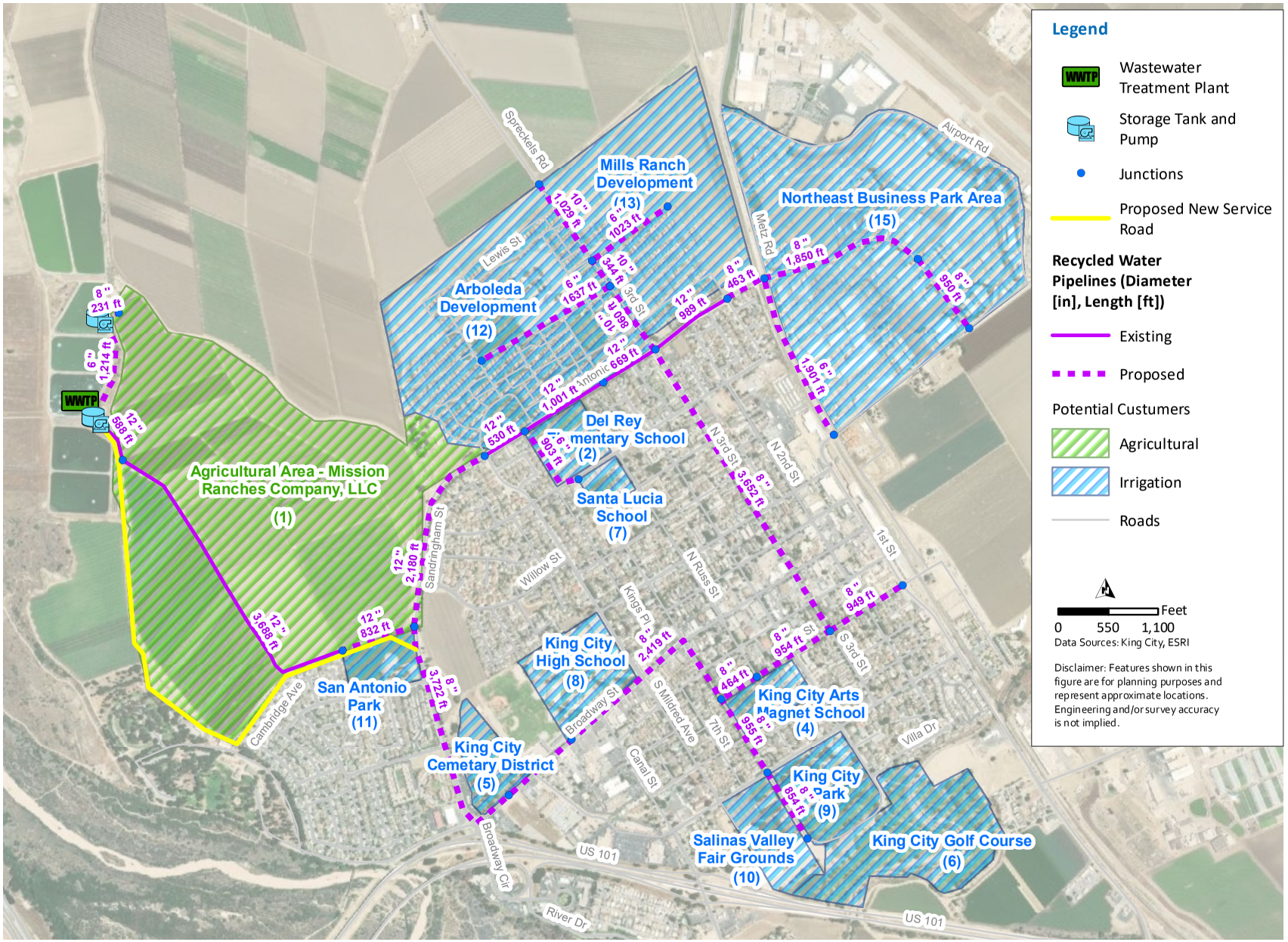

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Figure 1
Overview of Proposed Project

KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Neil Peyron, Chairperson
Tule River Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA, 93258

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Dear Chairperson Neil Peyron:

Pursuant towards compliance with the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) for tribal cultural resources, King City (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Recycled Water Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project is located at the City's WWTP and new recycled water pipelines would be placed in the streets throughout the City. See attached map for the proposed site improvements.

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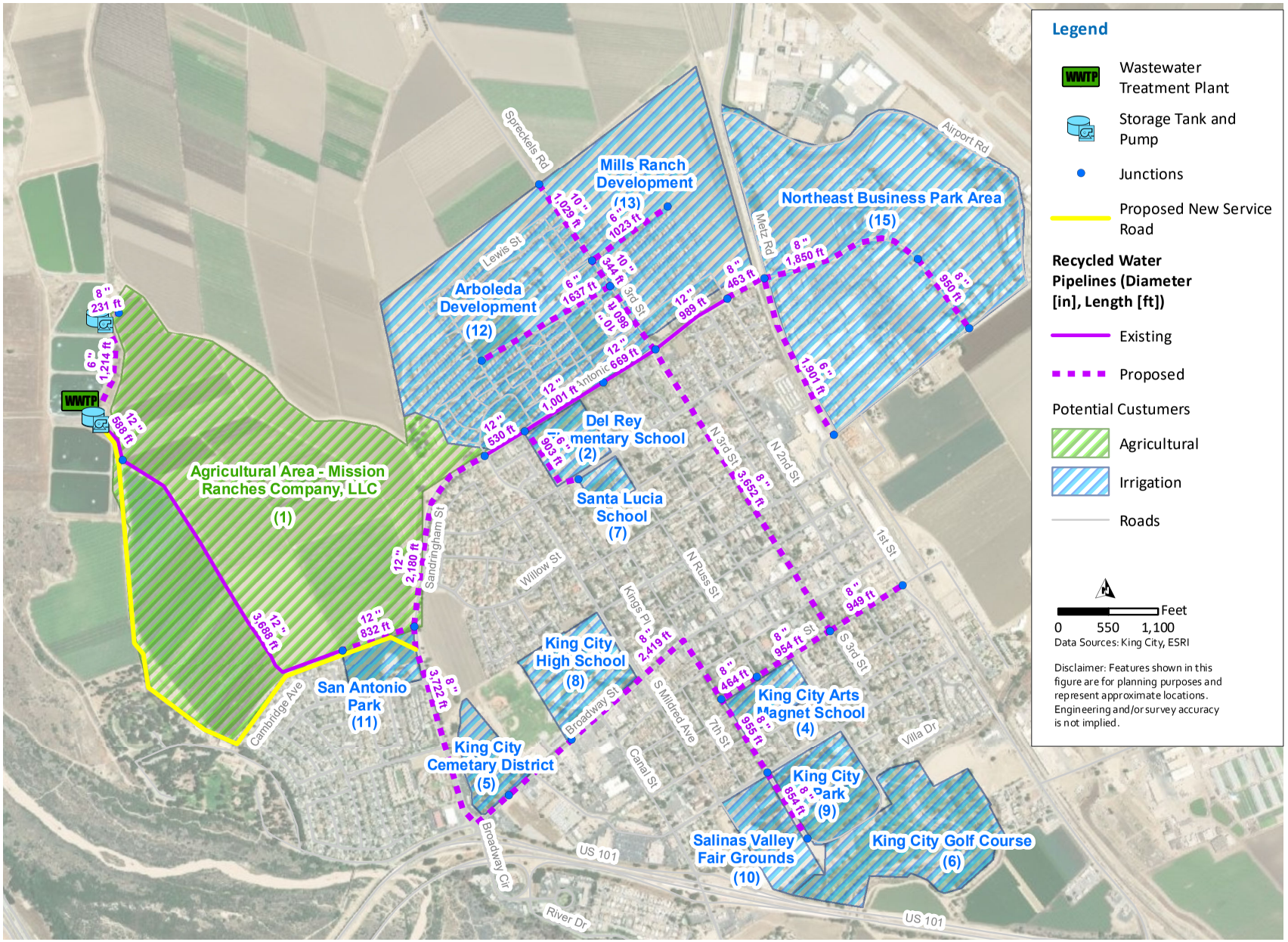

