Valley Boulevard Widening Project

CITY OF MENIFEE, CALIFORNIA

Draft Tiered Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Prepared for:
City of Menifee
29844 Haun Road
Menifee, CA 92586

Prepared by:
Dokken Engineering
110 Blue Ravine Road, Suite 200
Folsom, CA 95630

May 2023

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General Information about this Document

What's in this document:

The City of Menifee (City) has prepared this Draft Tiered Initial Study, which examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Valley Boulevard Widening Project (Project) located in the City of Menifee, Riverside County, California. The document describes the Project being proposed, the existing environment that could be affected by the Project, the potential impacts from the Project, and the proposed avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures.

What you should do:

Please read this Draft Tiered Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). This document as well as the technical studies are available for review by accessing the following webpage:

https://www.cityofmenifee.us/325/Environmental-Notices-Documents

In accordance with CEQA, the City is circulating this Draft Tiered IS/MND for a period of thirty (30) days. The public comment period begins May 12, 2023 and ends June 12, 2023.

We welcome your comments. If you have any comments regarding the proposed Project, please send your written comments no later than June 12, 2023. Comments may be submitted by e-mail to dguillen@cityofmenifee.us or by mail to the following address:

Diego Guillen, Project Manager
City of Menifee – Capital Improvement Program
29844 Haun Road
Menifee, CA 92586

Consideration of comments raised during public circulation will be taken into account and addressed prior to adoption of the Tiered Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) by the City Council.

What happens next:

After the close of the public comment period the City will review public comments received and may: (1) issue Responses to Comments that will be incorporated into a Final Tiered Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration (the "Final Tiered IS/MND") and schedule the Planning Commission review and approval of the Final Tiered IS/MND; or (2) perform any additional environmental studies or analysis to address issues or comments raised during the public comment period and revise the Draft Tiered IS/MND for further public review; or (3) determine not to proceed with the Project.

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Valley Boulevard Widening Project

City of Menifee, California

DRAFT TIERED INITIAL STUDY
with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

CITY OF MENIFEE

_____
Date of Approval

_____
Nicolas Fidler
Public Works Director
City of Menifee
Public Works & Engineering Department

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CITY OF MENIFEE

CEQA Environmental Checklist Form

1. **Project title:** Valley Boulevard Widening Project

2. **Lead agency name and address:** City of Menifee, Public Works Department, 29844 Haun Road, Menifee, CA 92586

3. **Contact person and phone number:** Ryan Fowler, Principal Planner: 951-723-3740

4. **Project location:** The project is located in the City of Menifee, Riverside County, along Valley Boulevard, a north-south arterial road that provides access through the northwestern portion of the City, between Chambers Avenue and Murrieta Road and extend the roadway through two existing gaps, providing local residents with one continuous route. Valley Boulevard is currently a two-lane undivided road with unstriped shoulders and sidewalks on one side of the road within the project vicinity. Refer to **Figure 1, Project Vicinity Map** and **Figure 2, Project Location Map**.

   A. Total Project Area: 61.7 gross acres

   B. Assessor's Parcel No: N/A

   C. Map: N/A

   D. Section 14, Township 5S & Range 3W of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian.

   E. Longitude: 117° 12' 47.3" W Latitude: 33° 42' 51.2" N

5. **Project Applicant/Owners:** City of Menifee, Public Works Department, 29844 Haun Road, Menifee, CA 92586

   Representative: Diego Guillen, PE, City of Menifee Capital Improvement Program, 29844 Haun Road, Menifee, CA 92586

6. **General Plan Designation**: 4-lane divided arterial road

7. **Existing Zoning:** Existing Roadway

8. **Project Description:**

   The City of Menifee (City) proposes to widen the existing Valley Boulevard roadway between Chambers Avenue and Murrieta Road and extend the roadway through two existing gaps, providing local residents with one continuous route. The project is located in the City of Menifee, Riverside County, along Valley Boulevard, a north-south arterial road that provides access through the northwestern portion of the City. Valley Boulevard is currently a two-lane undivided road with unstriped shoulders and sidewalks on one side of the road within the project vicinity. In the City's General Plan, Valley Boulevard is

designated as a 4-lane divided arterial road. The City is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project will widen Valley Boulevard from a two-lane road to a four-lane facility between Chambers Avenue and Murrieta Road. The project will close the existing gaps in the roadway at two locations: a 700-foot segment north of McCall Boulevard and an 800-foot segment at the recently constructed Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) Desalination Facility near Murrieta Road. The project will include raised medians, turn lanes, and seven new traffic signals at major intersections. Additionally, the project will enhance and complete the multi-modal network by constructing sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway. Existing pavement will be rehabilitated throughout the Project Area, while existing curb ramps and sidewalks will be improved as needed.

Landscaping will be incorporated within the median and along the sidewalks throughout the corridor to preserve and enrich the visual quality of the City, enhancing the sense of place and character of the existing neighborhoods. Landscaping walls will also be incorporated along the roadway where appropriate.

The improvements associated with the widening of Valley Boulevard would also potentially require utility relocations. While the majority of the utilities within the project area are underground which may need to be relocated, there may also be impacts to some above ground boxes/vaults due to the widening improvements. Any existing utilities within the project area requiring relocation would be coordinated with the owner and operator of the utility.

The project will require some right of way acquisition to accommodate the proposed improvements. While the majority of the project is within existing City right of way, some right of way acquisitions are anticipated at the gap closures. No relocations of homes or businesses are anticipated as these are vacant parcels. Temporary construction easements may also be required along the project corridor.

During construction, temporary closures of portions of the road will be necessary; however, the improvements would be staged to minimize disruptions. Construction is anticipated to last approximately 18 months.

Additional project activities needed to support the design of the project include potholing and geotechnical investigations within the existing roadway and proposed improvement locations.

The purpose of the project is to:

- Improve Valley Boulevard to a 4-lane facility to be compliant with the City of Menifee General Plan and accommodate existing and future anticipated traffic volumes;
- Improve connectivity by closing the existing gaps in the roadway at two locations;
- Promote job growth by improving roadway connectivity and traffic circulation;
- Enhance the overall roadway network and quality by rehabilitating the existing pavement and improving existing curb ramps and sidewalks; and,
- Provide all residents with a safe and complete roadway infrastructure that encourages other modes of active transportation throughout the project limits by constructing sidewalks and bike lines on both sides of the roadway.

9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting:**
The Project is located along the existing Valley Boulevard which is a north/south-trending corridor situated at an elevation of approximately 1,500 feet above sea level. Valley Boulevard is surrounded by both residential development on all sides as well as vacant, undeveloped, vegetated properties on the west side as well as at two existing roadway gaps in between. The Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) operates the Sun City Regional Water Reclamation Facility and Perris II Reverse Osmosis Treatment Facility at the existing southern terminus of Valley Boulevard.

The adjacent General Plan Area Land Use Designations include Residential, Public Facility (to the southeast), and Open Space (to the east and south).

10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):**
Based on the current Project design concept, other permits necessary to realize the proposal will likely include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Stormwater management and associated permitting will be required consistent with the provisions of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Tiering

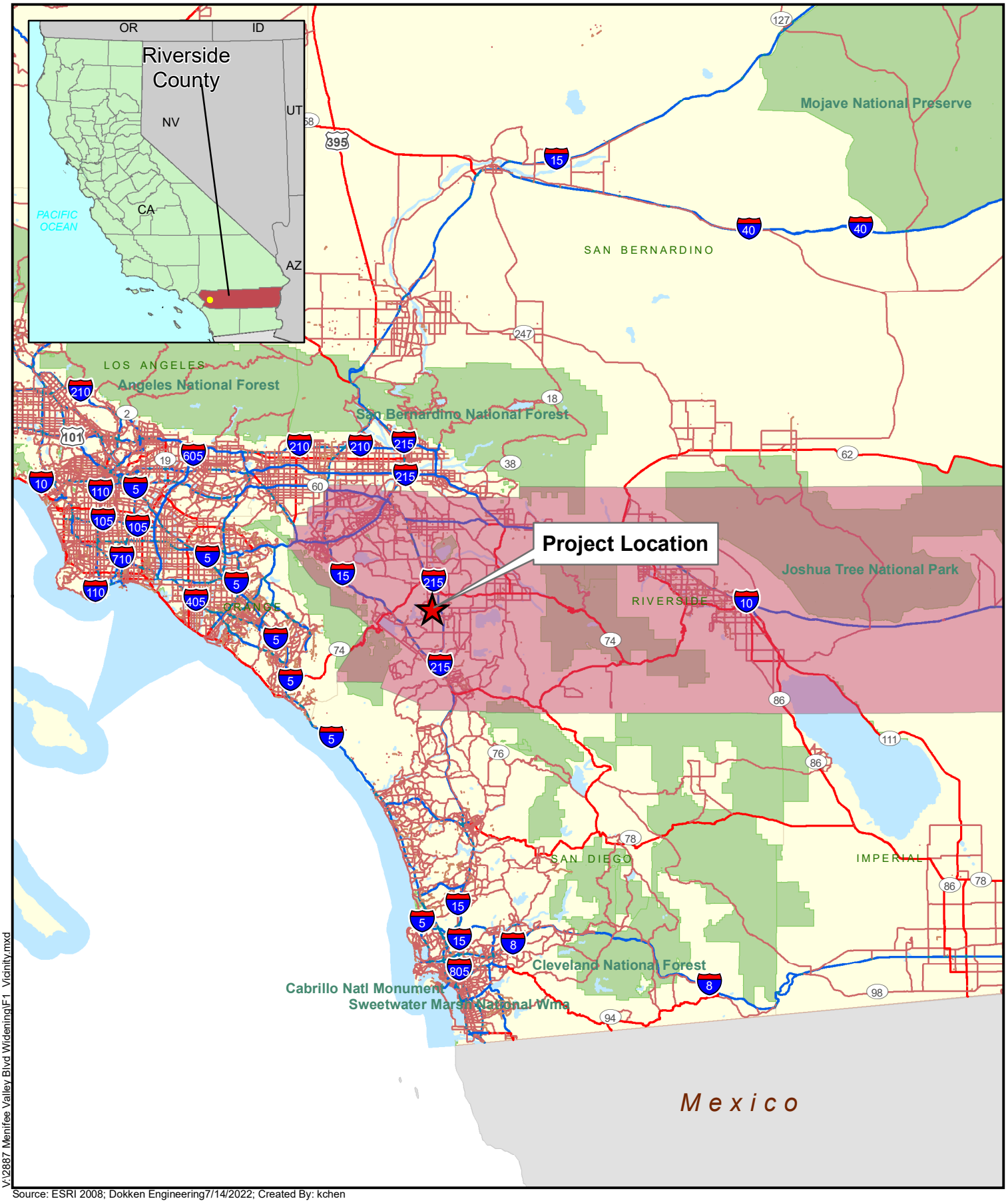
CEQA Guidelines section 15152 allows a MND to be adopted for a later, narrow project when an EIR has previously been prepared for a broader program, policy, plan or ordinance. Tiering refers to: (1) using the analysis of general matters contained in a broader EIR with later CEQA documents on narrower projects; (2) incorporating by reference the general discussions from that broader EIR into the later CEQA document for the narrower project; and (3) concentrating the later CEQA document on the issues specific to the narrower project. Where an EIR has been prepared and certified for a large-scale planning approval, such as a general plan, the lead agency should limit the CEQA document prepared for a later project to effects that were not examined as significant effects on the environment in the prior EIR. The later project must be consistent with that broader program or plan and must not result in any significant effects that were not examined in that previous EIR. In order to tier from an EIR, the later project must be consistent with the general plan and zoning of the applicable city or county. The CEQA document prepared for the later project must clearly state that it is being tiered upon a previous EIR, reference that EIR, and state where a copy of the EIR can be examined. (*Please note narrower projects in this instance refers to those that have been more narrowly defined since the time of a programmatic EIR analysis.*)

In addition to the findings required of a MND pursuant to Section 21080 and 21064.5, Office of Planning and Research recommends that the Lead Agency that engages in a tiered analysis find that:

1. The project is consistent with the program, policy, plan or ordinance for which the previous EIR was prepared.
2. The project is consistent with the general plan and zoning of the applicable city or county.
3. The project, as revised or mitigated, will not result in any significant effects which were not examined in the previous EIR.

This Tiered IS/MND for the Project is tiered off the City of Menifee's 2013 General Plan Update EIR (SCH # 2012071033). The 2013 General Plan Update EIR can be found at the City's website here: https://www.cityofmenifee.us/262/Environmental-Impact-Report. The Project is consistent with the 2013 Comprehensive Update to the City of Menifee General Plan for which the 2013 Menifee General Plan EIR was prepared. The Project is consistent with the general plan and zoning of the City of Menifee.

The City of Menifee analyzed, at the program level, environmental effects from full build out of the land use changes and development proposed by the Comprehensive Update to the City of Menifee General Plan, including impacts from the potential widening of Valley Boulevard, in the City of Menifee 2013 General Plan EIR. The 2013 General Plan EIR identified potentially significant and unavoidable program-level impacts from full build-out of the General Plan Update with respect to the following resources: agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, and transportation/traffic. In analyzing the Project's impacts, this Tiered IS/MND tiers off the 2013 General Plan EIR. Further, as explained in this IS/MND, the Project will not have any additional significant impacts related to noise that were not already analyzed and disclosed in the 2013 General Plan EIR.



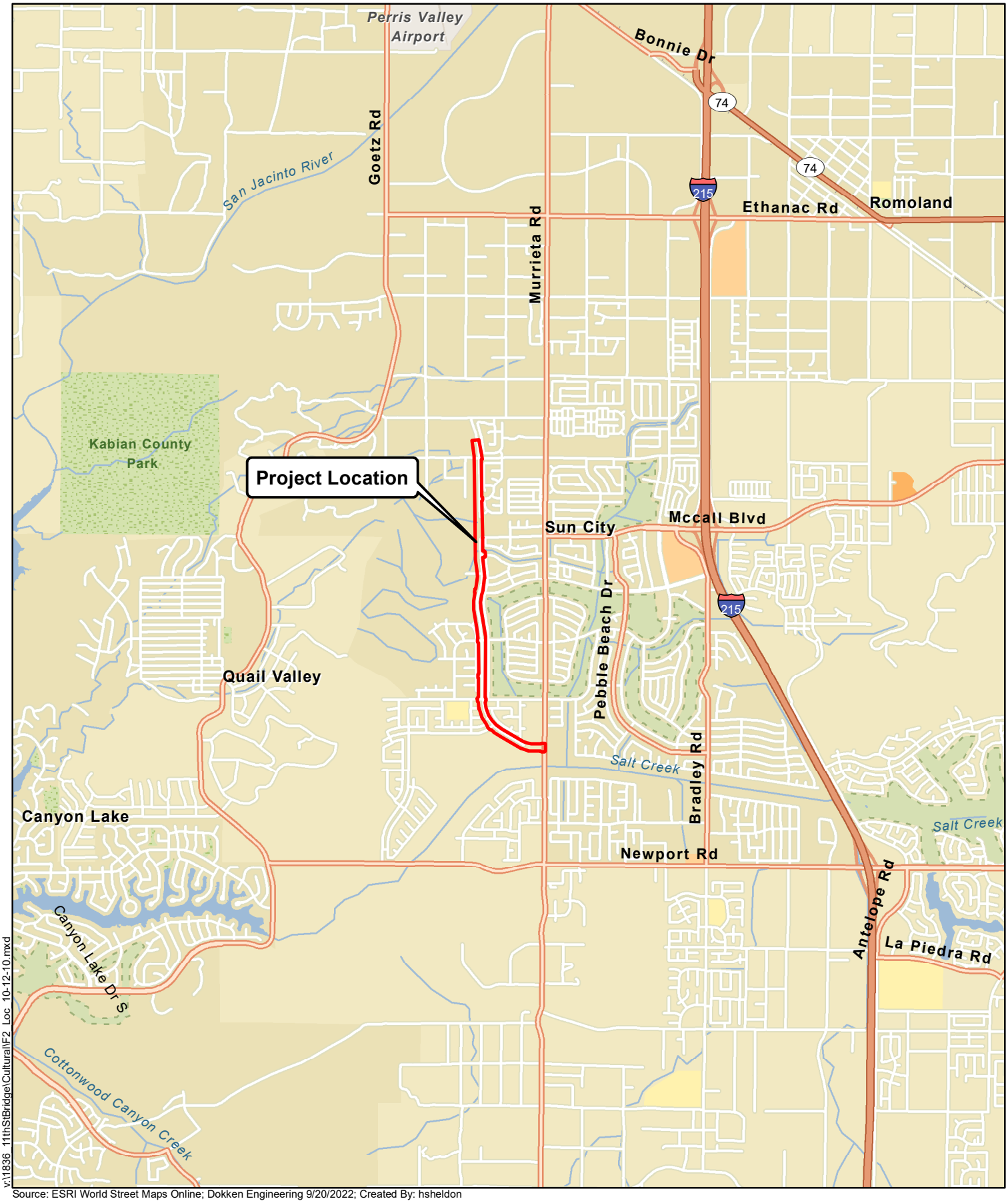
Source: ESRI 2008; Dokken Engineering7/14/2022; Created By: kchen

V:\2887 Menifee Valley Blvd Widening\F1_Vicinity.mxd

0 10 20 30 Miles

FIGURE 1
Project Vicinity

Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



v:\1836 11thStBridge\Cultural\F2 Loc 10-12-10.mxd

Source: ESRI World Street Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/20/2022; Created By: hsheldon

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

Figure 2
Project Location
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

Project Area
New Concrete Median and Sidewalk
New Landscaping
Pavement Rehabilitation
Slurry Seal
New Pavement

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Reynolds Rd
Wespa Dr
Roberta Dr
Byers Ave
Valley Blvd
Prominence Rd
Union Hill Dr
Family Cir
Uppercrest Ct
Geary St
Roylene Dr
Lola Ct
Felicia Ave
Doreen Dr
Connie Way
Juno St
Galaxy Way
Eridanus Dr
Lyra Ct
Phoenix Way
Pegasus Rd
Delphinus Dr
Aquila Ct
Auriga Ct
Milky Way
Serpens Ct
Dorado Dr
Ridgemoor Rd
Portsmouth Dr
Sunnyvale Ct
W Worcester Rd
Warwick Rd
Danbury Dr
Radford Dr
Mccall Blvd
Lexington Ct
Niagara Ct
Stellar Way
Scott Ln
Abbey Ln
Chambers Ave
Esther Ln
Thornton Ave
Deer Creek Cir
Morgantown Way
Musselburgh Dr
Interlochen Dr
Baltrustrol Dr
Sun City Blvd
Plum Hollow Dr
Coombe Hill Dr
Wee Burn Way
Middlebury Way
Roanoke Rd
Sandy Lodge Rd
Whitman Rd
Clubhouse Dr
Murrieta Rd
CAMINO Del Sol Este
Westridge Ave
Bellwood Dr
Amersfoot Way
Falsterbor Dr
Buena Mesa Dr
Covington Way
Decatur Way
Emory Ct
Reynolds Rd
Kitt Ansett Dr
Port Rush Dr
Skokie Ct
Burlington Way
Fountain Bleu Dr
E Worcester Rd
Cherry Hills Blvd
Birkdale Rd
Saint Marys St
Pine Valley Rd
Lancaster Dr
Fairlane Dr
Germantown Dr
Brandywine Dr
Allentown Dr
Boston Dr
Albany Dr
Crestone Dr
Waverly Dr
Potomac Dr
Columbus Dr
Cool Creek Dr
Prestwick Rd
Foxgrove Rd
Glen Oaks Dr
Mawr Ct
Del Monte Dr
Grosse Point Dr
Northwood Dr

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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 3/7/2023; Created By: zachl

1 inch = 700 feet

0 700 1,400 2,100 2,800 3,500 Feet

Figure 3
Project Features
Page 1 of 5
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 3/7/2023; Created By: zachl

1 inch = 200 feet

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet

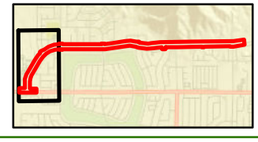

Figure 3
Project Features
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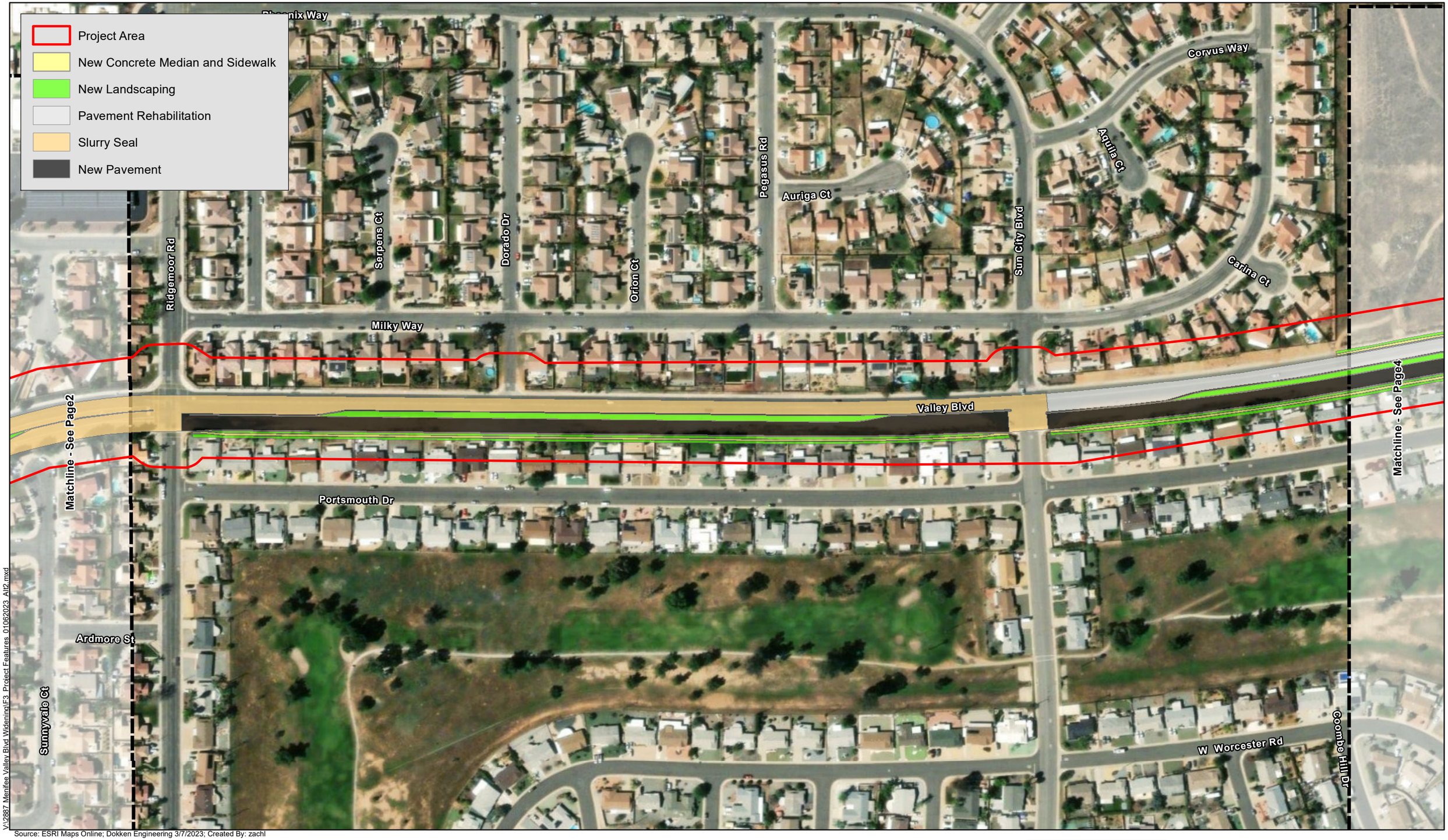
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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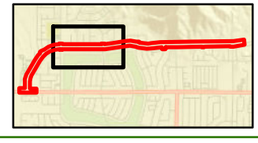
Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 3/7/2023; Created By: zachl

1 inch = 200 feet

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet



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Project Features
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Valley Boulevard Widening Project
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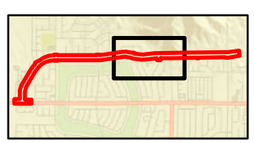

Figure 3
Project Features
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Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

Project Area
New Concrete Median and Sidewalk
New Landscaping
Pavement Rehabilitation
Slurry Seal
New Pavement

Byers Ave
Roberta Dr
Valley Blvd
Matchline - See Page4
Genevieve Dr
Cayla Ct
Roylene Dr
Chambers Ave
Felicia Ave
Prominence Rd
Family Cir
Lola Ct
Leah Ln
Tyler Ct
Monica Way
Doreen Dr
Connie Way
Hillman Ct
Uppercrest Ct
Esther Ln
Geary St

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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 3/7/2023; Created By: zachl

1 inch = 200 feet

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet

Figure 3
Project Features
Page 5 of 5

Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below (x) would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a "**Potentially Significant Impact**" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Public Services
☐ Agriculture Resources	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Recreation
☐ Air Quality	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Transportation
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Utilities and Service Systems
☐ Energy	☐ Noise	☐ Wildfire
☐ Geology/Soils	☐ Population and Housing	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

The environmental factors checked below (x) would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a **"Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

The environmental factors checked below (x) would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a "**Less than Significant**" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

The environmental factors checked below (x) would have "**No Impact**" by this Project as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been 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 could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.