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KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Patti Dunton, Tribal Administrator
Salinan Tribe of Monterey, San Luis Obispo Counties
7070 Morro Road, Suite A
Atascadero, CA, 93422

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Dear Tribal Administrator Patti Dunton:

Pursuant towards compliance with the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) for tribal cultural resources, King City (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Recycled Water Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project is located at the City's WWTP and new recycled water pipelines would be placed in the streets throughout the City. See attached map for the proposed site improvements.

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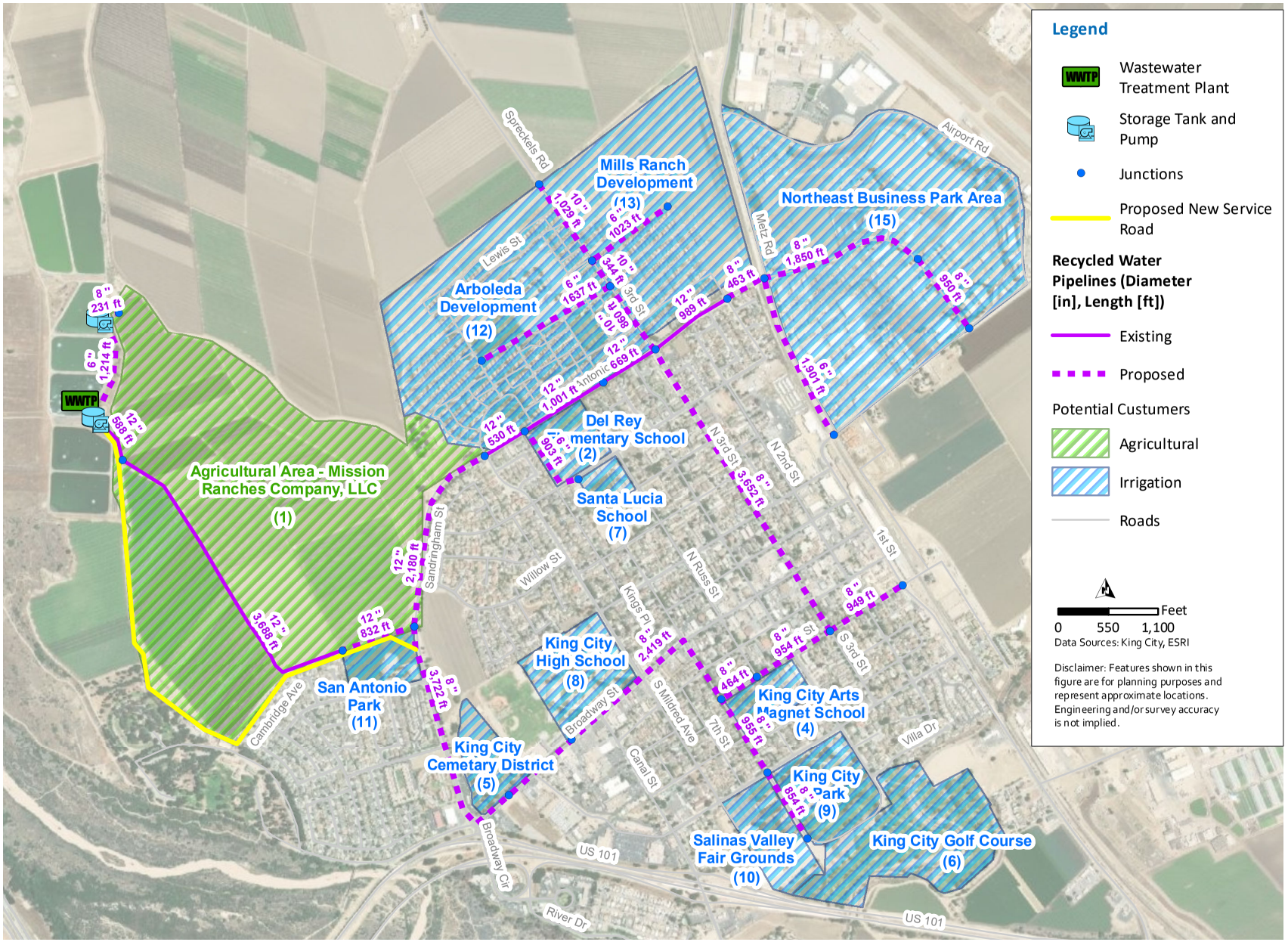

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Figure 1
Overview of Proposed Project

KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Dee Dee Ybarra, Chairperson
Rumsen Am:a Tur:ataj Ohlone
14671 Farmington Street
Hesperia, CA, 92345

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Dear Chairperson Dee Dee Ybarra:

Pursuant towards compliance with the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) for tribal cultural resources, King City (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Recycled Water Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project is located at the City's WWTP and new recycled water pipelines would be placed in the streets throughout the City. See attached map for the proposed site improvements.