Signature	Date
Printed Name	For Nicolas Fidler Public Works Director

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. State CEQA Guidelines §15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
   a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

I. AESTHETICS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

a, c) **No Impact.** The Project is located along the existing Valley Boulevard, which is situated between a residential neighborhood and a large area of open space where Quail Hill, one of the City's tallest landforms, is located. This natural landform includes undisturbed slopes, hillsides, and rock outcroppings which enhance the City's environmental setting, per the City General Plan's Open Space and Conservation Element. As such, this area may be considered a scenic vista. The proposed Project would widen Valley Boulevard and close the gap on this roadway. The Project would not develop the undisturbed hillsides of Quail Hill and would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. The widening of an existing road would also not substantially degrade the existing visual character of the area. Public views of Quail Hill would be increased by the gap closure because there would be a direct route along Valley Boulevard with unobstructed views of Quail Hill. Furthermore, landscaping will be incorporated within the median and along the sidewalks throughout the corridor to preserve and enrich the visual quality of the City. There would be **No Impact**.

b) **No Impact.** The Project area is not located adjacent to any State scenic highway. The proposed Project will not have a significant impact upon a scenic highway corridor. **No Impacts** to any state eligible scenic highways are anticipated.

d) **No Impact.** The Project would widen an existing road where streetlights currently exist. The project does propose to construct seven signalized intersections at existing stop controlled intersections; however, the traffic lights would not introduce substantially more

light than what is currently existing along the corridor with the streetlights. The project would not introduce any new source of substantial light or glare. There would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to aesthetics. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to aesthetics beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 nonagricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Finder

a) **No Impact.** According to the California Department of Conservation, the proposed Project area is not located within proximity to any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. There is a small area of land at the northern end of the Project area that is considered Farmland of Local Importance; however, this area is currently being developed into residential homes and no farming is anticipated to occur at this site. All surrounding adjacent land use consists of Urban and Built-Up Land, Grazing Land, and Other Land. There would be **No Impact**.

b) **No Impact.** There are no Williamson Act contract lands or lands zoned for agricultural use within proximity to the Project site. There would be **No Impact.**

c, d) **No Impact.** There are no forest lands or timberlands (or lands zoned as such) in the Project area. The Project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. There would be **No Impact.**

e) **No Impact.** The Project would have no impact to conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance is in the Project area as mapped by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. No forest land is in the Project area as well. There would be **No impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to agriculture and forest resources. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to agriculture and forest resources beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

III. AIR QUALITY: Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source(s): CARB Maps of State Area Designations (2020); CARB Maps of Federal Area Designations (2018); SCAQMD Air Quality Analysis Handbook (2019)

Affected Environment

The Project is located in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB). The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the agency responsible for monitoring and regulating air pollutant emissions from stationary, area, and indirect sources within the SCAB. The SCAQMD also has responsibility for monitoring air quality and setting and enforcing limits for source emissions. California Air Resources Board (CARB) is the agency with the legal responsibility for regulating mobile source emissions. The SCAQMD is precluded from such activities under State law.

Existing air quality conditions in the Project area can be characterized in terms of the ambient air quality standards that the State (California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS)) and federal government (National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)) have established for several different pollutants. For some pollutants, separate standards have been set for different measurement periods. Most standards have been set to protect public health. Ambient air pollutant concentrations are measured at 16 permanent monitoring stations throughout the SCAB. The federal and State governments have established ambient air quality standards for six criteria pollutants: ozone, CO, NO_2, SO_2, particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), and lead (Table 1. Ambient Air Quality Standards). Within the SCAQMD, ozone and PM2.5 and PM10 are considered pollutants of concern.

Table 1. Ambient Air Quality Standards

Ambient Air Quality Standards						
Pollutant	**Averaging Time**	**California Standards** [1]		**National Standards** [2]		
		Concentration [3]	**Method** [4]	**Primary** [3,5]	**Secondary** [3,6]	**Method** [7]
Ozone (O_3)[8]	1 Hour	0.09 ppm (180 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Photometry	—	Same as Primary Standard	Ultraviolet Photometry
	8 Hour	0.070 ppm (137 µg/m^3)		0.070 ppm (137 µg/m^3)		
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM10)[9]	24 Hour	50 µg/m^3	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	150 µg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 µg/m^3		—		
Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)[9]	24 Hour	—	—	35 µg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 µg/m^3	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	12.0 µg/m^3	15 µg/m^3	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 Hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m^3)	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)	35 ppm (40 mg/m^3)	—	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)
	8 Hour	9.0 ppm (10 mg/m^3)		9 ppm (10 mg/m^3)	—	
	8 Hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm (7 mg/m^3)		—	—	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)[10]	1 Hour	0.18 ppm (339 µg/m^3)	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence	100 ppb (188 µg/m^3)	—	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.030 ppm (57 µg/m^3)		0.053 ppm (100 µg/m^3)	Same as Primary Standard	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)[11]	1 Hour	0.25 ppm (655 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence	75 ppb (196 µg/m^3)	—	Ultraviolet Flourescence; Spectrophotometry (Pararosaniline Method)
	3 Hour	—		—	0.5 ppm (1300 µg/m^3)	
	24 Hour	0.04 ppm (105 µg/m^3)		0.14 ppm (for certain areas)[11]	—	
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	—		0.030 ppm (for certain areas)[11]	—	
Lead[12,13]	30 Day Average	1.5 µg/m^3	Atomic Absorption	—	—	High Volume Sampler and Atomic Absorption
	Calendar Quarter	—		1.5 µg/m^3 (for certain areas)[12]	Same as Primary Standard	
	Rolling 3-Month Average	—		0.15 µg/m^3		
Visibility Reducing Particles[14]	8 Hour	See footnote 14	Beta Attenuation and Transmittance through Filter Tape	**No National Standards**		
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 µg/m^3	Ion Chromatography			
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence			
Vinyl Chloride[12]	24 Hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m^3)	Gas Chromatography			

See footnotes on next page …

For more information please call ARB-PIO at (916) 322-2990 **California Air Resources Board (5/4/16)**

(Table 1, continued)

1. California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (except 8-hour Lake Tahoe), sulfur dioxide (1 and 24 hour), nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5, and visibility reducing particles), are values that are not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. California ambient air quality standards are listed in the Table of Standards in Section 70200 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.

2. National standards (other than ozone, particulate matter, and those based on annual arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the fourth highest 8-hour concentration measured at each site in a year, averaged over three years, is equal to or less than the standard. For PM10, the 24 hour standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with a 24-hour average concentration above 150 $\mu g/m^3$ is equal to or less than one. For PM2.5, the 24 hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over three years, are equal to or less than the standard. Contact the U.S. EPA for further clarification and current national policies.

3. Concentration expressed first in units in which it was promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based upon a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr. Most measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr; ppm in this table refers to ppm by volume, or micromoles of pollutant per mole of gas.

4. Any equivalent measurement method which can be shown to the satisfaction of the ARB to give equivalent results at or near the level of the air quality standard may be used.

5. National Primary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health.

6. National Secondary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant.

7. Reference method as described by the U.S. EPA. An "equivalent method" of measurement may be used but must have a "consistent relationship to the reference method" and must be approved by the U.S. EPA.

8. On October 1, 2015, the national 8-hour ozone primary and secondary standards were lowered from 0.075 to 0.070 ppm.

9. On December 14, 2012, the national annual PM2.5 primary standard was lowered from 15 $\mu g/m^3$ to 12.0 $\mu g/m^3$. The existing national 24-hour PM2.5 standards (primary and secondary) were retained at 35 $\mu g/m^3$, as was the annual secondary standard of 15 $\mu g/m^3$. The existing 24-hour PM10 standards (primary and secondary) of 150 $\mu g/m^3$ also were retained. The form of the annual primary and secondary standards is the annual mean, averaged over 3 years.

10. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 98th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 100 ppb. Note that the national 1-hour standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the national 1-hour standard to the California standards the units can be converted from ppb to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 100 ppb is identical to 0.100 ppm.

11. On June 2, 2010, a new 1-hour SO_2 standard was established and the existing 24-hour and annual primary standards were revoked. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 75 ppb. The 1971 SO_2 national standards (24-hour and annual) remain in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2010 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1971 standards, the 1971 standards remain in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2010 standards are approved.

    Note that the 1-hour national standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the 1-hour national standard to the California standard the units can be converted to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 75 ppb is identical to 0.075 ppm.

12. The ARB has identified lead and vinyl chloride as 'toxic air contaminants' with no threshold level of exposure for adverse health effects determined. These actions allow for the implementation of control measures at levels below the ambient concentrations specified for these pollutants.

13. The national standard for lead was revised on October 15, 2008 to a rolling 3-month average. The 1978 lead standard (1.5 $\mu g/m^3$ as a quarterly average) remains in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2008 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1978 standard, the 1978 standard remains in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2008 standard are approved.

14. In 1989, the ARB converted both the general statewide 10-mile visibility standard and the Lake Tahoe 30-mile visibility standard to instrumental equivalents, which are "extinction of 0.23 per kilometer" and "extinction of 0.07 per kilometer" for the statewide and Lake Tahoe Air Basin standards, respectively.

Under NAAQS, the Project is located in an area that is in non-attainment for 8-hour ozone, 1-hour ozone, and PM2.5. It is in attainment or unclassified for other federal criteria pollutants. Under CAAQS, the Project is located in an area that is in non-attainment for 8-hour ozone, 1-hour ozone, PM10, and PM2.5. It is in attainment or unclassified for other State criteria pollutants (Table 2. Attainment for the South Coast Air Basin).

Table 2. Attainment for the South Coast Air Basin

Pollutant	Attainment Status	
	Federal	State
O_3 (8-hour)	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
O_3 (1-hour)	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
PM10	Attainment	Nonattainment
PM2.5	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
CO	Unclassifiable/Attainment	Attainment
NO_2	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
SO_2	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Sulfates	No Federal Standard	Attainment
Lead	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Federal Standard	Unclassified

The State CEQA Guidelines further state that the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make the determinations above. The SCAQMD has specified significance thresholds (SCAQMD 2019) to determine whether mitigation is needed for project-related air quality impacts (Table 3. South Coast Air Quality Management District Thresholds of Significance).

Table 3. South Coast Air Quality Management District Thresholds of Significance

Pollutant	Construction (lbs per day)	Operation (lbs per day/tons per day)
NO_x	100	55/0.0275
VOC	75	55/0.0275
PM10	150	150/0.075
PM2.5	55	55/0.0275
SO_x	150	150/0.075
CO	550	550/0.275
Lead	3	3/0.001

Environmental Consequences

a) **No Impact.** A project is considered to conflict with or obstruct implementation of regional air quality plans if it would be inconsistent with the emissions inventories contained in the regional air quality plans. Emission inventories are developed based on projected increases in population growth and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) within the region. As a roadway gap closure project, the construction or operation of the Project would not induce growth of population or housing in the Project vicinity and would not increase VMT. The Project will enhance and complete the multi-modal network by constructing sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway. The Project would provide all residents with a safe and complete roadway infrastructure that encourages other modes of active transportation throughout the project limits. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with

or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan for the region, and **No Impact** would occur.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Construction of the Project would result in short-term and intermittent increases in criteria pollutants; however, no long-term operational impacts to net increases of criteria pollutants would occur. According to results of the Project's Road Construction Emissions Model (RCEM) construction effects would not result in an exceedance of the SCAQMD construction emission thresholds. Specifically, the RCEM (Appendix B. Air Quality Road Construction Emissions Model) determined that short-term local nuisance of increased criteria pollutants would be under the daily maximum pounds (lbs) per day SCAQMD thresholds (see Table 4). As a roadway gap closure, the operation of the completed facility would not cause an increase in any criteria pollutants. Therefore, the Project's effects to air quality would be considered **Less than Significant**. Discussion of the short-term construction and operational significance thresholds, as applicable to the proposed project, are discussed below.

Short-Term Construction Emissions

Temporary construction activities would include site preparation that will involve excavation, grading, constructing new sidewalks, and other construction activities. During construction, short-term air quality effects are expected from the release of particulate emissions (airborne dust) generated by excavation, grading, hauling, and other activities related to construction. However, adherence to standard dust control and construction best management practices (BMPs) would be required as part of the Project's Construction Management Plan and approved by the City.

Emission from construction equipment powered by gasoline and diesel engines are also anticipated. The RCEM model estimates construction equipment effects of criteria pollutants including CO, NO_X, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), directly emitted PM10 and PM2.5, and toxic air contaminants (TACs) such as diesel exhaust particulate matter. These emissions would be temporary and limited to the immediate area surrounding the construction site. The RCEM model was calculated with the Project's construction anticipated to take approximately 18 months. The Project's construction emissions were modeled using the RCEM developed by Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD 2018), which is the accepted model for all CEQA roadway projects throughout California. The RCEM results (Appendix B) were then compared with the SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds to determine if the Project would exceed any regional thresholds of significance. As summarized in Table 4, due to the limited scale/intensity of the Project's construction activities, construction related emissions will not exceed SCAQMD threshold criteria for significant air quality impacts. Therefore, the Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment, and the Project's air quality effects would be considered **Less than Significant**.

Table 4. Road Construction Emissions Model Compared to Thresholds of Significance

Pollutant	Road Construction Emissions Model Estimates (lbs per day)	SCAQMD Threshold (lbs per day)	
	Construction Only	Construction	Operation
NO_x	46.77	100	55
VOC	4.31	75	55
PM_{10}	3.58	150	150
$PM_{2.5}$	2.03	55	55
SO_x	0.11	150	150
CO	39.83	550	550

Source: Modeling using the Road Construction Emissions Model 9.0.0 (Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District 2018).

Long-Term Operational Emissions

Long-term air quality impacts consist of mobile source emissions generated from project-related traffic and stationary source emissions (generated directly from on-site activities and from the electricity and natural gas consumed). As a roadway gap closure, VMT is anticipated to decrease as a result of the Project. Operational emissions were calculated using EMFAC2021 for the No-Build Alternative and the Build Alternative. As the Build Alternative reduces the number of miles traveled by vehicles, operational emissions are anticipated to decrease as a result of the proposed Project. Table 5 shows the estimated reduction in operational emissions in pounds per day as a result of the Project.

Table 5. Operational Air Emissions Estimates

Pollutant	EMFAC2021 Emissions Estimates (lbs per day)	SCAQMD Threshold (lbs per day)
NOx	-2.2	55
VOC	-1.2	55
PM10	-0.2	150
PM2.5	-0.2	55
SOx	0	150
CO	0	550

There would be no increase in any of the pollutants as a result of the Project. The Project will reduce the number of miles traveled by vehicles and enhance and complete the multi-modal network by constructing sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway. The Project would provide all residents with a safe and complete roadway infrastructure that encourages other modes of active transportation throughout the project limits, which may lead to a reduction in the production of criteria pollutants from vehicle use. The Project would not result in a significant increase in traffic or stationary source emissions. Therefore, **No Impact** relating to operational emissions would occur.

c) **Less than Significant**. Sensitive populations (i.e., children, senior citizens and acutely or chronically ill people) are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than are the general population. Sensitive land uses typically include residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, hospitals, convalescent homes, and retirement homes. The closest sensitive populations are several residences and a senior citizens home.

Short-Term Construction Emissions and Exposure

Although construction of the Project would result in associated air pollutants, these increases are not concentrated and are well below significance thresholds as shown under discussion b) above. Construction activities would be short-term and intermittent in nature and would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. In addition, adherence to standard dust control and construction BMPs would be required as part of the Project's Construction Management Plan. Further, avoidance and minimization measures **AQ-1** through **AQ-3** would be implemented to reduce any potential impacts. Therefore, Project effects would be considered **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**.

Long-Term Operational Emissions and Exposure

Operation of the facility would not result in a significant increase in long-term substantial pollutant concentrations as shown under discussion b) above. Therefore, no impact due to operation of the facility would occur.

d) **Less Than Significant.** The Project would have a less than significant impact related to exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and creating objectionable odors. Some phases of construction, particularly asphalt paving, would result in short-term odors in the immediate area of each paving site(s). Such odors would be quickly dispersed below detectable thresholds as distance from the site(s) increases. With implementation of avoidance and minimization measures **AQ-1** and **AQ-3**, impacts related to other emissions such as nuisance odors are **Less than Significant.**

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

All of the construction impacts to air quality are short-term in duration and, therefore, will not result in adverse or long-term impacts. Implementation of the following avoidance and minimization measures will further minimize any air quality impacts resulting from construction activities to Less than Significant:

AQ-1: The contractor shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations related to air quality, including air pollution control district and air quality management district regulations and local ordinances.

AQ-2: Construction of the project would comply with the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Rule 403—Fugitive Dust.

AQ-3: The construction contractor shall implement control measures to reduce emissions of NO_X, ROG, and PM10. The contractor shall:

- Minimize idling time to 5 minutes when construction equipment is not in use, unless per engine manufacturer's specifications or for safety reasons more time is required.
- To the extent practicable, manage operation of heavy-duty equipment to reduce emissions such as maintaining heavy-duty earthmoving, stationary and mobile equipment in optimum running conditions.
- Use electric equipment when feasible.
- Properly maintain equipment according to manufacturers' specifications.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to air quality with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization mitigation measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to air quality beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 Wildlife 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): Valley Boulevard Widening Project Biological Resources Technical Report (2022)

Regulatory Setting

Federal Regulations

This section describes the following federal regulations that are applicable to the proposed Project: the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 (16 United States Code Section

1531 et seq.), Executive Order (EO) 13112 (Prevention and Control of Invasive Species), and EO 13186 (Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)).

Federal Endangered Species Act

The FESA of 1973 (16 United States Code Section 1531 et seq.) provides for the conservation of endangered and threatened species listed pursuant to Section 4 of the FESA (16 United States Code section 1533) and the ecosystems upon which they depend. These species and resources have been identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service. Compliance under FESA, for impacts to Federally listed species, will occur through the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP).

Executive Order 13112: Prevention and Control of Invasive Species

EO 13112 (signed February 3, 1999) directs all federal agencies to prevent and control introductions of invasive species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. The EO requires consideration of invasive species in environmental analyses, including their identification and distribution, their potential impacts, and measures to prevent or eradicate them.

Executive Order 13186: Migratory Bird Treaty Act

EO 13186 (signed January 10, 2001) directs each federal agency taking actions that could adversely affect migratory bird populations to work with USFWS to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will promote the conservation of migratory bird populations. Protocols developed under the MOU will include the following agency responsibilities:

- avoid and minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, adverse impacts on migratory bird resources when conducting agency actions;
- restore and enhance habitat of migratory birds, as practicable; and
- prevent or abate the pollution or detrimental alteration of the environment for the benefit of migratory birds, as practicable.

The EO is designed to assist federal agencies in their efforts to comply with the MBTA (50 Code of Federal Regulations 10 and 21) and does not constitute any legal authorization to take migratory birds. Take is defined under the MBTA as “the action of or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, capture, collect, or kill” (50 Code of Federal Regulations 10.12) and includes intentional take (i.e., take that is the purpose of the activity in question) and unintentional take (i.e., take that results from, but is not the purpose of, the activity in question).

State Regulations

This section describes the following State of California regulations that are applicable to the proposed Project: CEQA (California Public Resources Code (PRC), Sections 21000 – 21178, and Title 14 CCR, Section 753, and Chapter 3, Sections 15000 – 15387), the California Endangered Species Act (CESA; California Fish and Game (CFG) Code Sections 2050-2116), CFG Code Section 3503 and 3503.5, and CFG Code Section 3513.

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA is a California state law created to inform governmental decision-makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities and to work to reduce these negative environmental impacts. The City is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed Project.

California Endangered Species Act

The CESA (CFG Code Section 2050 et seq.) requires the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to establish a list of endangered and threatened species (Section 2070) and to prohibit the incidental taking of any such listed species except as allowed by the Act (Sections 2080-2089). In addition, CESA prohibits take of candidate species (under consideration for listing).

CESA also requires CDFW to comply with CEQA when evaluating incidental take permit applications (CFG Code Section 2081(b) and California Code Regulations, Title 14, section 783.0 et seq.), and the potential impacts the project or activity for which the application was submitted may have on the environment. CDFW's CEQA obligations include consultation with other public agencies which have jurisdiction over the proposed project or activity (California Code Regulations, Title 14, Section 783.5(d)(3)). CDFW cannot issue an incidental take permit if issuance would jeopardize the continued existence of the species (CFG Code Section 2081(c); California Code Regulations, Title 14, Section 783.4(b)). Compliance under CESA, for impacts to State listed species, will occur through the MSHCP.

Sections 3503 and 3503.5: Birds and Raptors

CFG Code Section 3503 prohibits the destruction of bird nests and Section 3503.5 prohibits the killing of raptor species and destruction of raptor nests. Trees and shrubs are present in and adjacent to the Project area and could contain active nests during the nesting bird season.

Section 3513: Migratory Birds

CFG Code Section 3513 prohibits the take or possession of any migratory non-game bird as designated in the MBTA or any part of such migratory non-game bird except as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the MBTA.

Local Regulations

Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Statewide, multi-jurisdictional comprehensive habitat conservation planning efforts were initiated under the umbrella of the Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) Act of 1991. The NCCP program creates a process for the issuance of Federal and State permits and other authorizations under FESA and CESA, and the state's NCCP. The Riverside County NCCP region is composed of two subregional multiple habitat/multiple species planning programs. The Project area is located within the MSHCP, Sun City, Menifee Valley Plan Area, and therefore the Project must comply with the MSHCP.

The MSHCP is a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plan (HCP) focused on the conservation of species and their associated habitats in western Riverside County. The goal

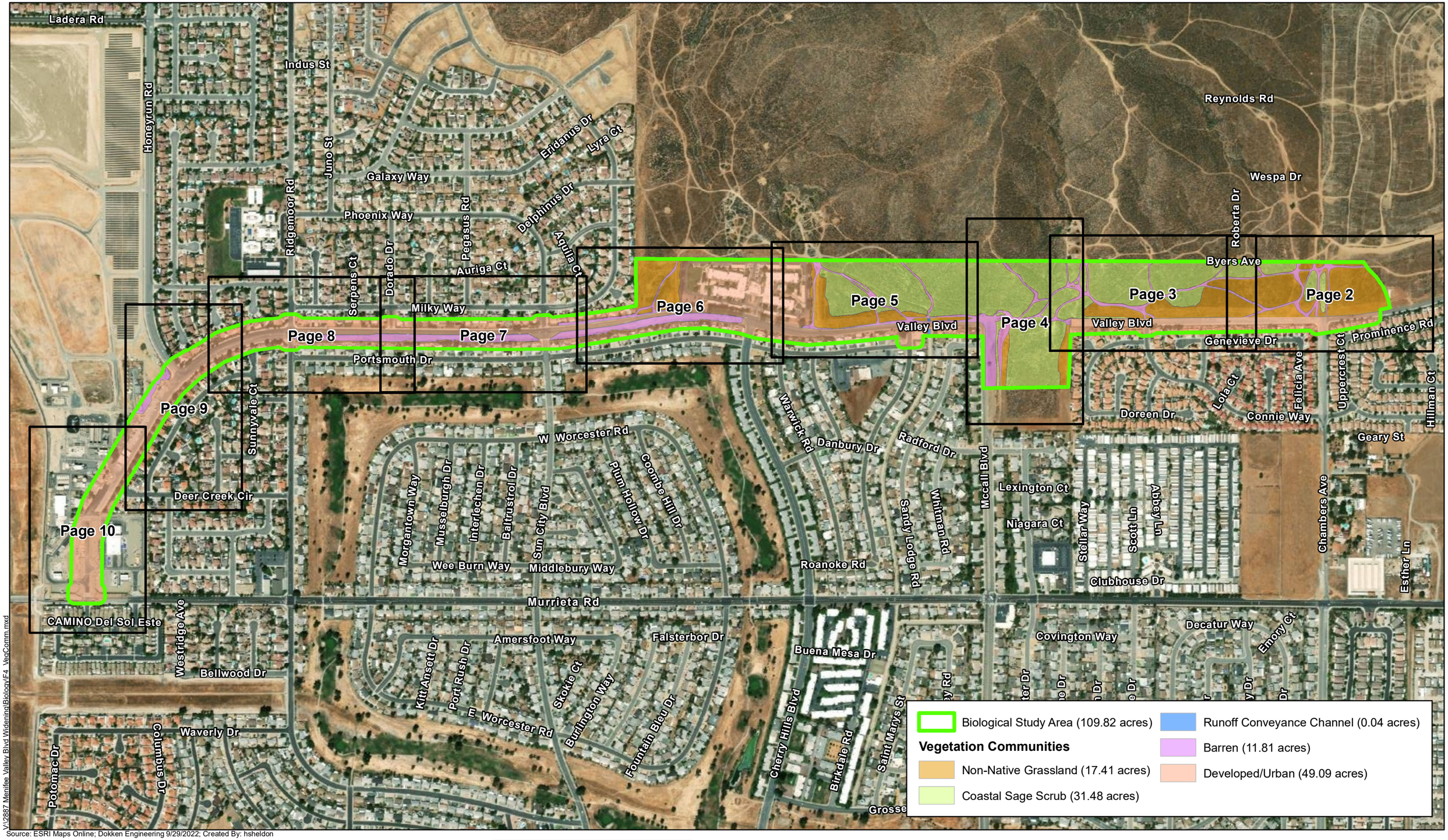
of the plan is to maintain biological and ecological diversity through conservation of open space and 146 covered species. The MSHCP serves as an HCP pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of FESA, as well as a NCCP under the NCCP Act of 2001. The approval of the MSHCP and execution of the Implementing Agreement by the wildlife agencies allows participating jurisdictions to authorize "take" of all plant and wildlife species covered by the MSHCP. Therefore, compliance with the requirements of Section 6.0 of the MSHCP is intended to provide full mitigation under CEQA, FESA, and CESA for impacts to the species and habitats covered by the MSHCP pursuant to agreements with the resource agencies. The Project is within the MSHCP Plan Fee Area and outside of Criteria Cells, therfore a joint project review under the Regional Conservation Authoirty is not required (MSHCP 2003).

Affected Environment

The Project Area was defined as the area of direct impacts and is approximately 61.7 acres in area. Prior to field surveys, a Biological Study Area (BSA) was defined as the area required for Project activities, plus an approximate 300-foot buffer to account for adjacent biological resources and potential changes in Project design. From north to south, the BSA measures approximately 1.8 miles, and from east to west, the BSA ranges from approximately 230 feet to 970 feet at its widest point. The total area of the BSA is approximately 109.82 acres. The BSA is located in the western portion of the City, approximately 1.46 miles west of Interstate 215. The northern portion of the BSA is located at Chambers Avenue and Valley Boulevard and goes south toward the intersection of Valley Boulevard and Murrieta Road. The BSA is partially within a developed residential area and partially within an undeveloped area. Vegetation communities within the BSA include developed/urban, barren, non-native grassland, coastal sage scrub, and one storm drain (Figure 4. Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area).

a) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Plant and animal species have special status if they have been listed as such by federal or State agencies or by one or more special interest groups, such as the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Prior to field surveys, literature searches were conducted using the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation, the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), and the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory to identify regionally sensitive species with potential to occur within the BSA (Appendix C. USFWS, CDFW, and CNPS Special Status Species Table).

On May 10, 2022, Dokken Engineering biologists Hanna Sheldon and Clare Favro surveyed the Project BSA in order to document existing biological resources and evaluate habitat that may support special status species. Additionally, focused coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) surveys were conducted by USFWS-permitted 10(a)(1)(A) biologists Christine Tischer and Shannan Shaffer, in accordance with the *1997 Coastal California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines* published by the USFWS (USFWS 1997). A total of six surveys were conducted from April 22, 2022, through May 27, 2022, within a 500-foot buffer from Project limits (ECORP 2022a). Furthermore, focused Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR) surveys were conducted by Dr. Philip Brylski, permitted under a CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit and a USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) for SKR. Small mammal traps were deployed and check from August 10, 2022, through August 13, 2022. Surveying was concentrated in the northern limits of the Project area, where there is suitable habitat for SKR (ECORP 2022b).



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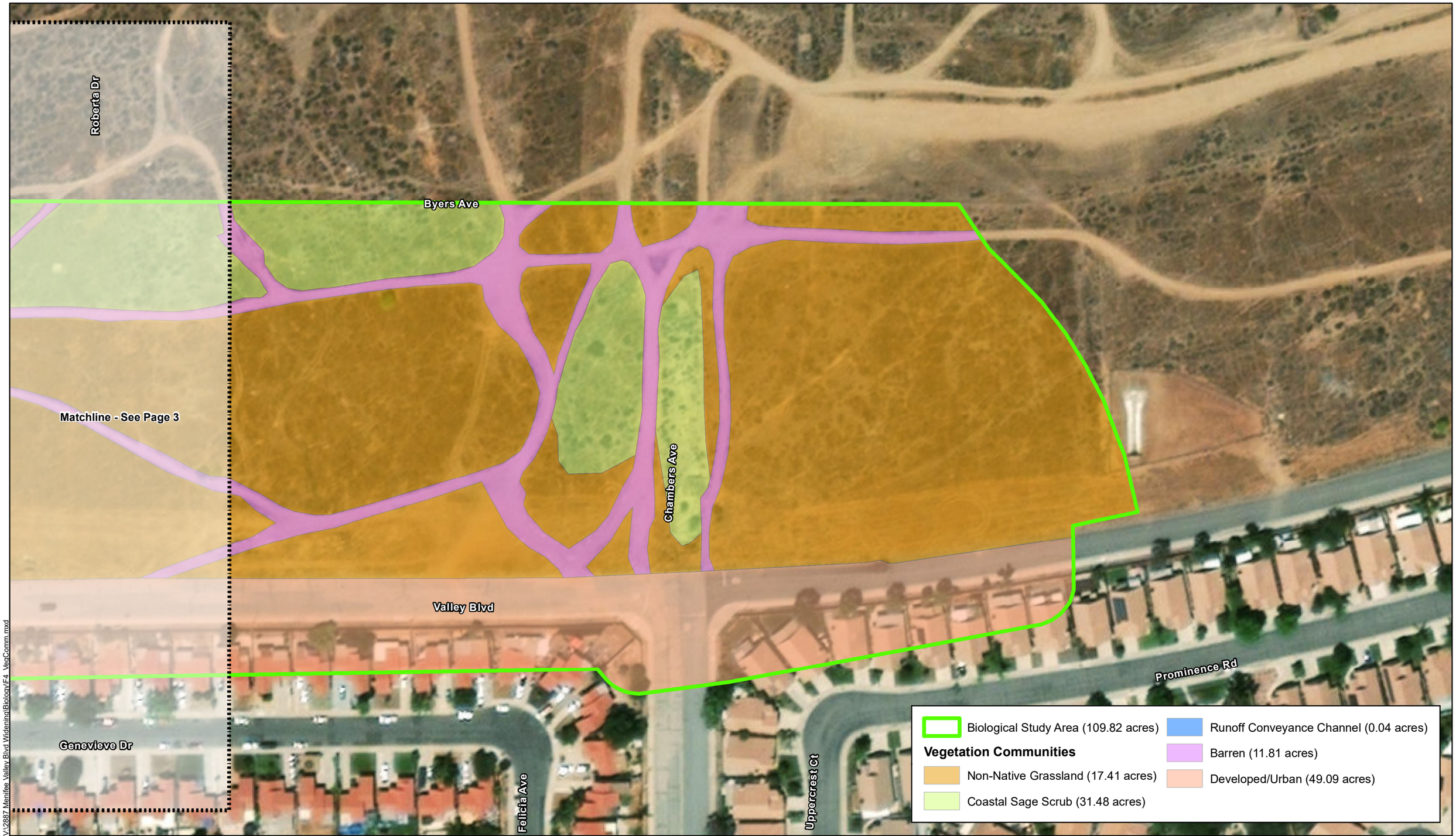
Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 675 feet

0 675 1,350 2,025 2,700 3,375 Feet

Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 1 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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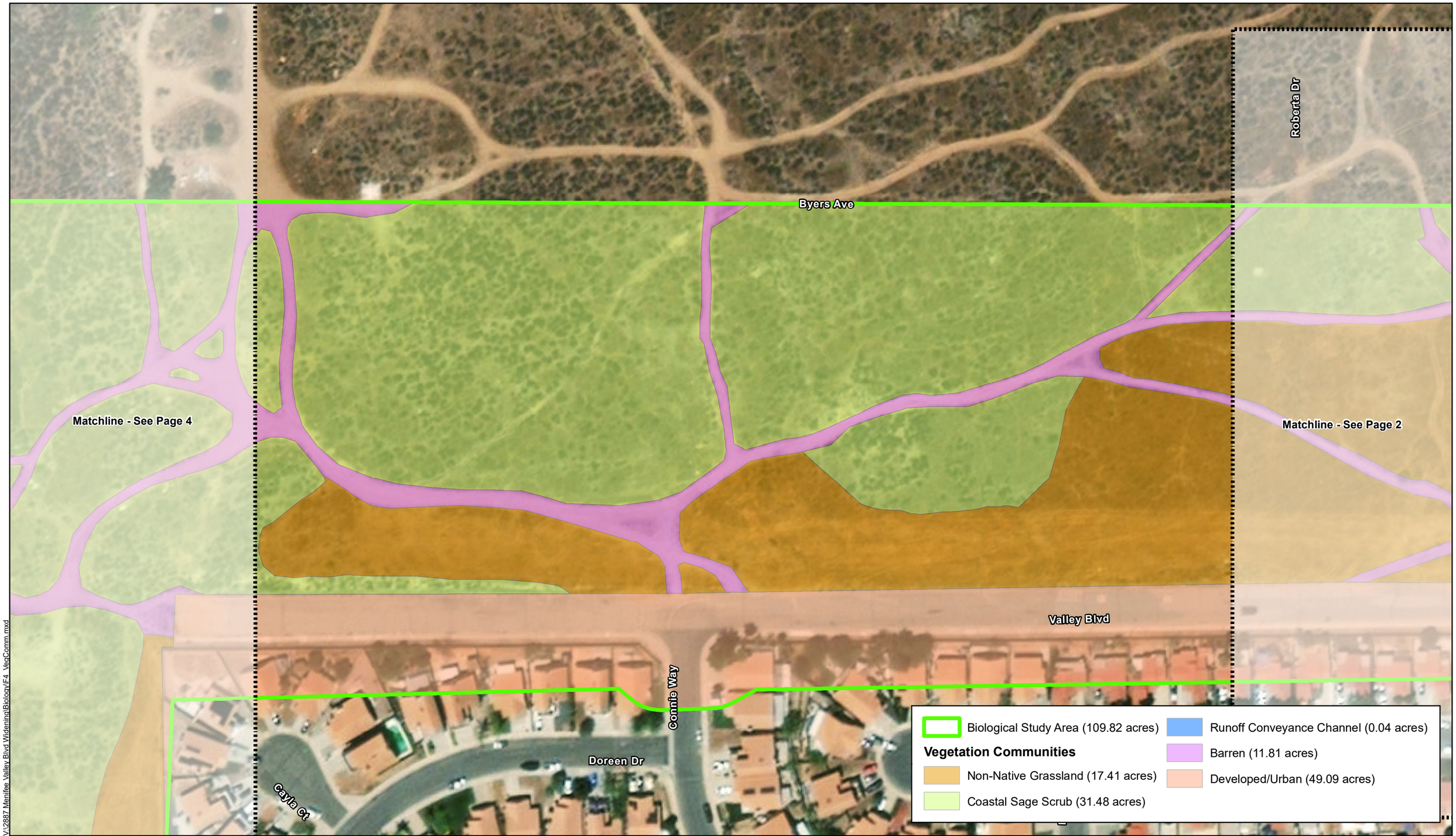
Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 2 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

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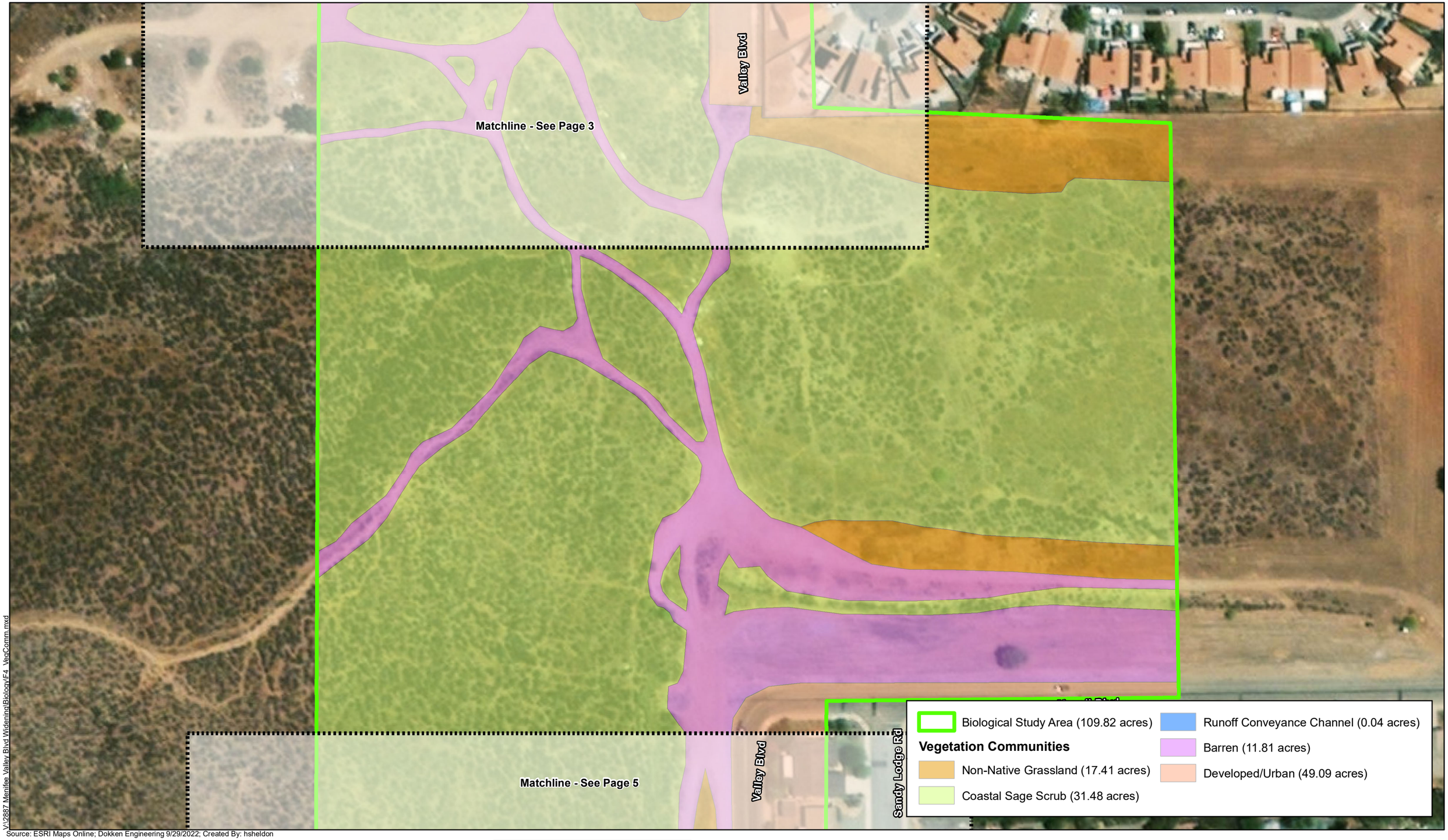
Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 3 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

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Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 4 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 5 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

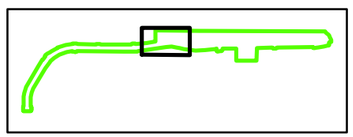
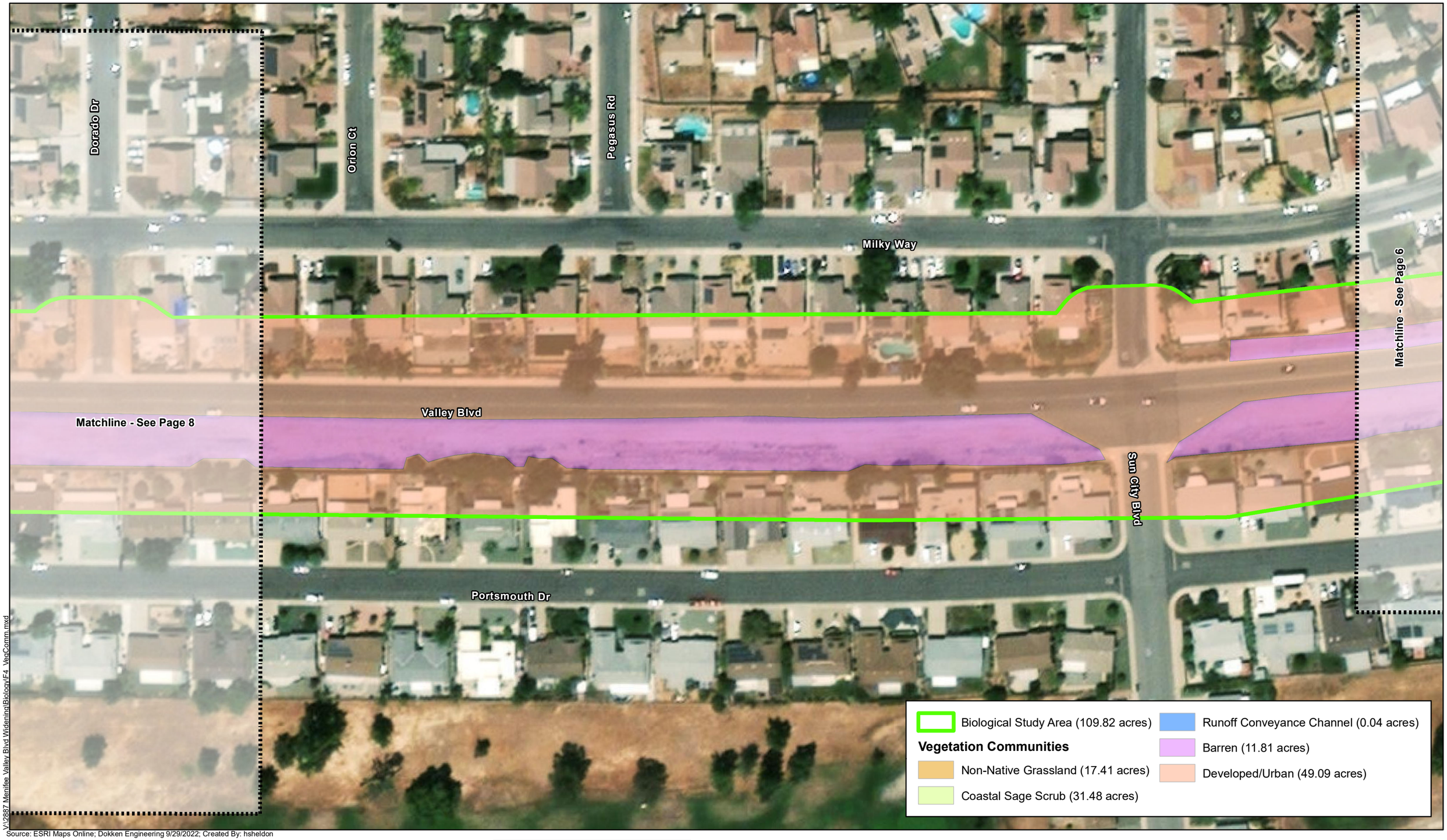


Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 6 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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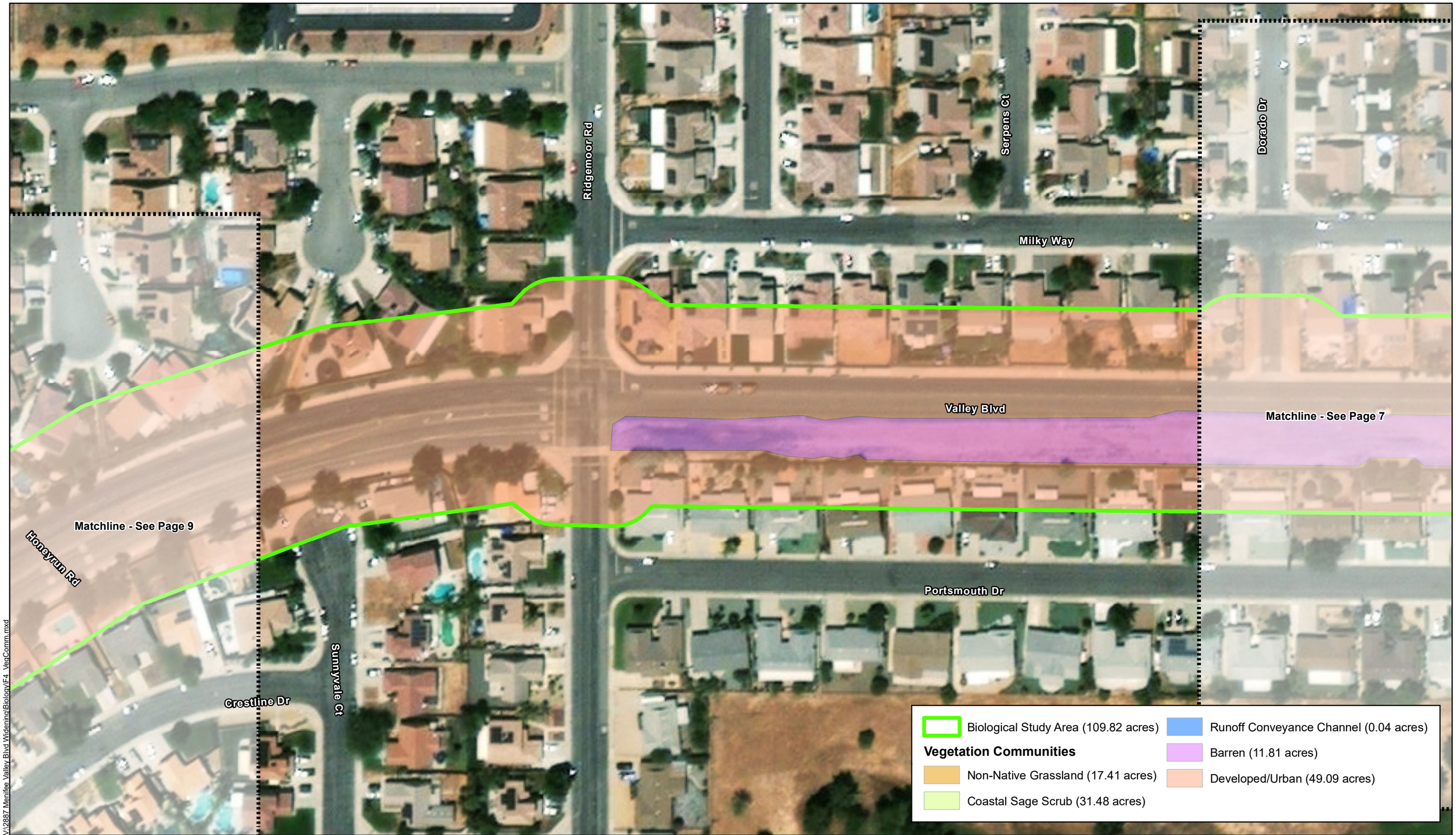
Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 7 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

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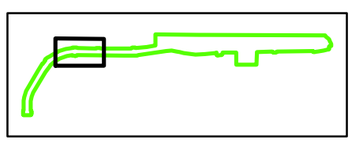

Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 8 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 9 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/29/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

Figure 4
Vegetation Communities within the Biological Study Area
Page 10 of 10
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

A total of eight special status species were determined to have the potential to occur within the BSA. Three of those species were observed within the BSA during biological surveys and were determined to be present: CAGN (*Polioptila californica californica*), SKR (*Dipodomys stephensi*), and northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*). Additionally, two species have a high potential to occur: Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi*) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Finally, three species have a low to moderate potential to occur within the BSA: western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*), California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*), and Dulzura pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus femoralis*). The Project area includes coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat, which provide potentially suitable habitat for these special status species.

Special status species habitat (coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland) will be temporarily impacted during construction to accommodate movement of large equipment and allow for adequate access around Project features. Additionally, special status species habitat will be permanently impacted by the Project as a result of roadway widening and paving for sidewalk installation. Avoidance and Minimization Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-5** (as described below) will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat within the BSA. Additionally, following the completion of construction, all temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions per Mitigation Measure **BIO-6**. Avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-7** through **BIO-17** (as described below) will be implemented throughout the Project to avoid and minimize impacts to all other special status species in the Project area. With implementation of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-17**, impacts would be **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**.

b) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Within the BSA, coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat has been identified as the only sensitive habitat/natural communities of special concern. These habitats are considered sensitive since they are known to support populations of CAGN and SKR. The BSA contains approximately 31.48 acres of coastal sage scrub and approximately 17.41 acres of non-native grassland, located west of Valley Boulevard.