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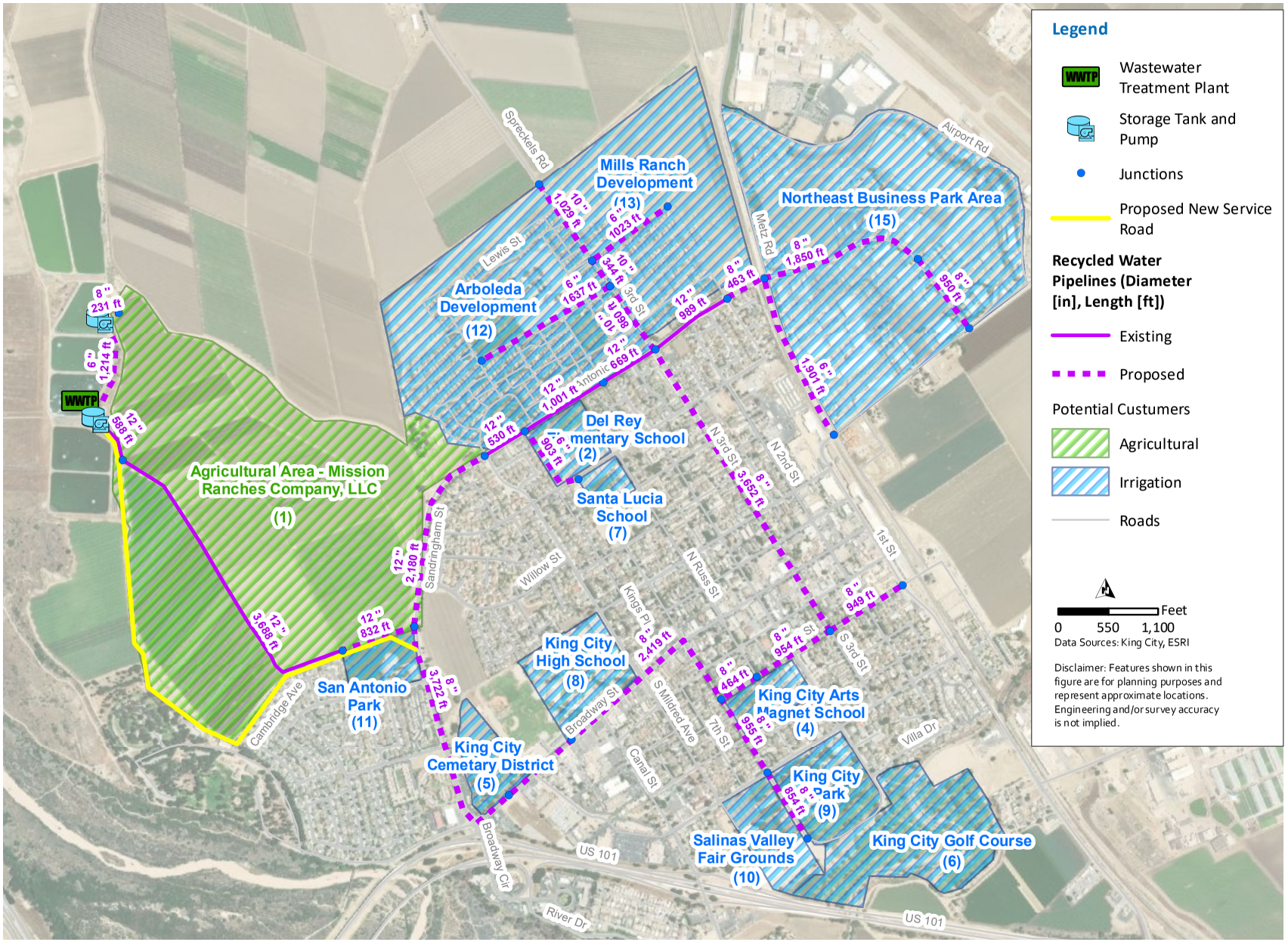

SMB ENVIRONMENTAL

Figure 1
Overview of Proposed Project

KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Louise Miranda-Ramirez, Chairperson
Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation
P.O. Box 1301
Monterey, CA, 93942

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Dear Chairperson Louise Miranda-Ramirez:

Pursuant towards compliance with the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) for tribal cultural resources, King City (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Recycled Water Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project is located at the City's WWTP and new recycled water pipelines would be placed in the streets throughout the City. See attached map for the proposed site improvements.