Approximately 1.06 acres of coastal sage scrub and approximately 1.76 acres of non-native grassland will be temporarily impacted during construction to accommodate movement of large equipment and allow for adequate access around Project features. Additionally, approximately 1.00 acre of coastal sage scrub and approximately 2.48 acres of non-native grassland will be permanently impacted by the Project as a result of roadway widening and paving for sidewalk installation (Table 6. Impacts to Sensitive Habitats; Figure 5. Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities). Following the completion of construction, all temporary impact areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions per Mitigation Measure **BIO-6**. With implementation of these mitigation efforts, impacts would be **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.**

Table 6. Impacts to Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive Habitat Type	Impact (acres)	
	Temporary	***Permanent***
Coastal sage scrub	1.06 acres	1.00 acre
Non-native Grassland	1.76 acres	2.48 acres
Total Impacts	2.82 acres	3.48 acres

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Biological Study Area (109.82 acres)

ESA Fence

Vegetation Communities

Non-native Grassland (17.41 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (31.48 acres)

Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities

Permanent Impacts

Non-native Grassland (2.48 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.0 acre)

Temporary Imapcts

Non-native Grassland (1.76 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.06 acres)

Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

Wespa Dr

Roberta Dr

Chambers Ave

yers Ave

Valley Blvd

Portsmouth Dr

Roanoke Rd

Sandy Lodge Rd

Iccall Blvd

Hartwick Rd

Winthrop Ct

Cayla Ct

Tyler Ct

Monica Way

Doreen Dr

Lola Ct

Leah Ln

Felicia Ave

Connie Way

Genevieve Dr

Roslene Dr

Prominence Rd

Uppercrest Ct

Geary St

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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/21/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 280 feet

0 280 560 840 1,120 1,400 Feet

Figure 5
Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities
Page 1 of 4
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

Biological Study Area (109.82 acres)

ESA Fence

Vegetation Communities

Non-native Grassland (17.41 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (31.48 acres)

Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities

Permanent Impacts

Non-native Grassland (2.48 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.0 acre)

Temporary Imapcts

Non-native Grassland (1.76 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.06 acres)

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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/21/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

Figure 5
Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities
Page 2 of 4
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

Biological Study Area (109.82 acres)

ESA Fence

Vegetation Communities

Non-native Grassland (17.41 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (31.48 acres)

Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities

Permanent Impacts

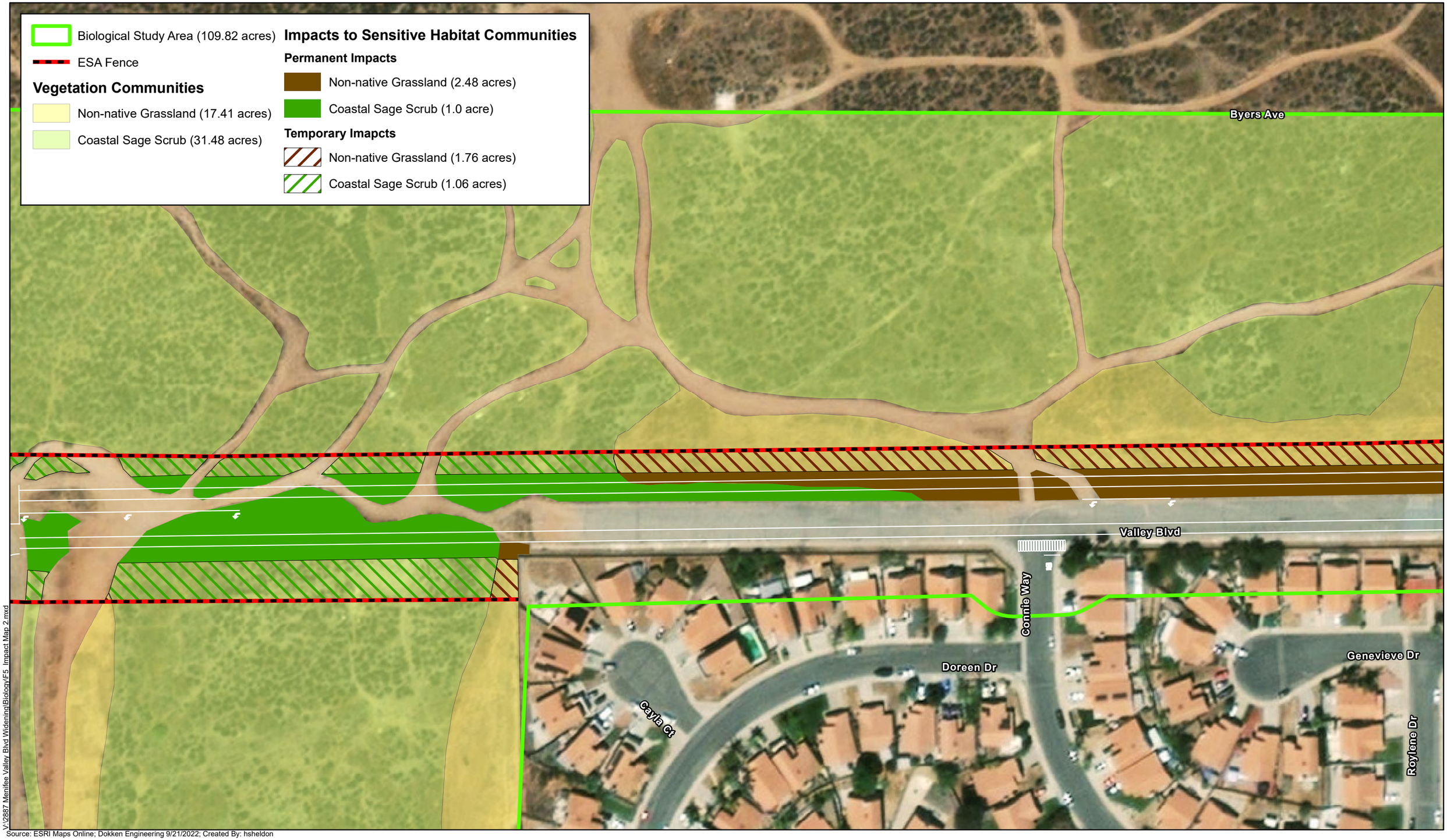
Non-native Grassland (2.48 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.0 acre)

Temporary Imapcts

Non-native Grassland (1.76 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.06 acres)



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/21/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

Figure 5
Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities
Page 3 of 4
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

Biological Study Area (109.82 acres)

ESA Fence

Vegetation Communities

Non-native Grassland (17.41 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (31.48 acres)

Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities

Permanent Impacts

Non-native Grassland (2.48 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.00 acre)

Temporary Imapcts

Non-native Grassland (1.76 acres)

Coastal Sage Scrub (1.06 acres)

Valley Blvd

Genevieve Dr

Roylene Dr

Felicia Ave

Chambers Ave

Uppercrest Ct

Prominence Rd

V:\2887 Menifee Valley Blvd Widening\Biology\F5_Impact Map 2.mxd

Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 9/21/2022; Created By: hsheldon

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

Figure 5
Impacts to Sensitive Habitat Communities
Page 4 of 4
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

c) **No Impact.** There were no State or federally protected wetlands identified within the BSA during biological surveys. The BSA does contain approximately 365 linear feet of a man-made storm drain. The channel is concrete lined and does not provide any suitable habitat for wildlife. The storm drain canal is owned and operated by Riverside County Flood Control and only carries storm water runoff during high rain events. During the May 2022 biological survey, the storm drain was determined to be a non-jurisdictional feature given its lack of connectivity to other water bodies. Due to the lack of State or federally protected wetlands within the BSA, **No Impact** is anticipated.

d) **No Impact**. The CDFW Biogeographic Information & Observation System (CDFW 2022a) was reviewed to determine if the BSA is located within an Essential Connectivity Area. The BSA is within an area of Terrestrial Connectivity Rank 1 – Limited connectivity opportunity. This ranking indicates that land use within the region, including urbanization, limits opportunities for habitat connectivity and no connectivity importance has been assigned to this region. Due to this low ranking and the given that the Project will close a gap within an existing roadway, implementation of the Project would not impact any existing habitat connectivity networks or result in further habitat fragmentation. There would be **No Impact.**

e) **No Impact.** Riverside County's Oak Tree Management Guidelines, County Ordinance No. 559, and General Plan Policies OS 9.3 and 9.4 regulate tree removal. There are no oak trees or other trees of special concern on-site. The Project will comply with the Western Riverside MSHCP, County General Plan Policies for protection of biological resources, and all other guidelines and regulations applicable to the Project. There would be **No Impact.**

f) **No Impact.** The Project is located within the Western Riverside County MSHCP boundary and is considered a Covered Project by the Western Riverside County MSHCP. Although specimens of SKR were observed within the vicinity, the RCHCA has a Section 10A permit granted by US Fish and Wildlife Service for take of SKR. Furthermore, the project is outside of the SKR fee area; therefore, no further actions for SKR are necessary. The Project will implement all applicable policies and practices required by the Western Riverside County MSHCP and there would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The following avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-5** will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat within the BSA.

BIO-1: Every individual working on the Project will attend a biological awareness training session delivered by the Project biologist. This training session will include information regarding the biological resources occurring within the Project area, the importance of avoiding impacts to these resources, and pertinent environmental permit requirements that will be implemented/observed by construction personnel.

BIO-2: Prior to the start of construction activities, the Project limits within proximity to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat will be marked with high visibility Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) fencing or staking to ensure construction will not further encroach into sensitive habitat communities.

BIO-3: Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into Project design and Project management to minimize impacts on the environment including erosion and the release of pollutants (e.g. oils, fuels):

- Exposed soils and material stockpiles would be stabilized, through watering or other measures, to prevent the movement of dust at the Project site caused by wind and construction activities such as traffic and grading activities;
- All construction roadway areas would be properly protected to prevent excess erosion
- All vehicle and equipment fueling/maintenance would be conducted outside of any sensitive habitat;
- All construction materials would be hauled off-site after completion of construction.

BIO-4: Vehicle maintenance, staging and storing equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants, solvents, and other possible contaminants will remain outside of sensitive habitat (coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland).

BIO-5: A chemical spill kit will be kept onsite and available for use in the event of a spill.

(*BIO-6 is a mitigation measure and found below under Mitigation Measures***)**

Parry's spineflower is not a State or Federally listed species and take authorization is not required. However, this species is covered under the Western Riverside MSHCP. Therefore, if the species is discovered within the Project impact area, the species will be protected in place, where feasible, and Avoidance and Minimization Measure **BIO-7** will be implemented.

BIO-7: If Parry's spineflower is identified within the temporary impact area, the species will be protected in place with ESA fencing, where feasible. ESA fence installation will be completed under the direction of the Project biologist.

The following avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-8** and **BIO-9** will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to Coastal California Gnatcatcher and other nesting birds within the BSA.

BIO-8: If feasible, clearing and grubbing within coastal sage scrub habitat will occur outside of coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) breeding season (March 1 to August 15). If clearing and grubbing must occur within the breeding season, the Project biologist will first inspect the vegetation immediately prior to removal and monitor during initial vegetation clearing as appropriate. If an active coastal California gnatcatcher nest is discovered, the Project biologist will take reasonable steps to avoid direct mortality of the species, such as relocating the nest or taking the nest to a local wildlife rehabilitation center to increase the chance of survival of the offspring.

BIO-9: Prior to vegetation removal or initial ground disturbance during the nesting bird season (February 1 to September 30), a pre-construction nesting bird survey of the Project area will be conducted by a Project biologist prior to the start of work. Survey methods will include inspecting trees, shrubs, and the ground with binoculars for signs of active nests or nesting behavior. The survey area will include the area of direct impact plus a 50-foot buffer. Within 72 hours of the nesting bird survey, all areas surveyed by the biologist will be cleared by the Contractor or a supplemental nesting bird survey is required.

A 50-foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any active nest of migratory birds or raptors, unless applicable "take" coverage of the species has been acquired for the Project or the species is covered under the MSHCP (e.g., Coastal California gnatcatcher, burrowing owl). The Contractor will immediately stop work in the buffer area and is prohibited from conducting work that could disturb the birds (as determined by the Project biologist and in coordination with wildlife agencies) in the buffer area until the Project biologist determines the young have fledged. A reduced buffer can be established if determined appropriate by the Project biologist, in coordination with CDFW.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures **BIO-10** through **BIO-13** will be incorporated to avoid direct impacts to western spadefoot.

BIO-10: Vehicle traffic and construction equipment will observe a 15-mile-per-hour speed limit while on the Project site.

BIO-11: All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures that are stored in the Project area for one or more overnight periods will be either securely capped prior to storage or thoroughly inspected by the contractor and/or the Project biologist for special status wildlife species or other animals before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way.

BIO-12: To prevent inadvertent entrapment of special status wildlife species or other animals during construction, the Project biologist and/or construction foreman/manager will ensure that all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than six inches deep are provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals by the Project biologist and/or construction foreman/manager.

BIO-13: The work period within the Project area will be restricted to periods of low rainfall (less than ¼-inch per 24-hour period) and periods of dry weather (with less than a 50% chance of rain). The Permittee and contractor will monitor the National Weather Service 72-hour forecast for the Project area. No work will occur during a dry-out period of 24 hours after the above referenced wet weather.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures **BIO-14** through **BIO-16** will be implemented to avoid impacts to the Dulzura pocket mouse to the greatest extent feasible.

BIO-14: All food-related trash will be disposed of in closed containers and will be removed from the Project area daily. Construction personnel will not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the Project area.

BIO-15: The contractor will not apply rodenticide or herbicide within the Project area during construction.

BIO-16: If any wildlife is encountered during the course of construction, said wildlife will be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure **BIO-17** will be incorporated into the Project plans to ensure invasive species are not introduced or spread at the Project site.

BIO-17: Prior to arrival at the Project site and prior to leaving the Project site, construction equipment that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds will be cleaned to reduce the spreading of noxious weeds.

Mitigation Measures

In addition to avoidance and minimization measures, the Project will implement the following mitigation measure **BIO-6** to compensate for temporary impacts to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat.

BIO-6: Following the completion of construction, all temporarily impacted areas will be re-graded to pre-construction conditions and final erosion control measures will be implemented, including a seed mix of native, local species.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated relating to biological resources with incorporation of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to biological resources beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source(s): Menifee Valley Boulevard Widening Project Memorandum (October 2022)

Regulatory Setting

The CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a), and the PRC 5024(a)(b) and (d) require consideration of potential project impacts to "unique" archaeological sites that do not qualify as historical resources. The statutory requirements for unique archaeological sites that do not qualify as historical resources are established in PRC Section 21083.2. These two PRC sections operate independently to ensure that significant potential impacts on historical and archaeological resources are considered as part of a CEQA project's environmental analysis. Historical resources, as defined in the CEQA regulations, include:

1) Cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register);
2) Cultural resources included in a local register of historical resources;
3) Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in one of several historic themes important to California history and development.

Under CEQA, a project may have a significant effect on the environment if the project could result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, meaning the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource would be materially impaired. This would include any action that would demolish or adversely alter the physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historic significance and qualify it for inclusion in the California Register or in a local register or survey that meets the requirements of PRC Section 5020.1(l) and 5024.1(g). PRC Section 5024 also requires state agencies to identify and protect state-owned resources that meet National Register of Historic Place (National Register) listing criteria. Sections 5024(f) and 5024.5 require state agencies to provide notice to and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office before altering, transferring, relocation, or demolishing state-owned historical resources that are listed on or are eligible for inclusion in the National Register or are registered or eligible for registration as California Historical Landmarks. Also, CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines also recommend provisions be made for the accidental discovery of

archaeological sites, historical resources, or Native American human remains during construction (PRC Section 21083.2(i) CCR Section 15064.5(d and f)).

Affected Environment

The Project Area Limits (PAL) includes all ground-disturbing activities and staging areas required for the construction of the roadway widening and gap closures. This includes the construction of medians, turn lanes, traffic signals, sidewalks, bike lanes, pavement rehabilitation, new roadway, construction access, and staging areas. The horizontal PAL extends along Menifee Valley Boulevard between Murrieta Road and Chambers Avenue. The horizontal PAL for the Project is approximately 62 acres (Figure 6. Project Area Limits). The vertical extent of the PAL is 2 feet below ground surface to accommodate all roadway construction and utility work. Construction of any landscaping walls will require work up to 8 feet deep. North of McCall Boulevard along Valley Boulevard, there is a hill that will be graded to complete a gap closure and connect Valley Boulevard. The vertical PAL at that location will extend up to 13.5 feet deep.

a) **No Impact**. Efforts to identify potential historical resources in the PAL include background research, a search of site records and survey reports on file at the Eastern Information Center (EIC), efforts to coordinate with Native American representatives, and a pedestrian ground surface inventory. A records search of the PAL and a 1-mile study area buffer was requested from the EIC on April 12, 2022. No previously recorded cultural resources have been identified within the PAL.

On June 15, 2022, Dokken Engineering archaeologist Michelle Campbell conducted a ground surface inventory of the PAL. Five-meter-wide pedestrian transects were used along the PAL in the unpaved areas. All cut banks, burrow holes, and other exposed sub-surface areas were visually inspected for the presence of archaeological resources, soil color change, and/or staining that could indicate past human activity or buried deposits.

The pedestrian ground surface inventory survey did not identify any archaeological sites, features, or artifacts during the June 15, 2022 surface inventory. The ground surface throughout the PAL ranged significantly including bare shoulder, recently plowed, landscaped, and various levels of grass and vegetation coverage or gravel that created variable surface visibility. The majority (75%) of the PAL had approximately 75-100 percent while the remaining 25% had 25-50% visibility.

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted with a request for a Sacred Lands File Search on April 12, 2022. The request to the NAHC seeks to identify any Native American cultural resources within or adjacent to the project area. Negative results were returned on May 17, 2022. Further discussion regarding Native American consultation is included in Section XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.

As no cultural resources were observed during the course of the survey, there are no historic properties documented within the PAL; therefore, there were no historic properties or historical resources within the PAL. Listing or eligibility for inclusion in the National Register or California Register is the primary consideration in determining whether cultural resources (i.e., districts, sites, buildings, structures, and object) qualify as “historic properties” or “historical resources”. As such, a finding of no historic properties or historical resources affected for the proposed Project is recommended at this time. This would result in the project having no adverse effect on historical resources as defined by §15064.5. **No Impact** would occur.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact**. Current knowledge of the geomorphic history of the region provides a strong basis for assessing the potential for discovering buried archaeological sites. Efforts to identify potential archaeological resources in the PAL were conducted and included background research, a search of site records and survey reports on file at the EIC, coordination with Native American representatives, and a pedestrian surface survey.

The Project is located in the City of Menifee, in Menifee Valley. Menifee Valley is a north/south-trending corridor. Canyon Lake is approximately 5 miles to the west and Diamond Valley Reservoir is approximately 7 miles to the east. The Project is situated at an elevation of approximately 1,500 feet above sea level. Mineral hot springs are common to this area as geologic activity associated with the Valley's Elsinore Fault Zone pushes heated water to the surface from deep below the ground (Norris and Webb 1990).

The region is characterized by granitic bedrock hills and inselbergs and intermediate Quaternary alluvial valleys. These areas are located near the northern end of the Peninsular Ranges physiographic province of southern California within the Perris Block, a portion of the southern California batholith (a massive geological intrusion of granite rock that was formed in the late Cretaceous Period and uplifted in the early Tertiary Period), which is bound to the southwest by the Elsinore fault zone and on the northeast by the San Jacinto fault zone. Cretaceous-age rocks of the Peninsular Range batholiths, and older metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks of probable Mesozoic-age, underlie the region. Granitic bedrock is very much exposed on the hill slopes and inselbergs surrounding the Project area, and also occurs as small to large isolated outcrops on the valley floor areas. Many of the granitic bedrock exposures and outcrops scattered throughout the region were utilized prehistorically by Native American groups as bedrock milling areas for the processing of local biotic resources. Local granitic materials were also regularly used for the production of prehistoric ground stone implements. Metasedimentary rocks conducive for the production of flaked stone artifacts, such as fine-grained quartzite, can also be found near the Project area in the Bedford Canyon Formation, portions of which are exposed in the hills surrounding Domenigoni and Diamond valleys immediately south and east from the Project area. Other lithic materials locally available for the production of flaked and/or ground stone tools include (i.e., white, milky, or vein) quartz, crystalline quartz, schist, and low-grade steatite; these materials can also be found in the hill ranges surrounding Domenigoni Valley and Diamond Valley (Goldberg et al. 2001).

The valley sediments underlying most of the Project area are mapped as Old alluvial fan deposits (late to middle Pleistocene), which are described as reddish-brown, gravel and sand alluvial deposits; indurated, commonly slightly dissected, which may be capped with a thin alluvial fan deposit of Holocene age. These deposit types commonly have an upper profile of a moderately to well-developed pedogenic soils (Morton 2003).

Prior to historic-period ranching and agriculture, natural vegetation in the area was dominated by coastal sage scrub plant communities common to the hot dry climate of coastal southern California (Munz 1974). Typical plant species within the coastal sage scrub communities include lemonade-berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), coastal sagebush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), bushrue (*Cneoridium dumosum*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). These plant species provided important food and medicinal

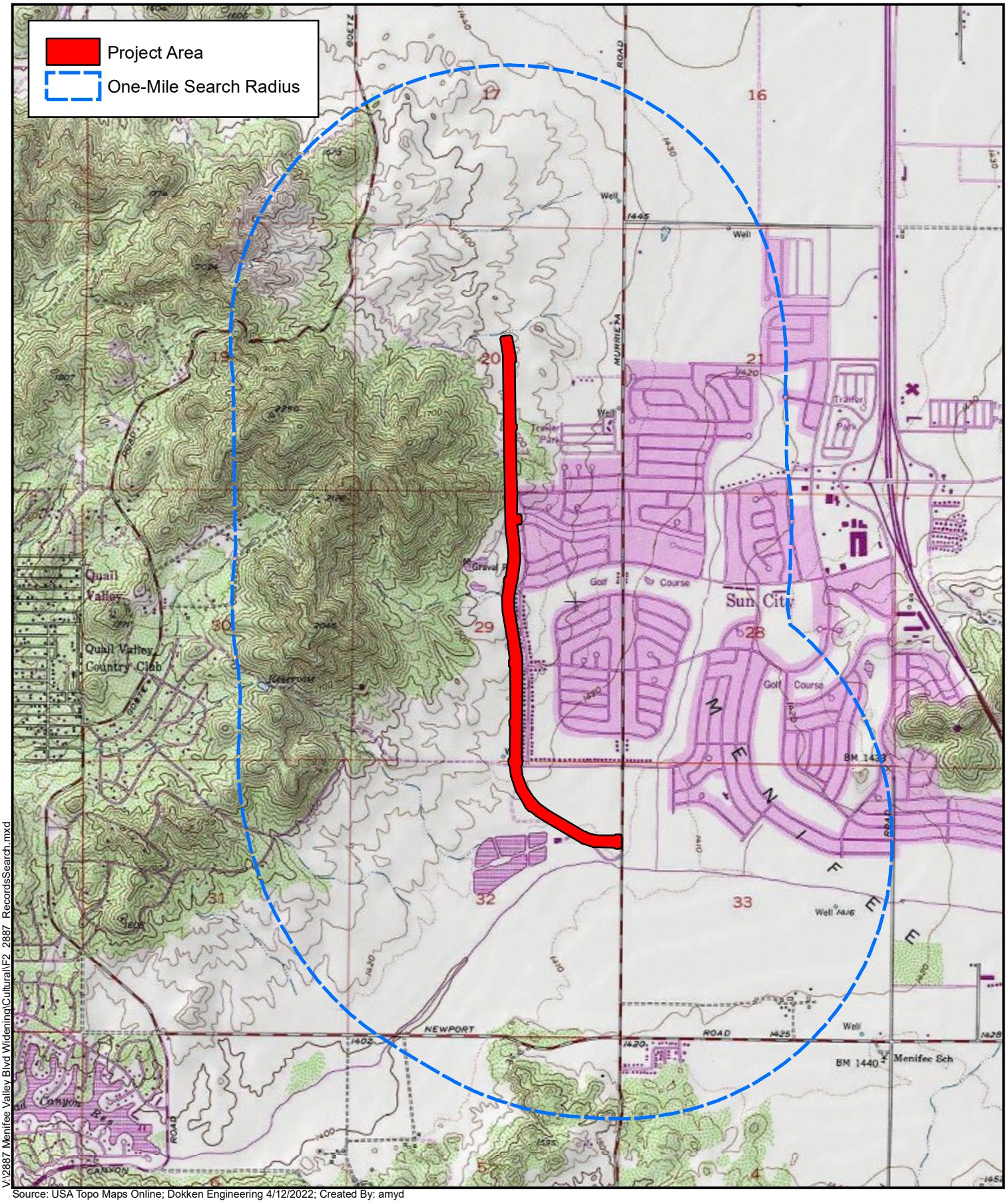
resources that could have been used by Native Americans.

Subsurface Sensitivity
Based on a review of historic mapping, geographic features, previously recorded archaeological resources, and past survey reports, overall archaeological site sensitivity in the project vicinity is low. Within the PAL, archaeological site sensitivity is also considered low due to the extensive disturbance of development throughout the PAL, lack of previously recorded archaeological resources within the PAL, and negative pedestrian survey results. Modern interchange and road construction and maintenance as well as total development surrounding the interchange likely impacted soils within the PAL and maintains the potential to encounter archaeological resources as *low*.

Current knowledge of the geomorphic history of the region provides a strong basis for assessing the potential for discovering buried archaeological sites. Soils of the Project area are mapped as Porterville clay (NRCS 2022) late to middle Pleistocene Old alluvial fan deposits (Morton 2003), which are approximately 11,700 to 129,000 years old, therefore not a significant amount of deposition has occurred to obscure visibility of archaeological resources. Also, no historic structures are mapped within the Project area, reducing the sensitivity for buried historical archaeological resources. For these reasons, the potential for the Project to impact intact buried cultural resource deposits in the PAL is *low*.