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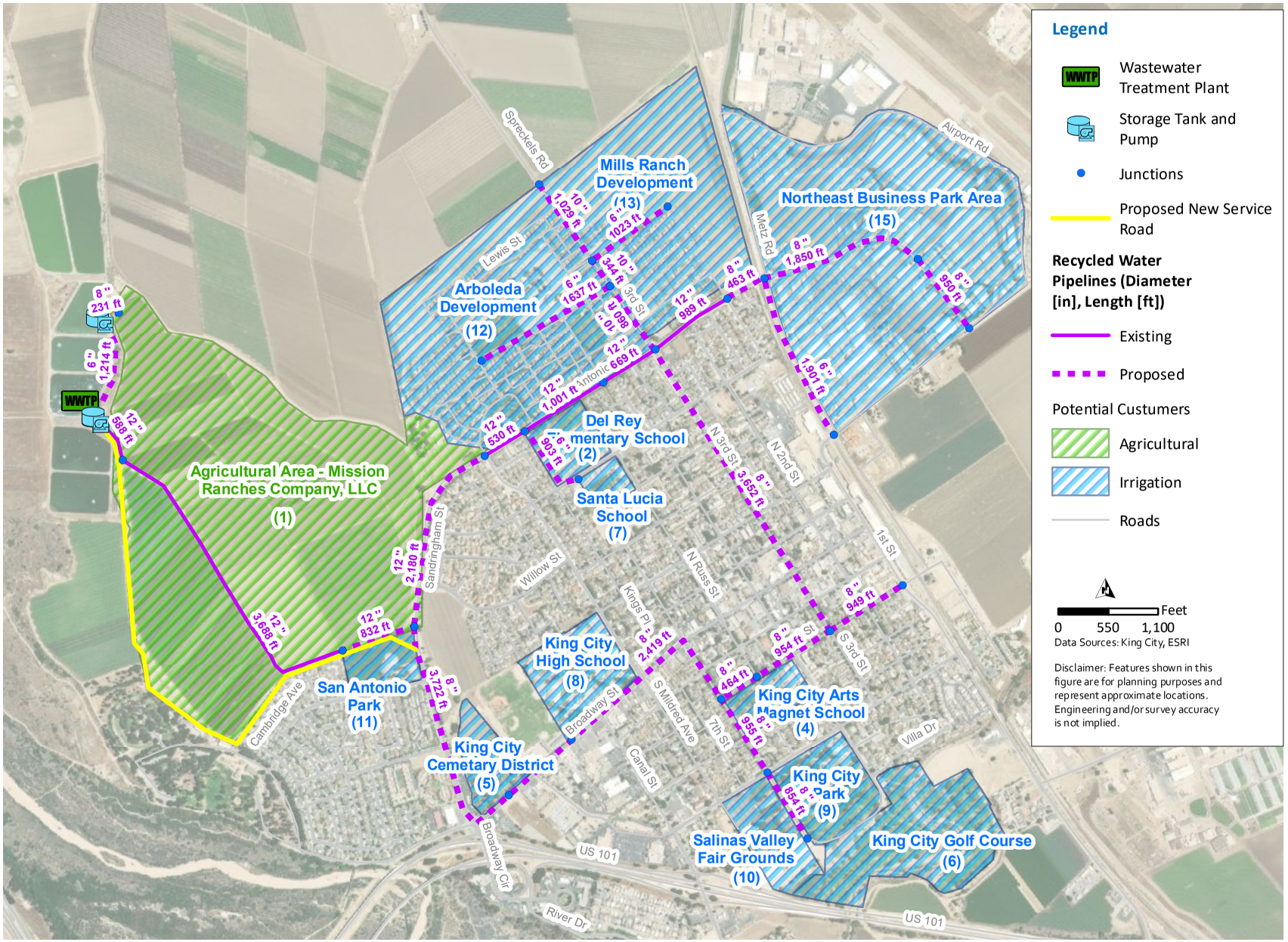

SMB ENVIRONMENTAL

Figure 1
Overview of Proposed Project

KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Ann Marie Sayers, Chairperson
Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
P.O. Box 28
Hollister, CA, 95024

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Dear Chairperson Ann Marie Sayers:

Pursuant towards compliance with the requirements of California's Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) for tribal cultural resources, King City (City) is requesting a formal government-to-government consultation with your organization to discuss the City's proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Recycled Water Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project is located at the City's WWTP and new recycled water pipelines would be placed in the streets throughout the City. See attached map for the proposed site improvements.

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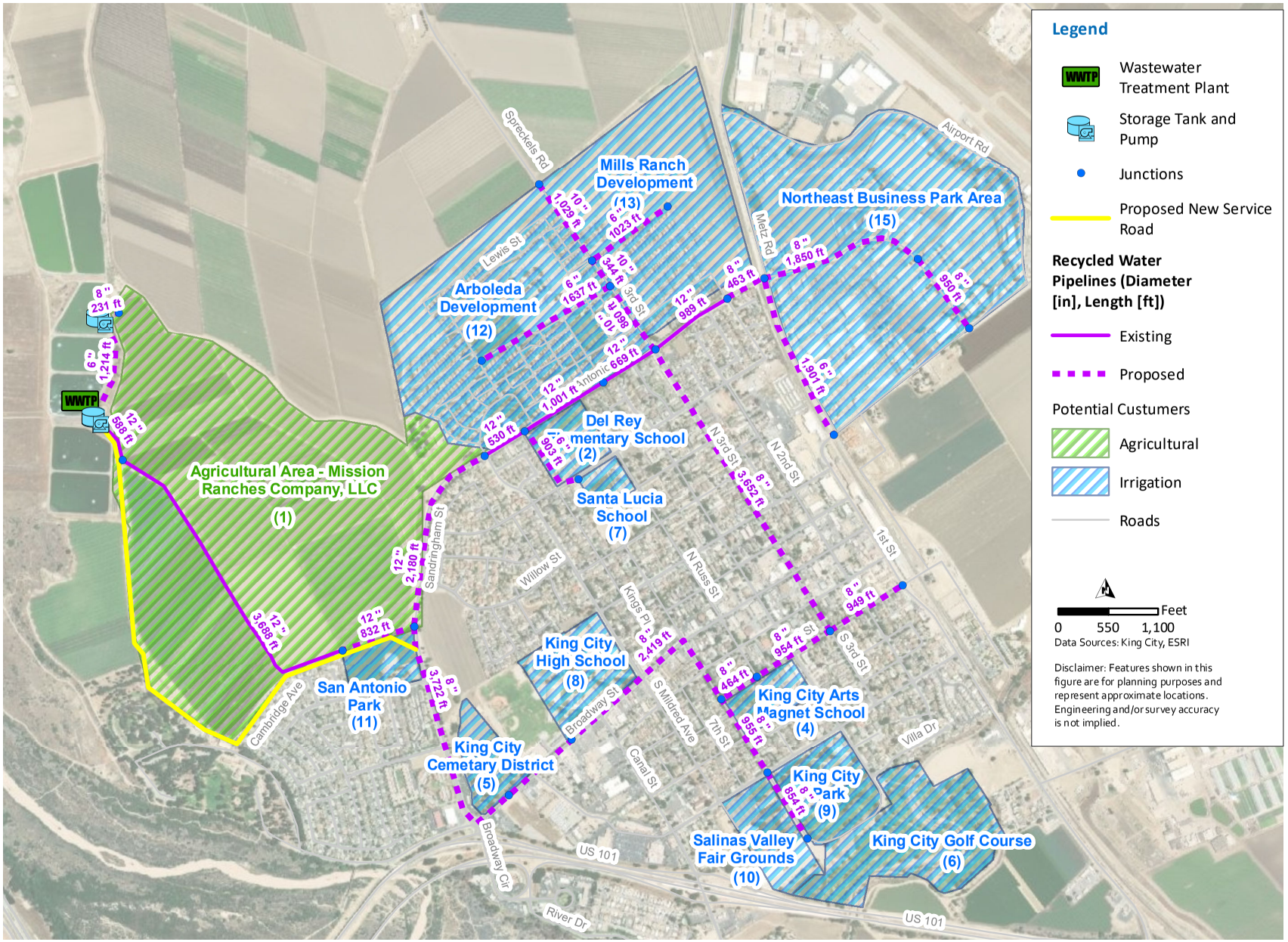

SMB ENVIRONMENTAL

Figure 1
Overview of Proposed Project

KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Kanyon Sayers-Roods, MLD
Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
1615 Pearson Court
San Jose, CA, 95122

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Dear Kanyon Sayers-Roods:

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Planning Technician

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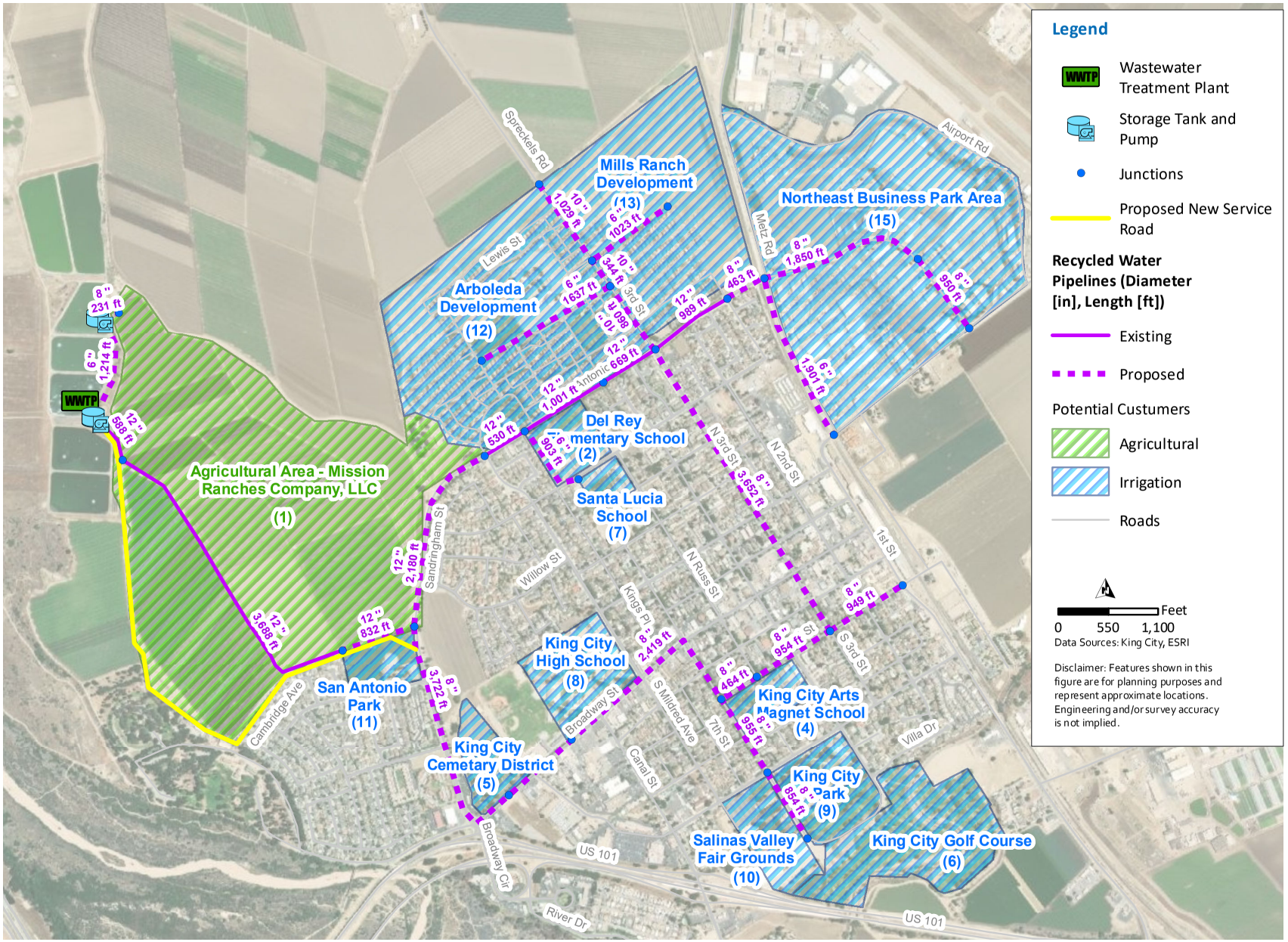

SMB ENVIRONMENTAL

Figure 1
Overview of Proposed Project

KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Tom Little Bear Nason, Chairman
Esselen Tribe of Monterey County
P.O. Box 95
Carmel Valley, CA, 93924

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Dear Chairperson Tom Little Bear Nason:

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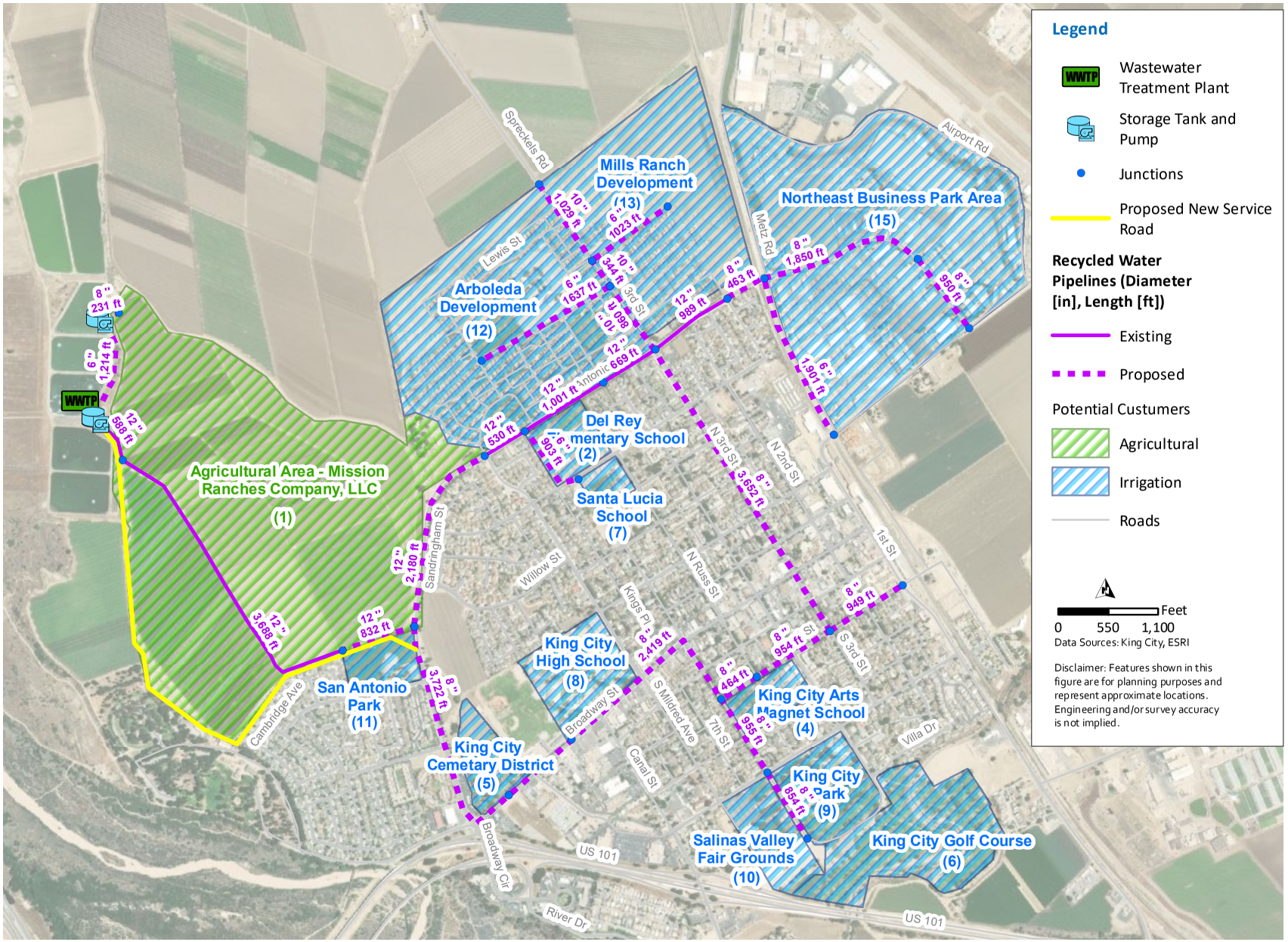

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KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Patrick Orozco, Chairman
Costanoan Ohlone Rumsen-Mutsen Tribe
644 Peartree Drive
Watsonville, CA, 95076

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

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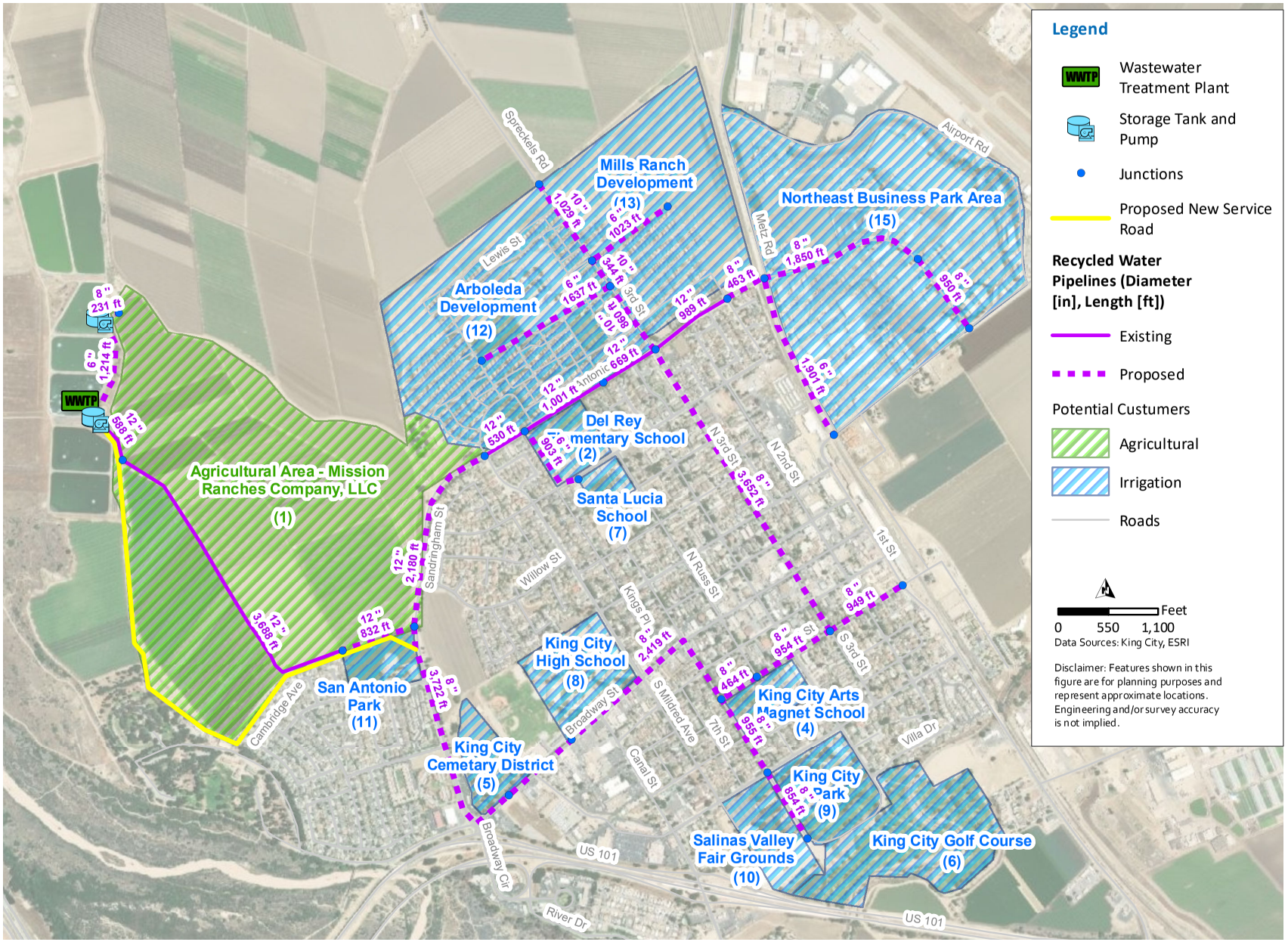

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KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Irene Zwierlein, Chairperson
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista
3030 Soda Bay Road
Lakeport, CA, 95453

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Dear Chairperson Irene Zwierlein:

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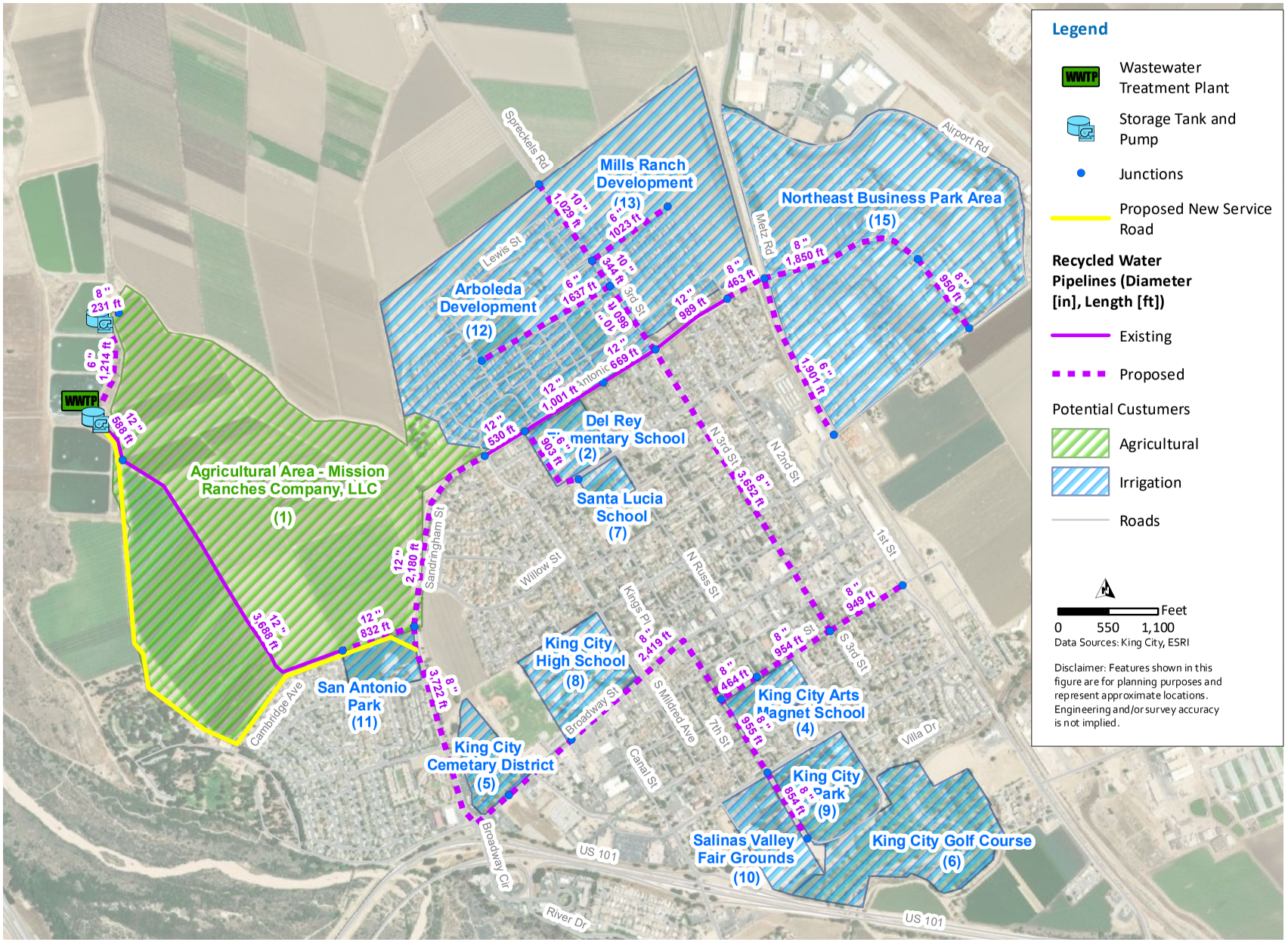

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Figure 1
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KING CITY
CALIFORNIA

SENT VIA EMAIL AND POST OFFICE

February 22, 2023

Valentin Lopez, Chairperson
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
P.O. Box 5272
Galt, CA, 95632

RE: Request for Government-to-Government Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Section 102 for King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

Dear Chairperson Valentin Lopez:

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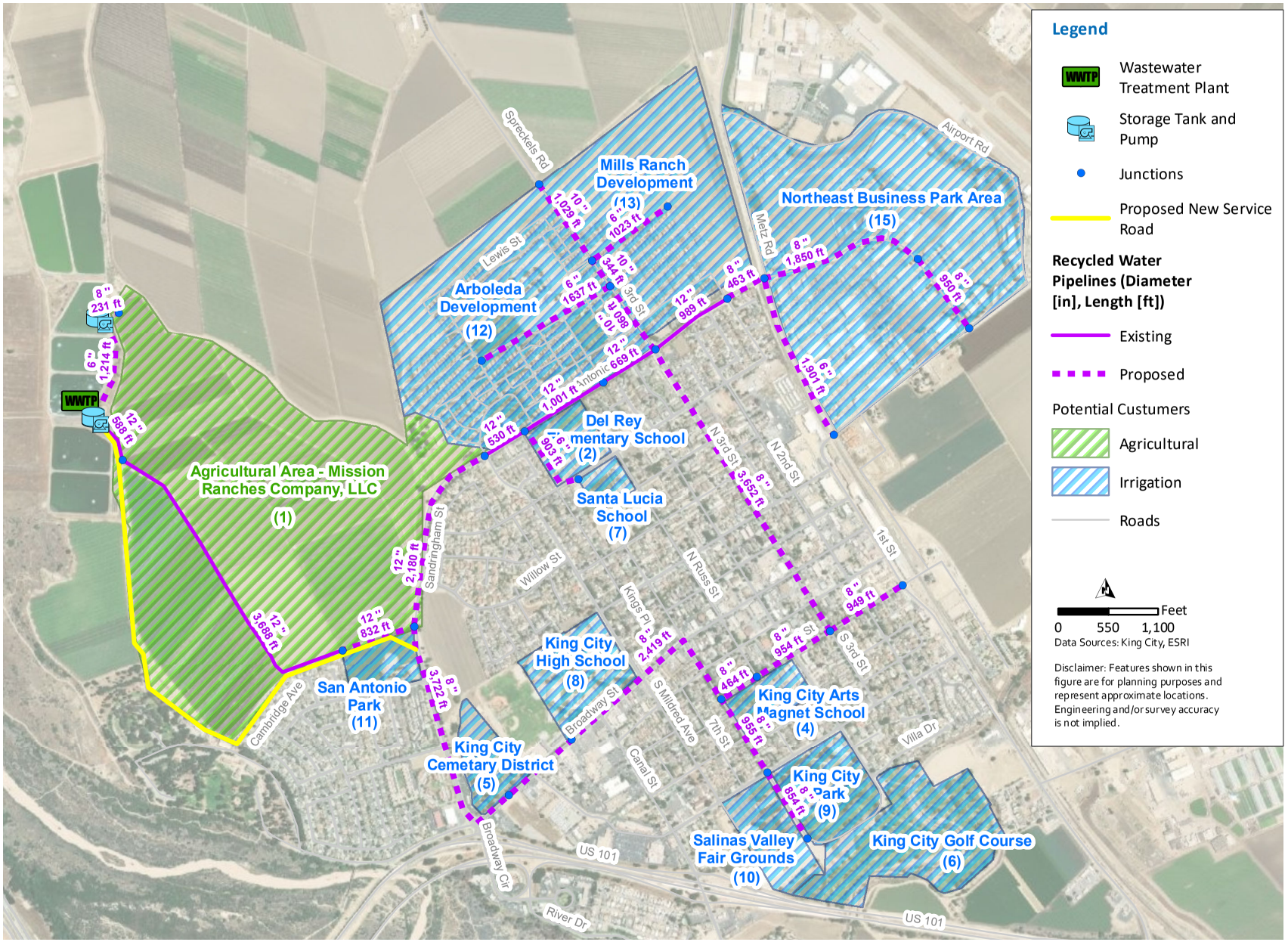