With any project requiring ground disturbance, there is always the possibility that unmarked burials may be unearthed during construction. Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to previously unknown human remains that may be unexpectedly discovered during Project implementation to a **Less than Significant** level.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact**. Disturbance to human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries is not anticipated. Furthermore, implementation of Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** would ensure impacts to undiscovered human remains remain **Less Than Significant.**



V:\2887 Menifee Valley Blvd Widening\Cultural\F2_2887_RecordsSearch.mxd

Source: USA Topo Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 4/12/2022; Created By: amyd

0 0.65 1.3 Miles

FIGURE 6
Project Area Limits
USGS 7.5-minute Quad(s): Romoland
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

Standard Conditions of Approval

COA-CUL-1 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code § 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Further, pursuant to Public Resource Code § 5097.98(b) remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made. If the Riverside County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted within the period specified by law (24 hours). Subsequently, the Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the "most likely descendant." The most likely descendant shall then make recommendations and engage in consultation concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in PRC § 5097.98.

COA-CUL-2 Non-Disclosure of Location Reburials

It is understood by all parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of Native American human remains or associated grave goods shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act. The Coroner, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r)., parties, and Lead Agencies, will be asked to withhold public disclosure information related to such reburial, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r).

COA-CUL-3 Inadvertent Archeological Find

If during ground disturbance activities, unique cultural resources are discovered that were not assessed by the archaeological report(s) and/or environmental assessment conducted prior to Project approval, the following procedures shall be followed. Unique cultural resources are defined, for this condition only, as being multiple artifacts in close association with each other, but may include fewer artifacts if the area of the find is determined to be of significance due to its sacred or cultural importance as determined in consultation with the Native American Tribe(s).

a) All ground disturbance activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resources shall be halted until a meeting is convened between the developer, the archaeologist, the tribal representative(s) and the Community Development Director to discuss the significance of the find.
b) At the meeting, the significance of the discoveries shall be discussed and after consultation with the tribal representative(s) and the archaeologist, a decision shall be made, with the concurrence of the Community Development Director, as to the appropriate mitigation (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) for the cultural resources.
c) Grading or further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of the discovery until an agreement has been reached by all parties as to the appropriate mitigation. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area and will be monitored by additional Tribal monitors, if needed.
d) Treatment and avoidance of the newly discovered resources shall be consistent with the Cultural Resources Management Plan and Monitoring Agreements entered into with the appropriate tribes. This may include avoidance of the cultural resources through Project design, in-place preservation of cultural resources located in native soils and/or re-burial on the Project property so they are not subject to further disturbance in perpetuity as identified in Non-Disclosure of Reburial Condition.

e) If the find is determined to be significant and avoidance of the site has not been achieved, a Phase III data recovery plan shall be prepared by the Project archeologist, in consultation with the Tribe, and shall be submitted to the City for their review and approval prior to implementation of the said plan.
f) Pursuant to Calif. Pub. Res. Code § 21083.2(b) avoidance is the preferred method of preservation for archaeological resources and cultural resources. If the landowner and the Tribe(s) cannot agree on the significance or the mitigation for the archaeological or cultural resources, these issues will be presented to the City Community Development Director for decision. The City Community Development Director shall make the determination based on the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act with respect to archaeological resources, recommendations of the Project archeologist and shall take into account the cultural and religious principles and practices of the Tribe. Notwithstanding any other rights available under the law, the decision of the City Community Development Director shall be appealable to the City Planning Commission and/or City Council.

COA-CUL-4 Cultural Resources Disposition

In the event that Native American cultural resources are discovered during the course of grading (inadvertent discoveries), the following procedures shall be carried out for final disposition of the discoveries:

a) One or more of the following treatments, in order of preference, shall be employed with the tribes. Evidence of such shall be provided to the City of Menifee Community Development Department:
   i. Preservation-In-Place of the cultural resources, if feasible. Preservation in place means avoiding the resources, leaving them in the place where they were found with no development affecting the integrity of the resources.
   ii. Reburial of the resources on the Project property. The measures for reburial shall include, at least, the following: Measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts in perpetuity. Reburial shall not occur until all legally required cataloging and basic recordation have been completed, with an exception that sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains are excluded. Any reburial process shall be culturally appropriate. Listing of contents and location of the reburial shall be included in the confidential Phase IV report. The Phase IV Report shall be filed with the City under a confidential cover and not subject to Public Records Request.
   iii. If preservation in place or reburial is not feasible then the resources shall be curated in a culturally appropriate manner at a Riverside County curation facility that meets State Resources Department Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Resources ensuring access and use pursuant to the Guidelines. The collection and associated records shall be transferred, including title, and are to be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation. Evidence of curation in the form of a letter from the curation facility stating that subject archaeological materials have been received and that all fees have been paid, shall be provided by the landowner to the City. There shall be no destructive or invasive testing on sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains. Results concerning finds of any inadvertent discoveries shall be included in the Phase IV monitoring report.

COA-CUL-5 Archaeologist Retained

Prior to issuance of a grading permit the Project applicant shall retain a Riverside County qualified archaeologist to monitor all ground disturbing activities in an effort to identify any unknown archaeological resources.

The Project Archaeologist and the Tribal monitor(s) shall manage and oversee monitoring for all initial ground disturbing activities and excavation of each portion of the Project site including clearing, grubbing, tree removals, mass or rough grading, trenching, stockpiling of materials, rock crushing, structure demolition and etc. The Project Archaeologist and the Tribal monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground disturbance activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources in coordination with any required special interest or tribal monitors.

The developer/permit holder shall submit a fully executed copy of the contract to the Community Development Department to ensure compliance with this condition of approval. Upon verification, the Community Development Department shall clear this condition.

In addition, the Project Archaeologist, in consultation with the Consulting Tribe(s), the contractor, and the City, shall develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) in consultation pursuant to the definition in Assembly Bill (AB) 52 to address the details, timing and responsibility of all archaeological and cultural activities that will occur on the Project site. A consulting tribe is defined as a tribe that initiated the AB 52 tribal consultation process for the Project, has not opted out of the AB 52 consultation process, and has completed AB 52 consultation with the City as provided for in Cal Pub Res Code § 21080.3.2(b)(1) of AB 52. Details in the Plan shall include:

a) Project grading and development scheduling;
b) The Project archeologist and the Consulting Tribes(s) shall attend the pre-grading meeting with the City, the construction manager and any contractors, and will conduct a mandatory Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training to those in attendance. The Training will include a brief review of the cultural sensitivity of the Project and the surrounding area; what resources could potentially be identified during earthmoving activities; the requirements of the monitoring program; the protocols that apply in the event inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources are identified, including who to contact and appropriate avoidance measures until the find(s) can be properly evaluated; and any other appropriate protocols. All new construction personnel that will conduct earthwork or grading activities that begin work on the Project following the initial Training must take the Cultural Sensitivity Training prior to beginning work and the Project archaeologist and Consulting Tribe(s) shall make themselves available to provide the training on an as-needed basis;
c) The protocols and stipulations that the contractor, City, Consulting Tribe(s) and Project archaeologist will follow in the event of inadvertent cultural resources discoveries, including any newly discovered cultural resource deposits that shall be subject to a cultural resources evaluation.

COA-CUL-6 Native American Monitoring (Pechanga)

Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified tribal monitor(s) from the Pechanga Band of Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a

signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.

COA-CUL-7 Native American Monitoring (Soboba)

Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified tribal monitor(s) from the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.

COA-CUL-8 Native American Monitoring (Agua Caliente)

Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified tribal monitor(s) from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.

COA-CUL-9 Prior to Final Occupancy Archeology Report - Phase III and IV

Prior to final inspection, the developer/permit holder shall prompt the Project Archeologist to submit two (2) copies of the Phase III Data Recovery report (if required for the Project) and the Phase IV Cultural Resources Monitoring Report that complies with the Community Development Department's requirements for such reports. The Phase IV report shall include evidence of the required cultural/historical sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the pre-grade meeting. The Community Development Department shall review the reports to determine adequate mitigation compliance. Provided the reports are adequate, the Community Development Department shall clear this condition. Once the report(s) are determined to be adequate, two (2) copies shall be submitted to the Eastern Information Center (EIC) at the University of California Riverside (UCR) and one (1) copy shall be submitted to the Consulting Tribe(s) Cultural Resources Department(s).

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to cultural resources with incorporation of the Standard Conditions of Approval listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to cultural resources beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

VI. ENERGY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): United States Environmental Protection Agency Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator

Affected Environment

Energy consumption can be measured in direct and indirect energy use. Direct energy use is the energy consumed in the actual propulsion of a vehicle using the facility. It can be measured in terms of the thermal value of the fuel (usually measured in British thermal units (BTUs) or Joules), the costs of the fuel, or the quantity of electricity used in the engine or motor. Indirect energy is defined as all the remaining energy consumed to run a transportation system, including construction energy, maintenance energy, and any substantial impacts to energy consumption related to project induced land use changes and mode shifts, and any substantial changes in energy associated with vehicle operation, manufacturing, or maintenance due to increased automobile use.

a, b) **No Impact**. Energy use associated with the proposed Project would primarily occur during construction and be associated with the consumption of fuel through operation of heavy-duty construction equipment, material deliveries, and debris hauling. Fuel consumption was calculated by inputting emissions results from the SMAQMD Road Construction Emissions Model into the United States Environmental Protection Agency Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator (https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator), and converting the results into fuel and energy equivalence consumed (Table 7. Annual Construction Fuel Consumption).

Table 7. Annual Construction Fuel Consumption

Construction Year	CO_2 Emissions from Construction (Metric Tons	Annual Fuel Consumption	
		Gasoline (gallons)	Total Energy (BTU)
2023	1,564	175,955	2.11E+10

Energy use associated with proposed Project construction is estimated to result in the short-term consumption of 175,955 gallons of fuel, which is equivalent to approximately 2.11E+10 BTUs consumed annually for construction. This represents a small demand on local and regional fuel supplies that would be easily accommodated, and this demand would cease once construction is complete. Moreover, construction-related energy consumption would be temporary and not present a permanent source of energy demand, and demand for fuel would have no noticeable effect on peak or baseline demands for

energy. Therefore, construction of the Project would not result in an inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy.

Operation of Valley Boulevard after it has been widened would require minimal energy use associated with the operation of the seven new traffic signals installed as a part of the Project but would otherwise have no impacts related to long-term energy use. Traffic signals are necessary for traffic safety and thus, operation of the Project would not result in an inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy.

Construction and operation of the Project would also not obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. There would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to energy. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to energy beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause 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 a 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013); Paleontological Resources Assessment Report (2022)

Affected Environment

The proposed Project occurs within the Riverside, California United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle. The proposed Project is situated in a valley between the Santa Ana Mountains and the San Jacinto Mountains and is approximately 1,500 feet above mean sea level. Topographical features in the Project vicinity include Steele Peak approximately 6 miles to the northwest and Double Butte approximately 6 miles to the east. Additionally, Canyon Lake is located approximately 3 miles to the west and Lake Elsinore is approximately 7 miles to the southwest.

The soils present within the proposed Project area, as mapped by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) include the following (NRCS 2022):

- Arbuckle loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
- Domino silt loam, saline-alkali
- Escondido fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded
- Exeter sandy loam, deep, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Garretson very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slope
- Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
- Lodo rocky loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, eroded
- Lodo rocky loam, 25 to 50 percent slopes, eroded
- Monserate sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Perkins gravelly loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes
- Ysidora gravelly very fine sandy loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded

a (i) **No Impact**. Based on the California Department of Conservation Earthquake Hazards Zone Application EQ Zapp, the Project site is not within an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone. **No Impact** related to fault rupture would result from the proposed Project.

a (ii) **Less than Significant Impact.** Like all of Southern California, Riverside County has and will continue to be subject to ground shaking resulting from activity on local and regional faults. However, the Project would widen and existing road and would not build any structures subject to dangers due to seismic ground shaking. With adherence to all applicable construction standards, impacts related to seismic ground shaking would be **Less than Significant.**

a (iii) **No Impact.** The City of Menifee General Plan identifies an area where local geological and groundwater conditions suggest a potential for liquefaction located just south of the Project area; however, the proposed road widening would not occur within this area and **No Impact** is anticipated.

a (iv) **No Impact.** The City of Menifee General Plan identifies an area where local geological and groundwater conditions suggest a potential for earthquake-induced landslides in the hills to the west of the Project area; however, the proposed road widening would not occur within this area and **No Impact** is anticipated.

b) **Less than Significant Impact.** Excavation during construction would result in soil disturbance, rendering surface soils susceptible to erosion and sedimentation. However, this impact would be mitigated through implementation of the Stormwater Pollution

Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which would require incorporation of BMPs and erosion control methods. With adherence to state and federal requirements, impacts related to soil erosion or loss of topsoil would be **Less than Significant.**

c, d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not include the construction of any occupied buildings subject to the Uniform Building Code. Additionally, the Project would not include septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems and there would be **No Impact**.

e) **No Impact.** The Project does not include septic tanks or an alternative wastewater disposal system on the site. There would be **No Impact.**

f) **Less than Significant Impact.** According to the City of Menifee General Plan, the proposed Project is in an area of high paleontological sensitivity. However, the results of a focused paleontological resources assessment of the Project area conducted in 2022 (Cogstone 2022) indicate that the majority of the Project area has low paleontological sensitivity. The southeastern end of the Project area has low sensitivity within the first 5-8 feet below the ground surface, and a moderate sensitivity at depths below 5-8 feet. Based on the planned depth of excavation in this area, the Project has low to no potential to impact fossil resources. With implementation of Standard Condition of Approval **COA-GEO-1** and Avoidance and Minimization Measures **GEO-1**, impacts would remain **Less than Significant.**

Standard Conditions of Approval

COA-GEO-1 Paleontological Resource Impact Monitoring Program (PRIMP)

This site is mapped as having a high potential for paleontological resources (fossils) at shallow depth. Therefore, PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF GRADING PERMITS:

The permittee shall retain a qualified paleontologist approved by the City of Menifee to create and implement a Project-specific plan for monitoring site grading/earthmoving activities which exceed 5 feet in depth in native sedimentary.

The Project paleontologist retained shall review the approved Tentative Tract Map and shall conduct any pre-construction work necessary to render appropriate monitoring and mitigation requirements as appropriate. These requirements shall be documented by the Project paleontologist in a Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP). This PRIMP shall be submitted to the Community Development Department for review and approval prior to issuance of a Grading Permit.

Information to be contained in the PRIMP, at a minimum and in addition to other industry standards and Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards, are as follows:

a. The Project paleontologist shall participate in a pre-construction project meeting with development staff and construction operations to ensure an understanding of any mitigation measures required during construction, as applicable.

b. Paleontological monitoring of earthmoving activities will be conducted on an as-needed basis by the Project paleontologist during all earthmoving activities that may expose sensitive strata. Earthmoving activities in areas of the Project area where previously undisturbed strata will be buried but not otherwise disturbed will not be monitored. The Project paleontologist or his/her assignee will have the

authority to reduce monitoring once he/she determines the probability of encountering fossils has dropped below an acceptable level.

c. If the Project paleontologist finds fossil remains, earthmoving activities will be diverted temporarily around the fossil site until the remains have been evaluated and recovered. Earthmoving will be allowed to proceed through the site when the Project paleontologist determines the fossils have been recovered and/or the site mitigated to the extent necessary.

d. If fossil remains are encountered by earthmoving activities when the Project paleontologist is not on-site, these activities will be diverted around the fossil site and the Project paleontologist called to the site immediately to recover the remains.

e. If fossil remains are encountered, the fossiliferous rock will be recovered from the fossil site and processed to allow for the recovery of smaller fossil remains. Test samples may be recovered from other sampling sites in the rock unit if appropriate.

f. Any recovered fossil remains will be prepared to the point of identification and identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible by knowledgeable paleontologists. The remains then will be curated (assigned and labeled with museum* repository fossil specimen numbers and corresponding fossil site numbers, as appropriate; placed in specimen trays and, if necessary, vials with completed specimen data cards) and catalogued, and associated specimen data and corresponding geologic and geographic site data will be archived (specimen and site numbers and corresponding data entered into appropriate museum repository catalogs and computerized databases) at the museum repository by a laboratory technician. The remains will then be accessioned into the museum* repository fossil collection, where they will be permanently stored, maintained, and, along with associated specimen and site data, made available for future study by qualified scientific investigators.

   *The City of Menifee must be consulted on the repository/museum to receive the fossil material prior to being curated.

g. A qualified paleontologist shall prepare a report of findings made during all site grading activity with an appended itemized list of fossil specimens recovered during grading (if any). This report shall be submitted to the Community Development Department for review and approval prior to building final inspection as described elsewhere in these conditions.

h. All reports shall be signed by the Project paleontologist and all other professionals responsible for the report's content (e.g., Professional Geologist, Professional Engineer, etc.), as appropriate. Two wet-signed original copies of the report shall be submitted directly to the Community Development Department along with a copy of this condition, deposit-based fee and the grading plan for appropriate case processing and tracking.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

In addition to implementation of the Standard Conditions of Approval as agreed upon between the consulting Native American tribes and the City of Menifee, the following additional Avoidance and Minimization Measure shall be required:

GEO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training will be given to all onsite Project staff prior to construction. The WEAP training will be developed by a qualified cultural resources specialist.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to geology and soils with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization mitigation measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to geology and soils beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): Riverside County General Plan (2015), Riverside County Climate Action Plan (2019) & SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (2016)

Regulatory Background

Riverside County 2019 Climate Action Plan Update

The County updated its Climate Action Plan (CAP) on December 17, 2019 to integrate its past and current efforts with future efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote sustainability in its operations and growth. The 2019 CAP Update includes an update to the County's GHG inventory for the year 2018 and sets a target to reduce community-wide GHG emissions by 15 percent from 2008 baseline levels by 2020, 49 percent by 2030, and 83 percent by 2050. GHG reduction measures prescribed in in the 2019 CAP Update build upon those adopted under the County's 2015 CAP to ensure that the County meets the reduction targets established pursuant to California Senate Bill (SB) 32.

Riverside County Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Screening Tables

In the County's guidance document titled "Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Screening Tables, County of Riverside, California," the County determined the size of development that is too small to be able to provide the level of GHG emission reductions expected from the Screening Tables or alternate emissions analysis method. The County's analysis determined that the 3,000 metric ton (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent gases (CO2e) per year value be used in defining small projects that, when combined with modest energy efficiency measures shown in the bullet points below, are considered less than significant and do not need to use the Screening Tables or alternative calculations. The efficiency measures required of small projects are:

- Energy efficiency matching or exceeding the Title 24 requirements in effect as of January 2017; and
- Water conservation measures that match the California Green Building Standards Code in effect as of January 2017.

a) **Less than Significant Impact.** GHG emissions for transportation projects can be divided into those produced during construction and those produced during operations. Construction GHG emissions include emissions produced as a result of material processing, emissions produced by on-site construction equipment, and emissions arising from traffic delays due to construction. GHG emissions produced during operations are those that result from potentially increased traffic volumes or changes in automobile speeds.

Short-Term Construction Emissions

Short-term construction emissions from the Project are anticipated. Emissions from construction equipment would include all equipment powered by gasoline and diesel engines. The RCEM model estimates construction equipment effects of criteria pollutants including CO, NO_X, VOCs, directly emitted PM10 and PM2.5, and TACs such as diesel exhaust particulate matter. These emissions would be temporary and limited to the immediate area surrounding the construction site. The RCEM model was calculated with the Project's construction anticipated to take approximately 18 months and determined that the total amount of emissions generated by construction of the Project is 1,564 $MTCO_2e$ (Appendix B).

Table 8. Construction CO_2 Emissions Compared to Threshold of Significance

Greenhouse Gas	Road Construction Emissions Model Estimates (MT/year)	Riverside County Screening Threshold (MT/year)
CO_2	1,564 total for the project	3,000

Source: Modeling using the *Road Construction Emissions Model* 9.0.0 (Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District 2017).

The proposed Project impacts related to GHG emissions are considered **Less than Significant**.

Operational Emissions

GHG emissions produced during operations are typically associated with increased traffic volumes or changes in automobile speeds. Table 9 gives projected CO_2 operational emissions as a result of the Project.

Table 9. Projected Operational Emissions

Greenhouse Gas	EMFAC2021 (tons/year)	Riverside County Screening Threshold (MT/year)
CO_2	-2,800	3,000

Source: EMFAC2021

The projected emissions are based on VMT data. CO_2 emissions would actually decrease annually as a result of the Project. Impacts related to GHG emissions or climate change from operation would be **Less than Significant.**

b) **No Impact.** GHG emissions from construction activity would be temporary and intermittent and would not exceed the Riverside County Screening Threshold for small projects. Operation of the proposed Project would not result in any significant GHG emissions. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG. **No Impacts** are anticipated.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to greenhouse gas emissions. No additional impacts have been identified. The Project would not result in any additional significant impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): Riverside County General Plan (2015), State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker Database, Department of Toxic Substance Control's EnviroStor Database, and Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List

Regulatory Setting

Hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are regulated by many State and federal laws. These include not only specific statutes governing hazardous waste, but also a variety of laws regulating air and water quality, human health and land use.

Hazardous waste in California is regulated primarily under the authority of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, and the California Health and Safety Code. Other California laws that affect hazardous waste are specific to handling, storage, transportation, disposal, treatment, reduction, cleanup, and emergency planning.

Worker health and safety and public safety are key issues when dealing with hazardous materials that may affect human health and the environment. Proper disposal of hazardous material is vital if it is disturbed during Project construction.

a) **Less than Significant**. During short-term construction activities, the Project would involve the use of heavy equipment for the grading, hauling, and handling of materials. Use of this equipment may require the use of fuels and other common materials that have hazardous properties (e.g., fuels are flammable). These materials would be used in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations and, if used properly, would not pose a hazard to people, animals, or plants. All refueling of construction vehicles and equipment would occur within the designated areas of the Project area. The use of hazardous materials would be short-term and temporary. The operation of the Project facility would not have routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. Within implementation avoidance and minimization measure **HAZ-1**, the Project contractor would be required to prepare a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program (SPCCP) to prevent any potentially significant impacts. Therefore, Project effects would be considered **Less than Significant**.

b) **Less than Significant**. During short-term construction activities, the Project would require ground disturbance that would cause the potential for unknown contaminates or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment, as well as upset or accident relating to machinery. With the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures **HAZ-1** and **HAZ-2** during short-term construction activities, any potential significant hazard to the public or the environment would be less than significant. The project would have no operational effects relating to reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials. Impacts would be **Less than Significant**.

c) **No Impact.** The Project site was evaluated via the SWRCB GeoTracker database and the Department of Toxic Substance Control's EnviroStor database. No schools are located within one-quarter mile of the Project site. Therefore, there would be **No Impact**.

d) **No Impact.** EnviroStor and GeoTracker were used to find active hazardous waste sites within the Project vicinity. There were no records indicated in the EnviroStor and GeoTracker databases. Therefore, there would be **No Impact**.

e) **No Impact.** The project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area as the project is not within the vicinity of an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The closest airport to the Project

site is the Perris Valley Airport-L65, which is located approximately 3.4 miles north. Therefore, there would be **No Impact**.

f) **No Impact.** The Project's short-term construction activities or operation would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. During short-term construction activities traffic would be accommodated to allow for movement through the area. No operational effects on future traffic congestion or interference with an emergency evacuation plan route would occur. Therefore, there would be **No Impact**.

g) **No Impact.** The Project would not cause people or structures to be exposed to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. There would be **No Impact.**

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

Implementation of the following avoidance and minimization measures will further reduce any potential impacts resulting from construction activities:

HAZ-1: The contractor shall prepare a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program (SPCCP) prior to the commencement of construction activities. The SPCCP shall include information on the nature of all hazardous materials that shall be used on-site. The SPCCP shall also include information regarding proper handling of hazardous materials, and clean-up procedures in the event of an accidental release. The phone number of the agency overseeing hazardous materials and toxic clean-up shall be provided in the SPCCP.

HAZ-2: As is the case for any project that proposes excavation, the potential exists for unknown hazardous contamination to be revealed during project construction. If soil contaminated by hazardous waste is discovered during construction, proper hazardous waste handling and emergency procedures under 40 Code of Federal Regulations § 262 and Division 4.5 of Title 22 California Code of Regulations shall be followed.

HAZ-3: If any yellow pavement striping is to be removed during construction, it is recommended that removal requirements for yellow striping and pavement marking materials be performed in accordance with Caltrans Standard Special Provisions for REMOVE TRAFFIC STRIPE AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS.

HAZ-4: Any leaking transformers observed during the course of the Project should be considered a potential polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) hazard. A detailed inspection of individual electrical transformers was not conducted for this Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. However, should leaks from electrical transformers (that will either remain within the construction limits or will require removal and/or relocation) be encountered during construction, the transformer fluid should be sampled and analyzed by qualified personnel for detectable levels of PCB's. Should PCBs be detected, the transformer should be removed and disposed of in accordance with Title 22, Division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations and any other appropriate regulatory agency. Any stained soil encountered below electrical transformers with detectable levels of PCBs should also be handled and disposed of in accordance with Title 22, Division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations and any other appropriate regulatory agency.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to hazards and hazardous materials with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i. result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): Federal Emergency Management Agency FIRM No. 06065C2055H

Regulatory Setting

Pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, for construction projects that will disturb one or more acres, a SWPPP is required for compliance with the State's Construction General Permit (2009-0009-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS 000002). The focus of a SWPPP is to manage soil disturbances, non-stormwater discharges, and construction materials and activities which may impact the quality of runoff from an active construction site. The Construction General Permit requires that applicable sites have a SWPPP submitted prior to the start of construction activities, and also keep the SWPPP on site during grading and construction activities.

The federal Clean Water Act establishes requirements for the discharge of urban runoff from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The City of Menifee is a Co-permittee under the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) MS4 permit area for Order number R8-2010-0033, NPDES permit No. CAS 618033.

Affected Environment

The Project area is located in the Southern California Coastal Hydrologic Unit Subregion, San Jacinto Subbasin, Lower San Jacinto River Watershed, Menifee Valley Subwatershed (USGS 2018). Major regional hydrological features include Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake located to the southwest of the Project area.

The Project area does not contain any major surface water features or waters of the United States. There is one storm drain feature, a runoff conveyance channel owned and operated by Riverside County Flood Control. The runoff conveyance channel is concrete-lined and only carries storm water runoff during high rain events.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) No. 06065C2055H, the Project area is located in Zone X, which indicates an area of minimal flood hazard.

a) **Less Than Significant Impact**. Short-term, construction-related earth disturbing activities could potentially cause soil erosion and sedimentation to local waterways. Projects are at the highest risk during use of heavy equipment during grading actives. Coverage under a Construction General Permit would be obtained and a SWPPP would be prepared prior to construction. Potential impacts would be mitigated for through sediment, erosion, and non-storm water control methods identified in the SWPPP pursuant to the requirements of the NPDES Construction General Permit. Temporary sediment control BMPs can include silt fences and street sweeping. Temporary erosion control BMPs can include hydroseeding and preservation of existing vegetation. Temporary non-stormwater BMPs can include water conservation practices and implementation of proper vehicle and equipment cleaning, fueling, and maintenance procedures. Accidental spills of petroleum hydrocarbons (fuels and lubricating oils), concrete waste or other construction-related products or wastes are also a concern during construction activities. The Project SWPPP will include spill prevention and response BMPs to reduce impacts to **Less Than Significant.**

b, e) **No Impact**. The Project is a road widening project and would not access or effect groundwater supplies. The Project would not interfere with groundwater recharge; therefore, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. **No Impact** is anticipated.

c (i, iv) **No Impact**. There are no major surface water features within the Project area, and the Project would not alter the drainage pattern of the existing runoff conveyance channel that is within the Project area in a way that would result in erosion or sedimentation or impede flood flows. There would be **No Impact**.

c (ii, iii) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The Project would not substantially alter any existing stream, river, or other drainage feature, including the runoff conveyance channel that is located within the Project area. However, the Project would add a net impervious surface area of approximately 15 acres. The increase in impervious surface area within the Project area has the potential to increase the amount of surface runoff. However, Project design includes appropriate stormwater drainage features, and the amount of increased impervious surface is not expected to create a significant increase in runoff water. There would be a **Less Than Significant Impact**.

d) **No Impact.** The Project area is not within a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone. **No Impact** would occur.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to hydrology and water quality with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to hydrology and water quality beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013); Valley Boulevard Widening Project Biological Resources Technical Report (2022)

a) **No Impact.** The Project would widen the existing Valley Boulevard and close a gap in this road that is currently vacant land. Therefore, there would be no physical division of an established community. The proposed Project would improve community connectivity by closing the gap on this road and there would be **No Impact**.

b) **No Impact.** The Project is identified in the City's General Plan and complies with the land use anticipated for this area. Similarly, the Project is located within the Western Riverside County MSHCP and is considered a covered project under the Western Riverside County MSHC. The Project Area is Sun City, Menifee Valley Plan Area but is outside of Criteria Cells; therefore, a joint project review under the Regional Conservation Authority is not required (MSHCP 2003). The Project would comply with all applicable City planning and MSHCP regulations and have **No Impact** or conflict with existing land use plans or policies.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to land use and planning. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to land use and planning beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

a, b) **No Impact.** There are no known mineral resources or locally important resources within the City of Menifee; therefore, there are no known mineral resources at the Project site. The City of Menifee General Plan indicates that the majority of the Project area is located within an Urban Area. A small segment at the southern end of the Project area is within an area designated as Mineral Resource Zone 3, which denotes areas where the significance of mineral deposits cannot be determined from the available data. The Project site has no potential to be mined in the future because it is surrounded by adjacent and proximal residential uses and is not considered a state-designated mineral resource extraction zone. There would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to mineral resources. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to mineral resources beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XIII. NOISE: Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

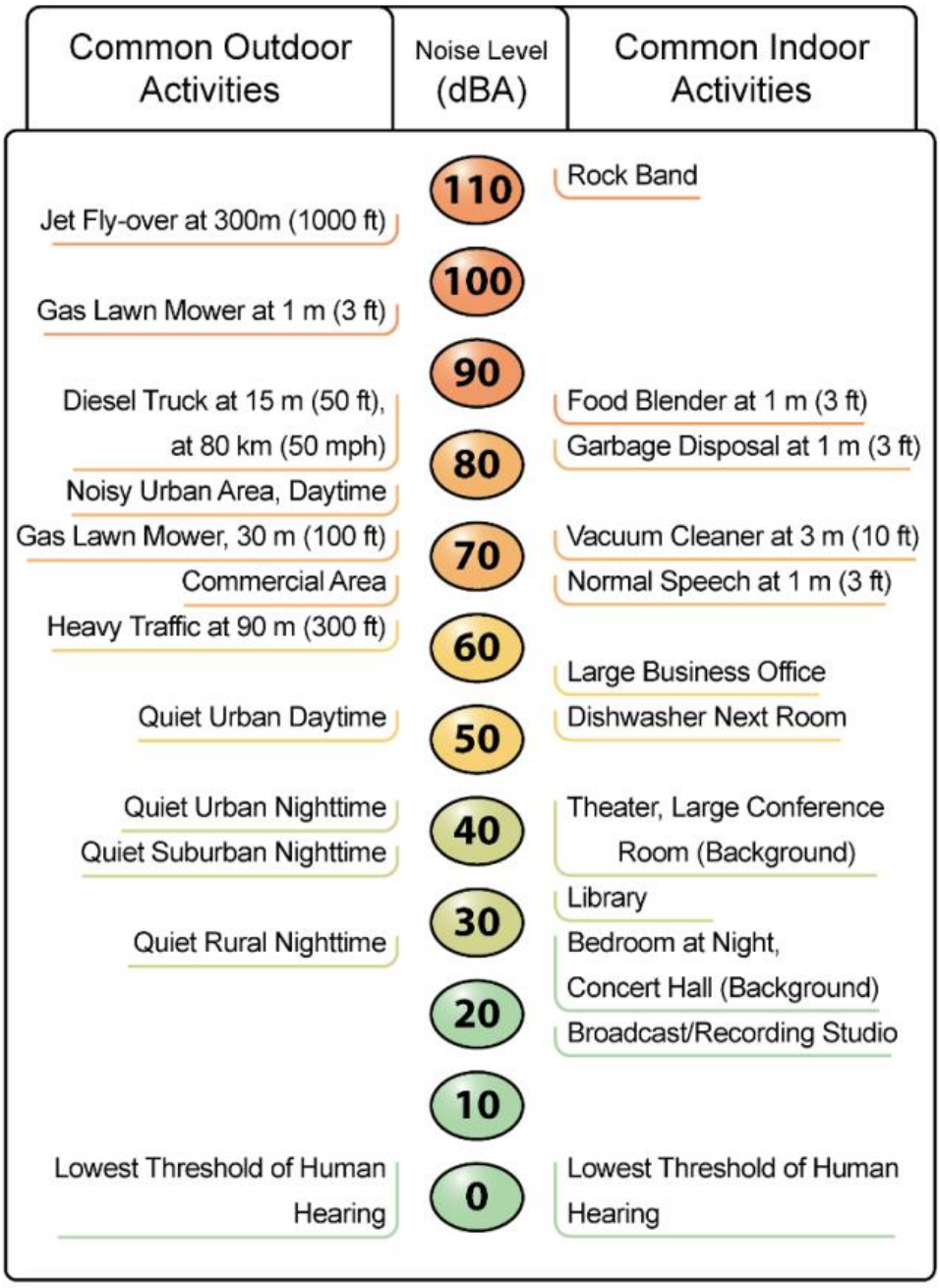
Source(s): Noise Study Report (2022), City of Menifee General Plan (2013), Federal Highway Administration Construction Noise Handbook (2017)

Regulatory Setting

Riverside County has established noise-level performance standards for projects affected by non-transportation sources and transportation sources. Noise is generally characterized as an equivalent continuous sound level (Leq) averaged over time, day-night average sound level (Ldn), or Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL). The Noise Element of the Riverside County General Plan (December 2013) outlines noise policy with respect to CEQA.

For residences and retail commercial locations exposed to noise from transportation noise sources, the County has established a criterion of 55 decibel A-weighted (dBA) between 7:00AM and 10:00PM, and 45 dBA between 10:00PM and 7:00AM (2007); however, construction activities carried out for capital improvement projects by governmental agencies are exempt from the County Noise Control Ordinance.

Figure 7. Noise Levels of Common Activities



Affected Environment

The noise environment near the proposed project is dominated by traffic sources. Background noise levels are primarily influenced by adjacent roadways including Valley Boulevard and McCall Road. Traffic remains the dominant noise source at the project site. As a way to characterize noise levels, Table 10 summarizes typical ambient noise levels based on population density.

Table 10. Population Density and Associated Ambient Noise Levels

Population Density	dBA, Ldn
Rural Suburban	40–50
Quiet suburban residential or small town	45–50
Normal suburban residential urban	50–55
Normal urban residential	60
Noisy urban residential	65
Very noisy urban residential	70
Downtown, major metropolis	75–80
Under flight path at major airport, 0.5 to 1 mile from runway	78–85
Adjoining freeway or near a major airport	80–90

Sources: Cowan 1984, Hoover and Keith 1996

The vicinity of the project area is most similar to that of "normal suburban residential urban". Normal suburban residential urban areas have a typical noise level of 50-55 dBA (2015).

Noise sensitive receptors include the surrounding residences located adjacent east and west of Valley Boulevard, the closest within approximately 100 feet away, as shown in Figure 8**.** Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations.

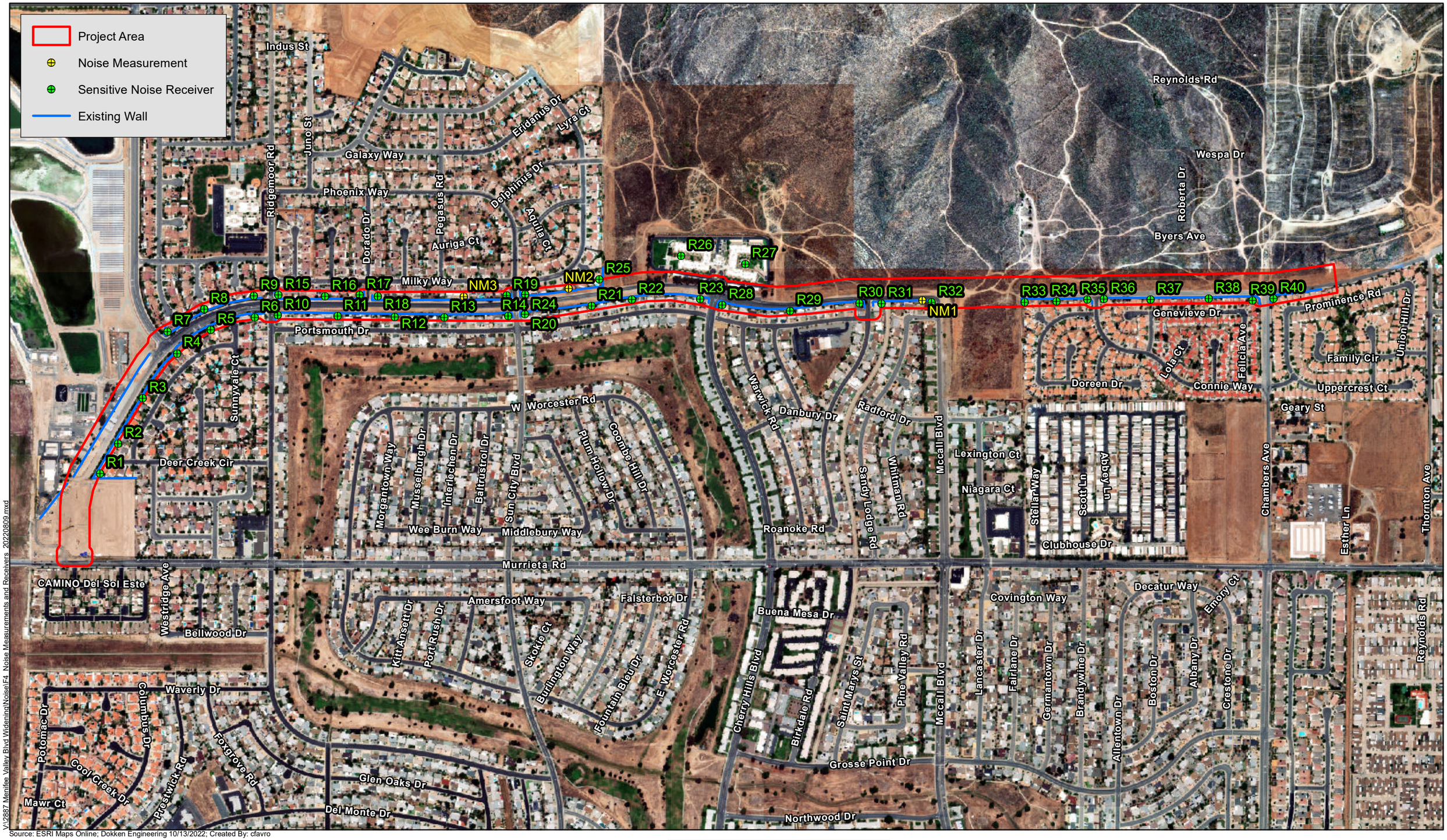
Table 11 summarizes noise levels produced by commonly used construction equipment. Construction equipment is expected to generate noise levels ranging from 70 to 90 dB at a distance of 50 feet, and noise produced by construction equipment would be reduced over distance at a rate of about 6 dB per doubling of distance. The construction noise level at a given location depends on the type of construction activity, the noise level generated by that activity, and the distance and shielding between the activity and noise receivers.

Table 11. Construction Equipment Noise Emission Levels

Equipment	Maximum Noise Level (dBA at 50 feet)
Scrapers	89
Bulldozers	85
Heavy Trucks	88
Backhoe	80
Pneumatic Tools	85
Concrete Pump	82

Source: Federal Transit Administration, 2006 See also: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/handbook/handbook09.cfm

Generally, noise levels at construction sites can vary from 55 dBA to a maximum of nearly 96 dBA when heavy equipment is used. Construction noise of this project would be intermittent, and noise levels would vary depending on the type of construction activity. For this project, lowest construction equipment-related noise levels would be 55 dBA at a distance of 50 ft for sound from a pick-up truck. Highest noise levels would be up to 89 dBA (at a distance of 50 ft) for excavation as part of the road widening.



V:\2887 Menifee Valley Blvd Widening\Noise\F4_Noise Measurements and Receivers_20220809.mxd

Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 10/13/2022; Created By: cfavro

1 inch = 700 feet

0 700 1,400 2,100 2,800 3,500 Feet

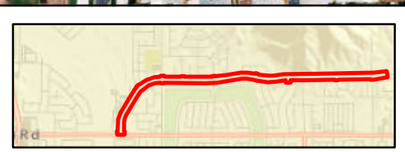


Figure 8
Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations
Page 1 of 5
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

V:\2887 Menifee Valley Blvd Widening\Noise\F4_Noise Measurements and Receivers_20220809.mxd

Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 10/13/2022; Created By: cfavro

1 inch = 200 feet

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet

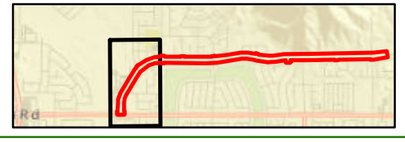


Figure 8
Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations
Page 2 of 5
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 10/13/2022; Created By: cfavro

1 inch = 200 feet

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet

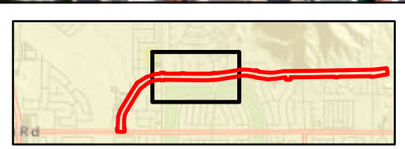
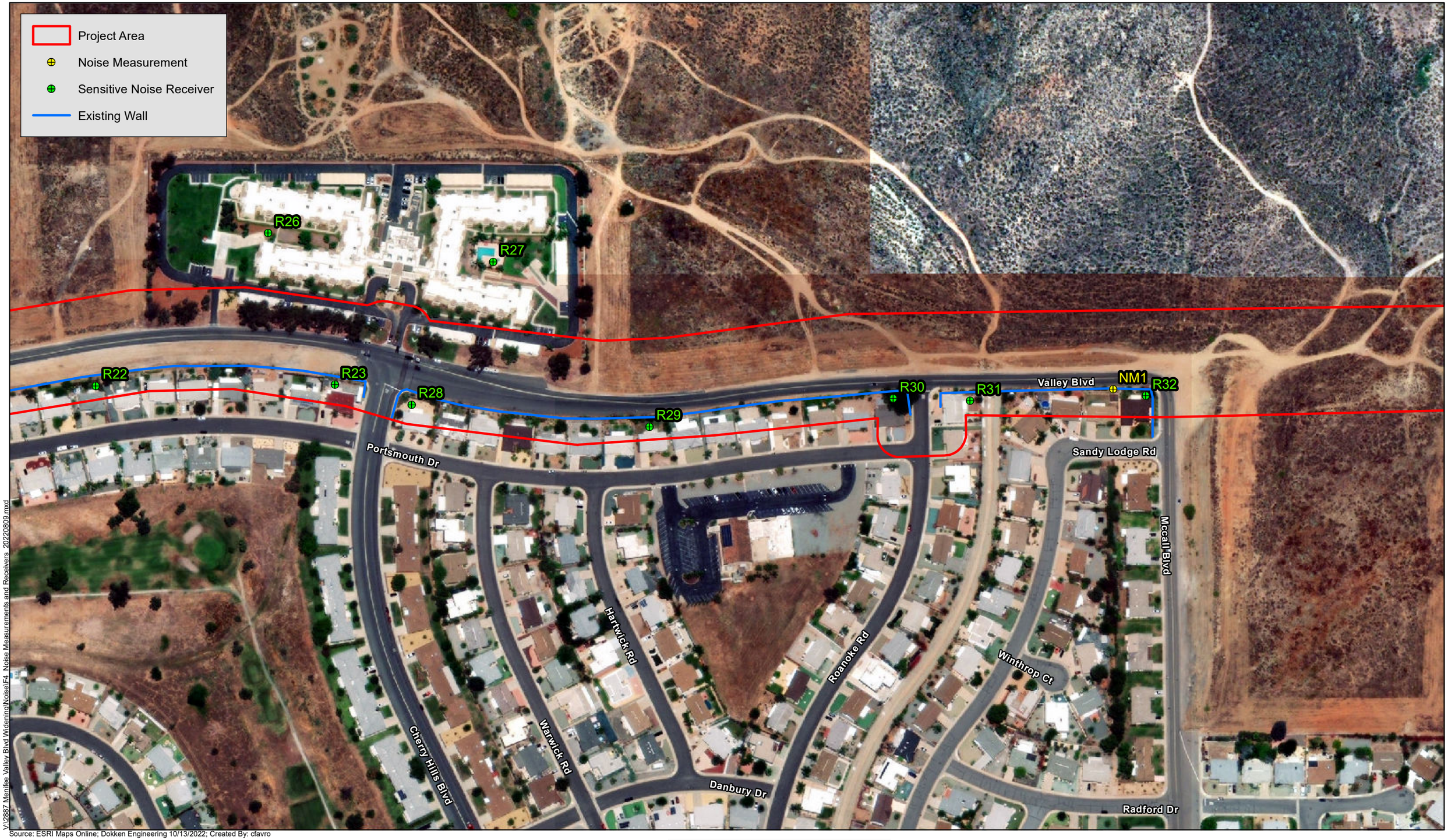


Figure 8
Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations
Page 3 of 5
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California



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Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 10/13/2022; Created By: cfavro

1 inch = 200 feet

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet

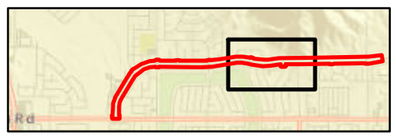

Figure 8
Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations
Page 4 of 5
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

Project Area
Noise Measurement
Sensitive Noise Receiver
Existing Wall

R33 R34 R35 R36 R37 R38 R39 R40

Byers Ave
Roberta Dr
Valley Blvd
Genevieve Dr
Prominence Rd
Cayla Ct
Roylene Dr
Tyler Ct
Monica Way
Doreen Dr
Lola Ct
Leah Ln
Felicia Ave
Chambers Ave
Connie Way
Family Cir
Hillman Ct
Uppercrest Ct
Esther Ln
Geary St

V:\2887 Menifee Valley Blvd Widening\Noise\F4_Noise Measurements and Receivers_20220809.mxd

Source: ESRI Maps Online; Dokken Engineering 10/13/2022; Created By: cfavro

1 inch = 200 feet

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet

Figure 8
Noise Measurement and Receiver Locations
Page 5 of 5
Valley Boulevard Widening Project
City of Menifee, Riverside County, California

a) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated .** Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending upon the nature or phase of construction (e.g., demolition/land clearing, grading and excavation). Noise generated by construction equipment, including earth movers, material handlers, and portable generators, can reach high levels. Typical noise levels for individual pieces of construction equipment are summarized in Table 11 above.

Short-Term Construction Noise

During construction of the project, noise from construction activities may intermittently dominate the noise environment in the immediate area of construction. Construction noise is regulated by the County of Riverside. Construction activity could result in noise that exceeds the 50-dBA daytime standard or 45-dBA nighttime standard. Other construction activities associated with the proposed project may cause a small amount of groundborne vibration; however, vibration from these activities would be short-term and intermittent. Although temporary construction noise for capital improvement projects is exempt from local noise ordinances, the project would include construction methods, structure designs, and operational methods that would reduce the potential noise and vibration impacts to less than significant levels, and work activities would not exceed 86 dBA maximum sound level (Lmax) at 50 feet between the hours of 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. for the duration of construction.

No significant adverse noise impacts from construction are anticipated because construction noise would be short-term and intermittent, and construction would be conducted in accordance with County ordinances as appropriate. Construction is anticipated to take 18 months. Therefore, impacts would be **Less than Significant.**

Operational Impacts

Valley Boulevard is currently a two-lane undivided road with unstriped shoulders and sidewalks on one side of the road within the project vicinity. The Project is being implemented to be compliant with the City's General Plan, which designates Valley Boulevard as a 4-lane divided arterial road.

The City of Menifee General Plan Environmental Impact Report (December 2013) includes a broad, city-wide level noise analysis that describes the existing noise environment throughout the City. According to the Noise analysis, noise-sensitive land uses adjacent to major roads would be exposed to a substantial increase in noise levels of at least 5 db where future noise levels would be in excess of 65 dBA CNEL. The "highest increase would occur along areas that are least developed, along roadways that would be improved with additional lanes and connections currently not implemented, bringing substantial pass-by traffic". Substantial noise increases that would occur as a result of increased traffic from implementation of the General Plan were determined to result in a significant and unavoidable impact.

A project-level noise analysis was also conducted to estimate traffic noise level changes specifically from widening Valley Boulevard from a two-lane road to a four-lane facility between Chambers Avenue and Murrieta Road, as well as extending Valley Boulevard through two existing gaps along the alignment. A field investigation was conducted on June 15, 2022 and aerial photographs were reviewed to determine land uses and identify sensitive noise receptors. Additionally, traffic-noise modelling was used to evaluate existing and future traffic-related noise conditions in the vicinity of the project site.

Traffic noise levels were predicted using the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) Traffic Noise Model Version 2.5 (TNM 2.5). TNM 2.5 is a computer model based on two FHWA reports: FHWA-PD-96-009 and FHWA-PD-96-010 (FHWA 1998a, 1998b). Key inputs to the traffic noise model were the locations of roadways, traffic mix and speed, shielding features (e.g., topography and buildings), noise barriers, ground type, and receptors. Three-dimensional representations of these inputs were developed using field data, CAD drawings, aerials, and topographic contours provided by the project engineer.

To validate the accuracy of the model calculations, TNM 2.5 was used to compare measured traffic noise levels taken during the June 2022 field investigation to modeled noise levels at field measurement locations. For each receptor, traffic volumes counted during the short-term measurement periods were normalized to 1-hour volumes. These normalized volumes were assigned to the corresponding project area roadways to simulate the noise source strength at the roadways during the actual measurement period. Modeled and measured sound levels were then compared to determine the accuracy of the model and if additional adjustment of the model was necessary.