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Figure 1
Overview of Proposed Project

Responses From Tribes

P.O. Box 7045,
Spreckels, Ca. 93962
www.xolonsalinantribe.org

Karen R. White
Council Chair
xolon.salinan.heritage@gmail.com

Blaise Haro
Council Vice Chair
ziggyorjoyce@yahoo.com

Thomas Ball
Council Secretary
tom101999@yahoo.com

George Larson
Council Treasurer
smalltownfolks@sbcglobal.net

Council Members:
Janet Pura-Martinez
Devin Ball

Tribal Headwoman
Donna Haro – elder
"AAKLETSE"
xolonaakletse@aol.com

Penny Pierce Hurt-elder
Cultural Preservation Facilitator
Phurt6700@gmail.com

XOLON SALINAN TRIBE

"PEOPLE OF THE OAKS"

The Xolon Salinan Tribe are the People who have been referred to as the Salinan Indians from Missions San Miguel, San Antonio and Soledad. We have always called ourselves "Xolon Indians." The Federal government called us the "Salinans," because of the Salinas River that runs through most of our ancient territory; hence, we now call ourselves "The Xolon Salinan Tribe," so that everyone will know who we are. Our ancient People lived (documented) along the Central Coast of California, from the northern part of San Luis Obispo – to the Big Sur area to the north – and inland to the Temblor Range.

February 24, 2023

Esmeralda Alvarez, Planning Technician
City Hall
212 South Vanderhurst Ave.
King City, CA 93930

Dear Ms. Alvarez,

We are in receipt of your AB52 consultation letter, regarding King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project. This Project falls within our Ancestral Territory. Chair White has forwarded this to me.

Be advised that we consider this project very important. Therefore, we request the following materials for review:

- **A map layout of the project area.**
- **Any, and all, Cultural Site Reports.**
- **What type of ground disturbance will be involved?**
- **What depths of disturbance.**
- **Would it be possible to obtain a map that would reflect any creeks, and the Salinas River flow through King City.**

Thank you again for contacting us, it is our pleasure to work on this project. Looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Penny Pierce Hurt, Elder
Cultural Preservation Facilitator
Xolon Salinan Tribe

Cc: Karen White, Chair

From: KKLLC Admin <admin@kanyonkonsulting.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 3:58 PM
To: Esmeralda Alvarez <ealvarez@kingcity.com>
Subject: King City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recycled Water Project

miSmin Tuuhis [Good Day]
Kan rakat Kanyon Sayers-Roods. I am writing this on behalf of the Indian Canyon Band of Costanoan Ohlone People as requested, responding to your letter
As this project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) overlaps or is near the management boundary of a potentially eligible cultural site, I am interested in consulting and voicing our concerns. With some instances like this, usually we recommend that a Native American Monitor and an Archaeologist be present on-site at all times during any/all ground disturbing activities. The presence of a Native monitor and archaeologist will help the project minimize potential effects on the cultural site and mitigate inadvertent issues.

Kanyon Konsulting, LLC has numerous Native Monitors available for projects such as this, if applicable, we recommend a Cultural Sensitivity Training at the beginning of each project. This service is offered to aid those involved in the project to become more familiar with the indigenous history of the peoples of this land that is being worked on.

Kanyon Konsulting is a strong proponent of honoring truth in history, when it comes to impacting Cultural Resources and potential ancestral remains, we need to recognise the history of the territory we are impacting. We have seen that projects like these tend to come into an area to consult/mitigate and move on shortly after - barely acknowledging the Cultural Representatives of the territory they steward and are responsible for. Because of these possibilities, we highly recommend that you receive a specialized consultation provided by our company as the project commences, bringing in considerations about the Indigenous peoples and environment of this territory that you work, have settled upon and benefit from.

As previously stated, our goal is to Honor Truth in History. And as such we want to ensure that there is an effort from the project organizer to take strategic steps in ways that #HonorTruthinHistory. This will make all involved aware of the history of the Indigenous communities whom we acknowledge as the first stewards and land managers of these territories.
Potential Approaches to Indigenous Cultural Awareness/History:
⤖Signs or messages to the audience or community of the territory being developed. (ex. A commerable plaque, page on the website, mural, display, or an Educational/Cultural Center with information about the history/ecology/resources of the land)
⤖Commitment to consultation with the Native Peoples of the territory in regards to presenting and messaging about the Indigenous history/community of the land (Land Acknowledgement on website, written material about the space/org/building/business/etc, Cultural display of cultural resources/botanical

knowledge or Culture sharing of Traditional Ecological Knowledge - Indigenous Science and Technology)
⤖Advocation of supporting indigenous lead movements and efforts. (informing one's audience and/or community about local present Indigenous community)

We look forward to working with you.
Tumsan-ak kannis [Thank You]
Kanyon Sayers-Roods
Consultant / Tribal Monitor [ICMBCO]
Kanyon Konsulting, LLC