Predicted future 2045 traffic noise levels with the project are compared to existing conditions and to future no-project conditions. The future 2045 traffic noise modeling results indicate that exterior noise levels would range between 53 dBA CNEL and 70 dBA CNEL under Future 2045 conditions without the proposed Project. South of McCall Boulevard, noise levels along Valley Boulevard would increase by approximately 2 dB CNEL over the next twenty years in the project area due to traffic growth. North of McCall Boulevard, where traffic would more drastically increase due to future planned development and new road connections, noise levels along Valley Boulevard would increase by 6 to 15 dB CNEL, which is considered a substantial increase. Exterior noise levels at R14, R16 through R19, and R30 would be exposed to noise levels exceeding the City of Menifee 65 dBA CNEL exterior noise level compatibility level for single-family residences in 2045 without the proposed Project.

As shown in Table 12, exterior noise levels under Future 2045 conditions with the Project would range between 61 dBA and 71 dBA CNEL in 2045. South of McCall Boulevard, noise levels along Valley Boulevard would generally be approximately 3 to 6 dB CNEL louder over the next twenty years than Future 2045 No Project conditions. Notably, R1 would be exposed to noise level increases up to 13 dB due to its proximity to the proposed Valley Boulevard extension south of the project area that would complete a gap closure, introducing new traffic noise to the immediate vicinity.

North of McCall Boulevard, where traffic would more drastically increase due to future planned development and new road connections, noise levels along Valley Boulevard would increase by 16 to 23 dB CNEL.

The proposed Project would cause exterior noise levels at additional residences to exceed the City of Menifee 65 dBA CNEL exterior noise level compatibility level for single-family residences in 2045 with the proposed Project. Furthermore, a substantial permanent noise increase would occur at R1 and R33 through R40 due to their proximity to new roadway gap closures that would introduce new traffic noise into their vicinity.

As a permanent increase in ambient noise level would occur with implementation of the proposed Project, incorporation of rubberized asphalt, which would attenuate noise levels

by approximately 3 dBA, will be incorporated on Valley Boulevard throughout the entire Project limit. Rubberized asphalt will be incorporated per Measure **NOI-1** below.

As indicated, the use of rubberized asphalt would be sufficient to reduce significant noise impacts at most analyzed receivers to acceptable noise levels. Receivers R16 through R19 would continue to be exposed to excessive noise levels due to inconsistent or nonexisting barriers shielding them from traffic noise. Furthermore, a permanent substantial noise increase would remain at receivers R1 and R33 through R40 even with implementation of **NOI-1**. Consistent with the findings of the General Plan EIR, the highest noise increase would occur where the proposed Project would close existing gaps, bringing substantial pass-by traffic to nearby residences. As the proposed Project is being implemented in compliance with the City of Menifee General Plan, and substantial permanent noise increase has already been previously identified in the General Plan EIR as a significant and unavoidable impact, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to Noise beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR that would require any additional mitigation measures, such as soundwalls.

Implementation of the General Plan includes several policies to protect noise-sensitive uses from excessive noise. Although these policies could in certain cases reduce or prevent significant increases in ambient noise at sensitive land uses under implementation of the proposed plan, mitigation measures to implement these policies would not be universally feasible, and some of the most effect in noise-attenuation measures, including sound walls and berms, would be infeasible or inappropriate in a majority of locations where sensitive land uses already exist. Factors that would render these measures infeasible include but are not limited to cost, aesthetic considerations, and negative impacts to pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.

Soundwalls will be incorporated as a landscaping design feature where feasible. However, it may not be feasible to incorporate soundwalls at all locations where existing and future significant noise impacts would occur due to both cost and aesthetic considerations. However, as these impacted areas have already been previously disclosed by the 2013 General Plan EIR, and no new significant impact has been proposed in addition, impacts would be considered **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.**

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Table 12. Comparison of Estimated Exterior Noise Levels in Future (2045) and with Rubberized Asphalt

Receiver No.	Existing (2022) (dBA CNEL)	Future without Project (2045) (dBA CNEL)	Noise Increase from Existing to Future No Build (dBA CNEL)	Future with Project (2045) (dBA CNEL)	Noise Increase from Existing to Future with Project (dBA CNEL)	Noise Increase from Future No Project to Future with Project (dBA CNEL)	Future with Project and Rubberized Asphalt (2045) (dBA CNEL)	Noise Increase from Existing to Future with Project and Rubberized Asphalt (dBA CNEL)
R1	48	50	2	61	**13**	**11**	58	**9**
R2	58	60	2	62	4	2	59	1
R3	61	63	2	65	4	2	62	1
R4	58	60	2	63	**5**	3	60	2
R5	58	60	2	63	**5**	3	60	2
R6	58	60	2	63	**5**	3	60	2
R7	58	60	2	63	**5**	3	60	2
R8	59	61	2	64	4	2	61	1
R9	56	58	2	60	4	2	57	1
R10	60	62	2	64	**5**	3	61	2
R11	63	65	2	**68**	**5**	3	65	2
R12	61	63	2	**67**	**6**	4	64	3
R13	61	63	2	**66**	**5**	3	63	2
R14	64	**66**	2	**68**	4	2	65	1
R15	58	60	2	62	3	1	59	0
R16	**68**	**70**	2	**71**	3	2	**68**	0
R17	64	**66**	2	**69**	**5**	3	**66**	2
R18	**66**	**68**	2	**70**	4	2	**67**	1
R19	**67**	**69**	2	**70**	3	1	**67**	0
R20	62	64	2	**66**	4	2	63	1
R21	61	62	2	**66**	**5**	4	63	2
R22	61	63	2	**67**	**6**	4	64	3
R23	61	63	2	**66**	**5**	3	63	2
R24	58	60	2	61	3	1	58	0
R25	60	62	2	64	4	2	61	1
R26	55	57	2	59	4	2	56	1
R27	53	55	2	58	**5**	3	55	2
R28	61	63	2	**66**	**5**	3	63	2
R29	61	63	2	64	3	1	61	0
R30	65	**67**	2	**68**	3	1	65	0
R31	63	64	2	**68**	**6**	4	65	3
R32	63	65	2	63	0	-2	60	-3
R33	52	57	**6**	**68**	**16**	**10**	65	**13**
R34	46	59	**13**	**69**	**23**	**10**	**66**	**20**
R35	48	60	**12**	**69**	**22**	**10**	**66**	**19**
R36	44	57	**13**	65	**21**	**8**	62	**18**
R37	42	57	**15**	64	**21**	**7**	61	**18**
R38	45	57	**13**	65	**21**	**8**	62	**18**
R39	43	55	**13**	63	**21**	**8**	60	**18**
R40	41	53	**12**	61	**20**	**8**	58	**17**

Source: FHWA Traffic Noise Model 2.5
Bold and Underline indicate potential significant traffic noise exposure

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b) **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Construction Impacts

Construction of the proposed project could potentially increase groundborne vibration or noise in the project area. Table 13 provides an estimate of vibration levels associated with construction activities for each piece of equipment. These are based on a wide range of soil conditions.

Table 13. Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment	PPV at 25 feet (in/sec)
Pile Driver (impact)	1.518
Pile Drive (sonic)	0.734
Vibratory Roller	0.210
Hoe Ram	0.089
Large Bulldozer	0.089
Caisson drilling	0.089
Loaded trucks	0.076
Jackhammer	0.035
Small bulldozer	0.003

Source: Federal Transit Administration, 2006. See also: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/handbook/handbook09.cfm

During construction, the equipment with the greatest potential for vibration impacts would be generated by vibratory rollers, which would compact soil over where road widening would occur. Based on the information shown in Table 13, vibratory rollers could cause continuous vibration levels up to 0.210 peak particle velocity (PPV) to buildings within 25 feet of Valley Boulevard during construction.

To assess the damage potential to nearby structures from ground vibration induced by construction equipment, the following criteria to evaluate the potential for damage was used:

Table 14. Guideline Vibration Damage Potential Threshold Criteria

Structure and Condition	Maximum PPV (in/sec)	
	Transient Sources	Continuous/Frequent Intermittent Sources
Extremely fragile historic buildings, ruins, ancient monuments	0.12	0.08
Fragile buildings	0.2	0.1
Historic and some old buildings	0.5	0.25
Older residential structures	0.5	0.3
New residential structures	1.0	0.5
Modern industrial/commercial buildings	2.0	0.5

Note: Transient sources create a single isolated vibration event, such as blasting or drop balls. Continuous/frequent intermittent sources include impact pile drivers, pogo-stick compactors, crack-and-seat equipment, vibratory pile drivers, and vibratory compaction equipment.
Source: Caltrans Transportation- and Construction-Induced Vibration Guidance Manual, June 2004

None of the buildings within 25 feet of where soil compaction would occur are considered extremely fragile, fragile, or historic buildings. The majority of buildings in the project vicinity that would be impacted are older residential and commercial use structures.

Therefore, no buildings would be exposed to potentially damaging construction vibration levels from vibratory rollers exceeding the thresholds shown in Table 13. Impacts would be **Less than Significant** and no avoidance and minimization measures are necessary.

Operational Impacts

Operation of the proposed project would not perceptibly increase groundborne vibration or groundborne noise on the proposed project because operation of the proposed project would not involve vibration creating activities.

c) **No Impact.** There are no private airstrips located within the vicinity of the Project site. The closest airport to the Project site is the Perris Valley Airport-L65, which is located approximately 3.4 miles north. There would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance and minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

Inclusion of the following mitigation measure shall be required:

NOI-1: Rubberized and/or open grade asphalt will be used on Valley Boulevard from Murrieta Road to approximately 300 feet north of Chambers Avenue.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated relating to noise with incorporation of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measure listed above.

The 2013 General Plan EIR found that noise levels along major transportation corridors would increase as a result of substantial increase in traffic volumes within the General Plan Update. This increase of noise levels and traffic volumes included the widening of Valley Boulevard as part of its analysis and the General Plan EIR found these improvements would contribute to a significant and unavoidable noise impact. No additional impacts other than those disclosed in the 2013 General Plan EIR have been identified. Thus, the Project's impacts related to noise are not significant with mitigation incorporated.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

a) **No Impact.** The Project would not directly impact population growth since it does not propose new homes. Road widening and gap closure projects indirectly support future population growth. However, this Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth as it meets the goals and objectives of the City General Plan Circulation Element. Furthermore, the gap in Valley Boulevard is identified as a planned arterial road in the City General Plan. **No Impact** would occur.

b) **No Impact.** The Project is located along the existing Valley Boulevard and road widening and gap closure activities would occur on vacant land. No acquisition of residential homes is anticipated with the Project; therefore, no displacements of residents would occur with the Project. Therefore, **No Impact** would occur to people or housing such that replacement housing would be required.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to population and housing. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to population and housing beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) 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:				
i. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii. Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii. Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv. Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
v. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

a (i-v) **No Impact.** The Project would not result in the need for new public services. The Project does not propose a new housing or commercial development that would generate population growth or require additional school facilities, police, and/or fire services. The Project would not impact any parks as no parks are within the Project area and the Project would have no potential to cause significant environmental impact to nearby parks. There would be **No Impact** to public services.

As the Project will extend and widen an existing road to close a gap, emergency vehicles will have more efficient access to residences surrounding the Project area and service and emergency response times may potentially be improved. There would be **No Impact** to emergency services.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to public services. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to public services beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XVI. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

a, b) **No Impact.** While the Project will close a gap on an existing road and improve access to existing neighborhood facilities such as schools and parks, as well as the nearby Salt Creek Trail; however, it would not be to the extent such that substantial physical deterioration of existing recreational facilities would occur or be accelerated, nor would it require the construction or expansion of additional recreational facilities. There would be **No Impact.**

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have no impact relating to recreation. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to recreation beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013), City of Menifee Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines for Vehicle Miles Traveled (2020), Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA (2018), City of Menifee Active Transportation Plan (2020)

Regulatory Setting

California SB 743 requires lead agencies under CEQA to identify new methodologies for transportation analyses that will encourage "land use and transportation planning decisions and investments that reduce VMT and contribute to the reductions in GHG emissions required in the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006." SB 743 changes the way that significance related to traffic impacts will be determined under CEQA. The significance of traffic impacts under CEQA will change from measuring impacts to drivers to measuring the impact of driving. The change is being made by replacing level of service (impact to drivers) with VMT (impact of driving) for land use and transportation projects that will help reduce future VMT growth.

This shift in transportation impact focus is expected to better align transportation impact analysis and mitigation outcomes with California's goals to reduce GHG emissions, encourage infill development, and improve public health through more active transportation.

In 2020, the City adopted thresholds of significance related to VMT and transportation impact analysis, and Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines that provide guidance on how to conduct VMT assessment for transportation projects. If the project is determined to lead to a measurable and substantial increase in vehicle travel, mitigation measures are required to reduce that impact to a less than significant level.

2020 City of Menifee Active Transportation Plan

The City of Menifee has adopted an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) to meet the City's goals and vision for providing a transportation system that supports walking, cycling, public transit and automobiles. The ATP provides recommended actions, projects and programs to support increasing bicycling and walking as well as improve non-motorized travel infrastructure to provide safer, walkable streets throughout the City for residents that are dependent on these modes.

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** In the City's General Plan, Valley Boulevard is designated as a 4-lane divided arterial road. Additionally, the gap in Valley Boulevard is identified as a planned arterial road in the City General Plan. Construction of the proposed Project would allow Valley Boulevard to be consistent with the City's adopted General Plan Circulation Element. By constructing sidewalks and bike lines on both sides of the roadway and improving existing curb ramps and sidewalks, the Project would be consistent with the goals of the City's 2020 ATP and meeting the City's strategic goal for an interconnected and safe community. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system.

Vehicle access along Valley Boulevard would be modified and potentially temporarily restricted during construction, but no long-term road closures are anticipated. The implementation of Avoidance and Minimization Measure **TRA-1** would result in **Less Than Significant** impacts during constriction related to roadway, bicycle, pedestrian and other transportation facilities.

b) **No Impact.** The proposed Project's VMT was measured using the Riverside County travel demand forecasting model (RIVCOM) which is considered the most appropriate model for use in this Project due to the more recent land use and roadway information. The VMT was estimated using the Base Year model for 2022. Three boundaries were identified to account for the full influence area of the Project: the City boundary, a 5-mile radius, and a 14.3-mile radius. The 14.3-mile radius was selected based on the estimate of the average trip length of vehicles that use Valley Boulevard. The results of the modeling and VMT estimation show that the VMT with Project is lower within the selected areas than without the Project, indicating that the Project assists in diverting and shortening existing trips. Table 15 below shows the reduction in VMT with the project:

Table 15. VMT Estimates

Boundary	No Project	With Project	Change in VMT	Percent Change
City Boundary	1,588,477	1,585,434	-3,043	-0.19%
5-Mile Radius	2,600,990	2,598,319	-2,671	-0.10%
14.3-Mile Radius	14,196,831	14,181,908	-14,923	-0.11%

The results of the VMT modeling indicate that the Project is anticipated to reduce total VMT in the study area by connecting existing gaps and shortening existing trips. According to the CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)(1), projects that decrease VMT in the project area compared to existing conditions should be presumed to have **No Impact**.

c) **No Impact.** The Project would not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm

equipment). Design features would comply with City standards as appropriate. The Project would not increase hazards due to design features or incompatible uses. There would be **No Impact.**

d) **No Impact.** The Project would widen Valley Boulevard and provide gap closures were the road currently does not connect, resulting in improved access for emergency vehicles. Valley Boulevard would remain accessible to vehicles during construction. No substantial road closures are anticipated and there would be no change in emergency access. The project would have **No Impact** on emergency access.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The following Avoidance and Minimization Measure is required to minimize temporary construction impacts:

TRA-1: Temporary impacts to traffic flow as a result of construction activities would be minimized through signage and a traffic control plan.

Mitigation Measure

No significant impact requiring mitigation would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to transportation with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization measure listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to transportation beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 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 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 § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source(s): Menifee Valley Boulevard Widening Project Memorandum (March 2022)

Regulatory Background

Effective July 1, 2015, CEQA was revised to include early consultation with California Native American tribes and consideration of Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs). These changes were enacted through Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52). By including TCRs early in the CEQA process, AB 52 intends to ensure that local and Tribal governments, public agencies, and project proponents would have information available, early in the project planning process, to identify and address potential adverse impacts to TCRs. CEQA now establishes that a "project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (PRC § 21084.2).

To help determine whether a project may have such an adverse effect, the PRC requires a lead agency to consult with any California Native American tribe that requests consultation and is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project. That consultation must take place prior to the determination of whether a negative declaration, MND, or environmental impact report is required for a project (PRC § 21080.3.1). Consultation must

consist of the lead agency providing formal notification, in writing, to the tribes that have requested notification or proposed projects within their traditionally and culturally affiliated area. AB 52 stipulates that the NAHC shall assist the lead agency in identifying the California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated within the project area. If the tribe wishes to engage in consultation on the project, the tribe must respond to the lead agency within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification. Once the lead agency receives the tribe's request to consult, the lead agency must then begin the consultation process within 30 days. If a lead agency determines that a project may cause a substantial adverse change to TCRs, the lead agency must consider measures to mitigate that impact. Consultation concludes when either: 1) the parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a TCR, or 2) a party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached (PRC § 21080.3.2). Under existing law, environmental documents must not include information about the locations of an archaeological site or sacred lands or any other information that is exempt from public disclosure pursuant to the Public Records act. TCRs are also exempt from disclosure. The term "tribal cultural resource" refers to sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:

- Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources
- Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of California PRC Section 5020.1
- A resource determined by a California lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of the PRC Section 5024.1.

Affected Environment

The City contacted the following tribes via letter on July 19, 2022 for AB 52 consultation:

- Pattie Garcia-Plotkin, THPO, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Ebru Ozdil, Planning Specialist, Pechanga Band of Indians
- Molly Earp, Cultural Resource Specialist, Pechanga Band of Indians
- Juan Ochoa, Assistant THPO, Pechanga Band of Indians
- Andrea Fernandez, Legal Assistant, Pechanga Band of Indians
- Cheryl Madrigal, THPO, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
- Cultural Resources Department, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
- Joe Ontiveros, THPO, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
- Jessica Valdez, Cultural Resource Specialist, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

The letters provided a summary of the Project and requested information regarding comments or concerns the Native American community might have about the Project and whether any traditional cultural properties, TCRs, or other resources of significance would be affected by implementation of the project. The letters also stated that if the tribes would like to consult under AB 52, they would have to respond within 30 days, pursuant to PRC 21080.3.1(d). Below is a list of the current status of all the tribal representatives contacted:

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
No response to the initial letter was received. A follow email was sent on September 30, 2022. On October 6, 2022, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians responded via email to the

request and stated that the project is located within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area and the tribe requested a copy of the records search, cultural report, and also requests monitoring by archaeological and Tribal monitors during ground disturbance. The tribe submitted a final letter on February 6, 2023 concluding AB 52 consultation upon the City's confirmation that the tribe's requests would be met.

Pechanga Band of Indians
On January 20, 2022, the Pechanga Band of Indians responded via email stating that the tribe would like to initiate formal consultation under AB 52. The tribe requested to be added to the distribution list of all public notice and circulation of all documents, including environmental review documents, archaeological reports, development plans, conceptual grading plans (if available), and all other applicable documents pertaining to this Project. The Tribe further requested to be directly notified of all public hearings and scheduled approvals concerning this Project, and that these comments be incorporated into the record of approval for this Project. A follow-up email was sent on September 6, 2022 to coordinate a meeting. A government-to-government meeting took place on January 27, 2023 to discuss the project and the tribe's concerns. Consultation with the tribe is on-going.

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
On September 9th, the Rincon Band responded via email that the tribe had no information to share and was not requesting consultation. The tribe also requested to receive a copy of the cultural resources assessment. On December 2nd, the City met with the tribe to discuss the tribe's comments and suggested revisions for the cultural resources memorandum that was provided.

Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
On August 18, 2022, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians responded with a response letter via email stating that the tribe would like to initiate formal consultation under AB 52. The tribe also asked to be provided dates/times to conduct a consultation meeting and/or phone call. A follow-up email was sent on September 6, 2022 to coordinate a meeting. A government-to-government meeting took place on January 30, 2023 to discuss the project and the tribe's concerns. Consultation with the tribe is on-going.

See Appendix D for complete Native American Consultation Log.

a-i) **Less Than Significant.** The Project is not anticipated to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historic resources as defined by the PRC section 5020.1 subdivision (k) criteria. No cultural resources were identified during the visual survey, record search and current Native American consultation. However, with any Project involving ground disturbance, there is a possibility that cultural resources may be unearthed during construction. Implementation of Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** (as discussed in Section V, Cultural Resources) and **COA-GEO-1** (as discussed in Section VII, Geology and Soils) would ensure impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources remain **Less Than Significant**. Refer to Appendix D for a summary of consultation efforts with the Native American community under AB 52.

a-ii) **Less Than Significant.** The Project is not anticipated to cause adverse impact to any resources considered significant to a California Native American tribe or other resources in the California Register that meet the PRC Section 5024.1 subdivision (c) criteria. No cultural resources were identified during the visual survey, record search and current Native American consultation. With any Project involving ground disturbance, there is a

possibility that a TCR may be unearthed during construction. Implementation of Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** (as discussed in Section V, Cultural Resources) and **COA-GEO-1** (as discussed in Section VII, Geology and Soils) would ensure impacts remain **Less Than Significant**.

Standard Conditions of Approval

With implementation of the Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** (discussed in Section V, Cultural Resources) and **COA-GEO-1** (as discussed in Section VII, Geology and Soils) as agreed upon between the consulting Native American tribes and the City of Menifee, impacts related to Tribal Cultural Resources would remain **Less than Significant**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to Tribal Cultural Resources with incorporation of the avoidance and minimization measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to Tribal Cultural Resources beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a determination by the waste water 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): City of Menifee General Plan (2013)

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project would not increase population in the Project vicinity and would not cause the need for expanded water or wastewater treatment. The proposed Project would increase impervious surface area resulting in additional storm water drainage; however, the Project would provide sufficient storm water drainage systems.

Utilities in the Project area include Crown Castle, EMWD, Frontier Communications, Lumen/Level 3 Communications, MediaCom, So Cal Edison Distribution, So Cal Edison Transmission Telecom, Southern California Gas Company-Dist, Charter Communications, Sunesys, LLC. Coordination with utilities that would need to be relocated would occur during the final design phase. All utilities, including irrigation systems, would continue to be fully functional before, during, and after construction of the Project. Impacts would be **Less than Significant** and no avoidance or minimization measures are required.

b) **No Impact.** As a road widening, no increased long-term usage of water supplies is needed. There would be **No Impact** to existing water supplies.

c) **No Impact.** Wastewater treatment is not needed for this Project. As a road widening, only storm water would be affected. There would be **No Impact.**

d) **No Impact.** As a road widening, the Project would not generate substantial solid waste during operation. During construction, solid waste may be generated from excavation, grading, and modification of currently paved portions of the roadway; however, the amount is not expected to exceed landfill capacities. The capacity of local solid waste facilities or solid waste reduction goals would not be exceeded. There would be **No Impact**.

e) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. There would be **No Impact**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No avoidance or minimization measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to utilities and service systems. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional significant impacts related to utilities and service systems beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XX**. WILDFIRE**: If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 a 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 other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source(s): City of Menifee Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021); City of Menifee General Plan (2013); California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps (2022)

Affected Environment

The project site is located adjacent to and partially within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) within a Local Responsibility Area as designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. This VHFHSZ is located in the undeveloped area on the western edge of the Project area and within the undeveloped gap on Valley Boulevard. Furthermore, the east side of the Project area north of McCall Boulevard is designated as a VHFHSZ within a State Responsibility Area.

a) **Less than Significant.** During construction, temporary closures of portions of the road will be necessary; however, the improvements would be staged to minimize disruptions. Construction is anticipated to last approximately 18 months. Valley Boulevard is not identified as an evacuation route on the Western Riverside Council of Governments Evacuation Map (WRCOG 2019). Additionally, implementation of measures **WF-1** through **WF-4** would further ensure impacts related to emergency response times and evacuation accessibility remain less than significant. As the Project would widen Valley Boulevard and close a gap on this road, service and emergency response times would be potentially improved upon completion. Therefore, impacts related to conflicts with any adopted

emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan would be **Less than Significant.**

b) **Less than Significant.** The Project would not involve the construction of occupied buildings; therefore there would be no associated project occupants that would be exposed to pollutant concentrations from wildfire that would be exacerbated due to the proposed Project. Additionally, implementation of measures **WF-1** through **WF-4** would further ensure impacts related to wildfire hazard risk would remain **Less than Significant**.

c) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project would involve widening of the existing Valley Boulevard and removing gap closures, which would reduce some of the vegetated area along Valley Boulevard subject to wildfire hazard risk. However, the Project also proposes to incorporate landscaped areas. With implementation of measure **WF-2**, the contractor would be required to submit a Fuel Modification Plan subject to approval by the City of Menifee Fire Department.

The improvements associated with the widening of Valley Boulevard would also potentially require utility relocations. While the majority of the utilities within the project area are underground which may need to be relocated, there may also be impacts to some above ground boxes/vaults due to the widening improvements. Any existing utilities within the project area requiring relocation would be coordinated with the owner and operator of the utility. All utility relocation activity will be evaluated for wildfire risk under measure **WF-2**. With implementation of measures **WF-1** through **WF-4**, impacts would remain **Less than Significant**.

d) **Less than Significant.** The proposed Project is located on an existing road. Widening of Valley Boulevard would not cause exacerbated risks related to landslides, unstable slopes, increased runoff, or flooding after a wildfire. There are no major surface water features within the Project area, and the Project would not alter the drainage pattern of the existing runoff conveyance channel that is within the Project area in a way that would result in increased erosion or sedimentation or impede flood flows. Impacts would be **Less than Significant**.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented by the City and contractor to minimize exacerbated wildfire risk during construction:

WF-1: The contractor shall prepare a Traffic Management Plan that includes a Project schedule with specific information on when vehicle restrictions during construction including if/when limitation to fire equipment access would occur.

WF-2: The contractor shall prepare a Construction Fire Protection Plan (FPP) and Fuel Modification Plan approved by the Fire Marshal of the City of Menifee Fire Department. The FPP shall evaluate and describe construction activities on or adjacent to vegetated areas such as utility relocation that may be subject to increased fire hazard risk. The FPP shall also implement fire safety measures during such construction activities in compliance with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 15B and California Public Resources Code Section 4442.

WF-3: Hot work (welding, cutting, or any activity that involves open flames or produces sparks) shall cease during Red Flag Warning periods declared by the National Weather Service.

WF-4: The contractor shall prepare an Emergency Plan that includes emergency operational procedures for wildland fires, EMS emergencies, and flood emergencies that identifies ingress and egress during construction.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts requiring mitigation measures would occur.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impact relating to wildfire with implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to wildfire beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially 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) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Operation of the completed Project would not have potential to degrade the quality of the environment or threaten wildlife or plant communities. However, temporary short-term construction of the Project would have the potential to degrade the quality of the existing environment. Potential impacts from Project construction have been identified related to Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Transportation, and Tribal Cultural Resources. However, mitigation measures have been developed to reduce all impacts to a **Less than Significant** level.

Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-17** would reduce impacts to biological resources to a less than significant level. The potential for discovery or disturbance of historical, archaeological, human remains, TCRs, or paleontological resources is not anticipated; however, implementation of Standard Conditions of Approval **COA-CUL-1** through **COA-CUL-9** and **COA-GEO-1** would result in less than significant impacts by ensuring that appropriate protocol is followed. Project impacts to Hazards and Hazardous Waste primarily consist of temporary impacts during to construction of the Project. These impacts would be less than significant through implementation and incorporation of **HAZ-1** through **HAZ-4**.

Implementation of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures would reduce the level of all Project-related impacts during construction to less than significant levels. As an Project with independent utility, the construction and operation of the Project would not

have cumulative impacts associated with any other projects within the Project area or vicinity. Therefore, impacts are considered **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**.

b) **Less Than Significant.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(h) states that a lead agency shall consider whether the cumulative impact of a project is significant and whether the effects of the project are cumulatively considerable. The assessment of the significance of the cumulative effects of a project must therefore be conducted in connection with the effects of past projects, or other current projects, and probable future projects.

Currently, there are a few proposed projects in the general project vicinity: the City has ongoing and planned land use development and roadway connections as part of the Cimmaron Ridge Specific Plan, the East Municipal Water District recently constructed a desalination plant that has been in operation since summer 2022 along with ongoing storm drain facilities projects, and Riverside County recently completed construction on the Salt Creek Trail Project, a recreational trail that is now in operation. While all these projects are occurring within close proximity to each other, each of these projects have their own independent utility, funding sources, and schedule. Implementation of any of these projects does not change the scope, nature, or impacts of the other projects. Each project will provide an independent and complete facility, meaning that none of the projects are dependent on the others to be completely functional and used by the public. As they are independent of each other, all the projects can be developed based on their specific needs and community input to create truly useful and community enhancing facilities.

Furthermore, while all these projects are occurring within close proximity to each other, based on review of preliminary and available concepts for these projects, they do not share impacts to the same resources, which could be considered cumulative impacts. Each project will provide an independent and complete facility, and under CEQA will be required to analyze impacts specific to each project. All potential significant impacts identified for this Project would be addressed with the identified avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures to reduce any potential significant impacts to a less than significant level. Additionally, as this Project is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, the cumulative impacts related to VMT are considered to be less than significant. No cumulative effects are anticipated because no resources would be adversely affected by the Project, or the Project effects would be localized and of limited extent. Therefore, the Project is considered to have a **Less than Significant Impact** relating to cumulatively considerable effects.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.** The Project would not cause significant adverse effects to human beings, either directly or indirectly with mitigation incorporated. Potential impacts have been identified related to Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire. All potentially significant impacts have been reduced to a less than significant level by the following avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures related to individual resource-specific impacts:

Standard Conditions of Approval
COA-CUL-1 through **COA-CUL-9** (Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources)
COA-GEO-1 (Geology and Soils)

Avoidance and Minimization Measures
Measures **AQ-1** though **AQ-4** (Air Quality)
Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-17** (Biological Resources)
Measures **GEO-1** (Geology and Soils)
Measures **HAZ-1** through **HAZ-4** (Hazards and Hazardous Materials)
Measure **TRA-1** (Transportation)
Measure **WF-1** through **WF-4** (Wildfire)

Mitigation Measures
Measures **BIO-6** (Biological Resources)
Measures **NOI-1** (Noise)

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

Please see individual sections for related measures.

Findings

The Project would have a less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated relating to the mandatory findings of significance with incorporation of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures listed above. No additional impacts have been identified. Thus, the Project would not result in any additional impacts related to mandatory findings of significance beyond those identified in the 2013 General Plan EIR.

List of Preparers

The following is a list of persons who participated in the Initial Study or prepared technical studies for this project.

City of Menifee

Diego Guillen, P.E., Project Manager, Capital Improvement Program

Carlos Geronimo, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer, Capital Improvement Program

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Sarah Holm, Environmental Manager. B.S. in Environmental Science; 15 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Environmental Oversight

Zach Liptak, Senior Environmental Planner. B.S. in Environmental Science; 15 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Environmental Oversight

Ken Chen, Associate Environmental Planner. B.S. in Community Development and Regional Development; 8 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Environmental Lead and Noise Study Report

Michelle Campbell, Senior Environmental Planner. M.A. in Archaeology; 20 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Cultural Resources Memorandum

Hanna Sheldon, Associate Environmental Planner. B.S. in Animal Science; 3 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Biological Resources Report

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Appendix A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Standard Conditions of Approval

COA-CUL-1 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code § 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Further, pursuant to Public Resource Code § 5097.98(b) remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made. If the Riverside County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted within the period specified by law (24 hours). Subsequently, the Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the "most likely descendant." The most likely descendant shall then make recommendations and engage in consultation concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in PRC § 5097.98.

COA-CUL-2 Non-Disclosure of Location Reburials

It is understood by all parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of Native American human remains or associated grave goods shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act. The Coroner, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r)., parties, and Lead Agencies, will be asked to withhold public disclosure information related to such reburial, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254 (r).

COA-CUL-3 Inadvertent Archeological Find

If during ground disturbance activities, unique cultural resources are discovered that were not assessed by the archaeological report(s) and/or environmental assessment conducted prior to Project approval, the following procedures shall be followed. Unique cultural resources are defined, for this condition only, as being multiple artifacts in close association with each other, but may include fewer artifacts if the area of the find is determined to be of significance due to its sacred or cultural importance as determined in consultation with the Native American Tribe(s).

a) All ground disturbance activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resources shall be halted until a meeting is convened between the developer, the archaeologist, the tribal representative(s) and the Community Development Director to discuss the significance of the find.
b) At the meeting, the significance of the discoveries shall be discussed and after consultation with the tribal representative(s) and the archaeologist, a decision shall be made, with the concurrence of the Community Development Director, as to the appropriate mitigation (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) for the cultural resources.
c) Grading or further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of the discovery until an agreement has been reached by all parties as to the appropriate mitigation. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area and will be monitored by additional Tribal monitors, if needed.
d) Treatment and avoidance of the newly discovered resources shall be consistent with the Cultural Resources Management Plan and Monitoring Agreements

entered into with the appropriate tribes. This may include avoidance of the cultural resources through Project design, in-place preservation of cultural resources located in native soils and/or re-burial on the Project property so they are not subject to further disturbance in perpetuity as identified in Non-Disclosure of Reburial Condition.

e) If the find is determined to be significant and avoidance of the site has not been achieved, a Phase III data recovery plan shall be prepared by the Project archeologist, in consultation with the Tribe, and shall be submitted to the City for their review and approval prior to implementation of the said plan.

f) Pursuant to Calif. Pub. Res. Code § 21083.2(b) avoidance is the preferred method of preservation for archaeological resources and cultural resources. If the landowner and the Tribe(s) cannot agree on the significance or the mitigation for the archaeological or cultural resources, these issues will be presented to the City Community Development Director for decision. The City Community Development Director shall make the determination based on the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act with respect to archaeological resources, recommendations of the Project archeologist and shall take into account the cultural and religious principles and practices of the Tribe. Notwithstanding any other rights available under the law, the decision of the City Community Development Director shall be appealable to the City Planning Commission and/or City Council.

COA-CUL-4 Cultural Resources Disposition

In the event that Native American cultural resources are discovered during the course of grading (inadvertent discoveries), the following procedures shall be carried out for final disposition of the discoveries:

b) One or more of the following treatments, in order of preference, shall be employed with the tribes. Evidence of such shall be provided to the City of Menifee Community Development Department:

i. Preservation-In-Place of the cultural resources, if feasible. Preservation in place means avoiding the resources, leaving them in the place where they were found with no development affecting the integrity of the resources.

ii. Reburial of the resources on the Project property. The measures for reburial shall include, at least, the following: Measures and provisions to protect the future reburial area from any future impacts in perpetuity. Reburial shall not occur until all legally required cataloging and basic recordation have been completed, with an exception that sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains are excluded. Any reburial process shall be culturally appropriate. Listing of contents and location of the reburial shall be included in the confidential Phase IV report. The Phase IV Report shall be filed with the City under a confidential cover and not subject to Public Records Request.

iii. If preservation in place or reburial is not feasible then the resources shall be curated in a culturally appropriate manner at a Riverside County curation facility that meets State Resources Department Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Resources ensuring access and use pursuant to the Guidelines. The collection and associated records shall be transferred, including title, and are to be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation. Evidence of curation in the form of a letter from the curation facility stating that subject archaeological materials have been received and that all fees

have been paid, shall be provided by the landowner to the City. There shall be no destructive or invasive testing on sacred items, burial goods and Native American human remains. Results concerning finds of any inadvertent discoveries shall be included in the Phase IV monitoring report.

COA-CUL-5 Archaeologist Retained

Prior to issuance of a grading permit the Project applicant shall retain a Riverside County qualified archaeologist to monitor all ground disturbing activities in an effort to identify any unknown archaeological resources.

The Project Archaeologist and the Tribal monitor(s) shall manage and oversee monitoring for all initial ground disturbing activities and excavation of each portion of the Project site including clearing, grubbing, tree removals, mass or rough grading, trenching, stockpiling of materials, rock crushing, structure demolition and etc. The Project Archaeologist and the Tribal monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground disturbance activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources in coordination with any required special interest or tribal monitors.

The developer/permit holder shall submit a fully executed copy of the contract to the Community Development Department to ensure compliance with this condition of approval. Upon verification, the Community Development Department shall clear this condition.

In addition, the Project Archaeologist, in consultation with the Consulting Tribe(s), the contractor, and the City, shall develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) in consultation pursuant to the definition in Assembly Bill (AB) 52 to address the details, timing and responsibility of all archaeological and cultural activities that will occur on the Project site. A consulting tribe is defined as a tribe that initiated the AB 52 tribal consultation process for the Project, has not opted out of the AB 52 consultation process, and has completed AB 52 consultation with the City as provided for in Cal Pub Res Code § 21080.3.2(b)(1) of AB 52. Details in the Plan shall include:

a) Project grading and development scheduling;
b) The Project archeologist and the Consulting Tribes(s) shall attend the pre-grading meeting with the City, the construction manager and any contractors, and will conduct a mandatory Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training to those in attendance. The Training will include a brief review of the cultural sensitivity of the Project and the surrounding area; what resources could potentially be identified during earthmoving activities; the requirements of the monitoring program; the protocols that apply in the event inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources are identified, including who to contact and appropriate avoidance measures until the find(s) can be properly evaluated; and any other appropriate protocols. All new construction personnel that will conduct earthwork or grading activities that begin work on the Project following the initial Training must take the Cultural Sensitivity Training prior to beginning work and the Project archaeologist and Consulting Tribe(s) shall make themselves available to provide the training on an as-needed basis;
c) The protocols and stipulations that the contractor, City, Consulting Tribe(s) and Project archaeologist will follow in the event of inadvertent cultural resources discoveries, including any newly discovered cultural resource deposits that shall be subject to a cultural resources evaluation.

COA-CUL-6 Native American Monitoring (Pechanga)

Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified tribal monitor(s) from the Pechanga Band of Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.

COA-CUL-7 Native American Monitoring (Soboba)

Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified tribal monitor(s) from the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.

COA-CUL-8 Native American Monitoring (Agua Caliente)

Tribal monitor(s) shall be required on-site during all ground-disturbing activities, including grading, stockpiling of materials, engineered fill, rock crushing, etc. The land divider/permit holder shall retain a qualified tribal monitor(s) from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the developer shall submit a copy of a signed contract between the above-mentioned Tribe and the land divider/permit holder for the monitoring of the Project to the Community Development Department and to the Engineering Department. The Tribal Monitor(s) shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbance activities to allow recovery of cultural resources, in coordination with the Project Archaeologist.

COA-CUL-9 Prior to Final Occupancy Archeology Report - Phase III and IV

Prior to final inspection, the developer/permit holder shall prompt the Project Archeologist to submit two (2) copies of the Phase III Data Recovery report (if required for the Project) and the Phase IV Cultural Resources Monitoring Report that complies with the Community Development Department's requirements for such reports. The Phase IV report shall include evidence of the required cultural/historical sensitivity training for the construction staff held during the pre-grade meeting. The Community Development Department shall review the reports to determine adequate mitigation compliance. Provided the reports are adequate, the Community Development Department shall clear this condition. Once the report(s) are determined to be adequate, two (2) copies shall be submitted to the Eastern Information Center (EIC) at the University of California Riverside (UCR) and one (1) copy shall be submitted to the Consulting Tribe(s) Cultural Resources Department(s).

COA-GEO-1 Paleontological Resource Impact Monitoring Program (PRIMP)

This site is mapped as having a high potential for paleontological resources (fossils) at shallow depth. Therefore, PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF GRADING PERMITS:

The permittee shall retain a qualified paleontologist approved by the City of Menifee to create and implement a Project-specific plan for monitoring site grading/earthmoving activities which exceed 5 feet in depth in native sedimentary.

The Project paleontologist retained shall review the approved Tentative Tract Map and shall conduct any pre-construction work necessary to render appropriate monitoring and mitigation requirements as appropriate. These requirements shall be documented by the Project paleontologist in a Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP). This PRIMP shall be submitted to the Community Development Department for review and approval prior to issuance of a Grading Permit.

Information to be contained in the PRIMP, at a minimum and in addition to other industry standards and Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards, are as follows:

a. The Project paleontologist shall participate in a pre-construction project meeting with development staff and construction operations to ensure an understanding of any mitigation measures required during construction, as applicable.

b. Paleontological monitoring of earthmoving activities will be conducted on an as-needed basis by the Project paleontologist during all earthmoving activities that may expose sensitive strata. Earthmoving activities in areas of the Project area where previously undisturbed strata will be buried but not otherwise disturbed will not be monitored. The Project paleontologist or his/her assignee will have the authority to reduce monitoring once he/she determines the probability of encountering fossils has dropped below an acceptable level.

c. If the Project paleontologist finds fossil remains, earthmoving activities will be diverted temporarily around the fossil site until the remains have been evaluated and recovered. Earthmoving will be allowed to proceed through the site when the Project paleontologist determines the fossils have been recovered and/or the site mitigated to the extent necessary.

d. If fossil remains are encountered by earthmoving activities when the Project paleontologist is not on-site, these activities will be diverted around the fossil site and the Project paleontologist called to the site immediately to recover the remains.

e. If fossil remains are encountered, the fossiliferous rock will be recovered from the fossil site and processed to allow for the recovery of smaller fossil remains. Test samples may be recovered from other sampling sites in the rock unit if appropriate.

f. Any recovered fossil remains will be prepared to the point of identification and identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible by knowledgeable paleontologists. The remains then will be curated (assigned and labeled with museum* repository fossil specimen numbers and corresponding fossil site numbers, as appropriate; placed in specimen trays and, if necessary, vials with completed specimen data cards) and catalogued, and associated specimen data and corresponding geologic and geographic site data will be archived (specimen and site numbers and corresponding data entered into appropriate museum repository catalogs and computerized databases) at the museum repository by a laboratory technician. The remains will then be accessioned into the museum* repository fossil collection, where they will be permanently stored, maintained, and, along with associated

specimen and site data, made available for future study by qualified scientific investigators.

*The City of Menifee must be consulted on the repository/museum to receive the fossil material prior to being curated.

g. A qualified paleontologist shall prepare a report of findings made during all site grading activity with an appended itemized list of fossil specimens recovered during grading (if any). This report shall be submitted to the Community Development Department for review and approval prior to building final inspection as described elsewhere in these conditions.

h. All reports shall be signed by the Project paleontologist and all other professionals responsible for the report's content (e.g., Professional Geologist, Professional Engineer, etc.), as appropriate. Two wet-signed original copies of the report shall be submitted directly to the Community Development Department along with a copy of this condition, deposit-based fee and the grading plan for appropriate case processing and tracking.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

Where no direct significant impacts requiring mitigation may be necessary, the following avoidance and minimization measures are required to ensure that best management practices are implemented in avoiding unnecessary environmental impacts.

AQ-1: The contractor shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations related to air quality, including air pollution control district and air quality management district regulations and local ordinances.

AQ-2: Construction of the project would comply with the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Rule 403—Fugitive Dust.

AQ-3: The construction contractor shall implement control measures to reduce emissions of NO_X, ROG, and PM10. The contractor shall:

- Minimize idling time to 5 minutes when construction equipment is not in use, unless per engine manufacturer's specifications or for safety reasons more time is required.
- To the extent practicable, manage operation of heavy-duty equipment to reduce emissions such as maintaining heavy-duty earthmoving, stationary and mobile equipment in optimum running conditions.
- Use electric equipment when feasible.
- Properly maintain equipment according to manufacturers' specifications.

BIO-1: Every individual working on the Project will attend a biological awareness training session delivered by the Project biologist. This training session will include information regarding the biological resources occurring within the Project area, the importance of avoiding impacts to these resources, and pertinent environmental permit requirements that will be implemented/observed by construction personnel.

BIO-2: Prior to the start of construction activities, the Project limits within proximity to coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland habitat will be marked with high visibility Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) fencing or staking to ensure construction will not further encroach into sensitive habitat communities.

BIO-3: Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into Project design and Project management to minimize impacts on the environment including erosion and the release of pollutants (e.g. oils, fuels):

- Exposed soils and material stockpiles would be stabilized, through watering or other measures, to prevent the movement of dust at the Project site caused by wind and construction activities such as traffic and grading activities;
- All construction roadway areas would be properly protected to prevent excess erosion
- All vehicle and equipment fueling/maintenance would be conducted outside of any sensitive habitat;
- All construction materials would be hauled off-site after completion of construction.

BIO-4: Vehicle maintenance, staging and storing equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants, solvents, and other possible contaminants will remain outside of sensitive habitat (coastal sage scrub and non-native grassland).

BIO-5: A chemical spill kit will be kept onsite and available for use in the event of a spill.

(*BIO-6 is a mitigation measure and found below under Mitigation Measures***)**

Parry's spineflower is not a State or Federally listed species and take authorization is not required. However, this species is covered under the Western Riverside MSHCP. Therefore, if the species is discovered within the Project impact area, the species will be protected in place, where feasible, and Avoidance and Minimization Measure **BIO-7** will be implemented.

BIO-7: If Parry's spineflower is identified within the temporary impact area, the species will be protected in place with ESA fencing, where feasible. ESA fence installation will be completed under the direction of the Project biologist.

The following avoidance and minimization measures **BIO-8** and **BIO-9** will be incorporated into the Project design and Project construction to reduce potential impacts to Coastal California Gnatcatcher and other nesting birds within the BSA.

BIO-8: If feasible, clearing and grubbing within coastal sage scrub habitat will occur outside of coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) breeding season (March 1 to August 15). If clearing and grubbing must occur within the breeding season, the Project biologist will first inspect the vegetation immediately prior to removal and monitor during initial vegetation clearing as appropriate. If an active coastal California gnatcatcher nest is discovered, the Project biologist will take reasonable steps to avoid direct mortality of the species, such as relocating the nest or taking the nest to a local wildlife rehabilitation center to increase the chance of survival of the offspring.

BIO-9: Prior to vegetation removal or initial ground disturbance during the nesting bird season (February 1 to September 30), a pre-construction nesting bird survey of the Project area will be conducted by a Project biologist prior to the start of work. Survey methods will include inspecting trees, shrubs, and the ground with binoculars for signs of active nests

or nesting behavior. The survey area will include the area of direct impact plus a 50-foot buffer. Within 72 hours of the nesting bird survey, all areas surveyed by the biologist will be cleared by the Contractor or a supplemental nesting bird survey is required.

A 50-foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any active nest of migratory birds or raptors, unless applicable "take" coverage of the species has been acquired for the Project or the species is covered under the MSHCP (e.g., Coastal California gnatcatcher, burrowing owl). The Contractor will immediately stop work in the buffer area and is prohibited from conducting work that could disturb the birds (as determined by the Project biologist and in coordination with wildlife agencies) in the buffer area until the Project biologist determines the young have fledged. A reduced buffer can be established if determined appropriate by the Project biologist, in coordination with CDFW.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures **BIO-10** through **BIO-13** will be incorporated to avoid direct impacts to western spadefoot.

BIO-10: Vehicle traffic and construction equipment will observe a 15-mile-per-hour speed limit while on the Project site.

BIO-11: All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures that are stored in the Project area for one or more overnight periods will be either securely capped prior to storage or thoroughly inspected by the contractor and/or the Project biologist for special status wildlife species or other animals before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way.

BIO-12: To prevent inadvertent entrapment of special status wildlife species or other animals during construction, the Project biologist and/or construction foreman/manager will ensure that all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than six inches deep are provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals by the Project biologist and/or construction foreman/manager.

BIO-13: The work period within the Project area will be restricted to periods of low rainfall (less than ¼-inch per 24-hour period) and periods of dry weather (with less than a 50% chance of rain). The Permittee and contractor will monitor the National Weather Service 72-hour forecast for the Project area. No work will occur during a dry-out period of 24 hours after the above referenced wet weather.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures **BIO-14** through **BIO-16** will be implemented to avoid impacts to the Dulzura pocket mouse to the greatest extent feasible.

BIO-14: All food-related trash will be disposed of in closed containers and will be removed from the Project area daily. Construction personnel will not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the Project area.

BIO-15: The contractor will not apply rodenticide or herbicide within the Project area during construction.

BIO-16: If any wildlife is encountered during the course of construction, said wildlife will be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure **BIO-17** will be incorporated into the Project plans to ensure invasive species are not introduced or spread at the Project site.

BIO-17: Prior to arrival at the Project site and prior to leaving the Project site, construction equipment that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds will be cleaned to reduce the spreading of noxious weeds.

GEO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training will be given to all onsite Project staff prior to construction. The WEAP training will be developed by a qualified cultural resources specialist.

HAZ-1: The contractor shall prepare a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program (SPCCP) prior to the commencement of construction activities. The SPCCP shall include information on the nature of all hazardous materials that shall be used on-site. The SPCCP shall also include information regarding proper handling of hazardous materials, and clean-up procedures in the event of an accidental release. The phone number of the agency overseeing hazardous materials and toxic clean-up shall be provided in the SPCCP.

HAZ-2: As is the case for any project that proposes excavation, the potential exists for unknown hazardous contamination to be revealed during project construction. If soil contaminated by hazardous waste is discovered during construction, proper hazardous waste handling and emergency procedures under 40 Code of Federal Regulations § 262 and Division 4.5 of Title 22 California Code of Regulations shall be followed.

HAZ-3: If any yellow pavement striping is to be removed during construction, it is recommended that removal requirements for yellow striping and pavement marking materials be performed in accordance with Caltrans Standard Special Provisions for REMOVE TRAFFIC STRIPE AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS.

HAZ-4: Any leaking transformers observed during the course of the Project should be considered a potential polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) hazard. A detailed inspection of individual electrical transformers was not conducted for this Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. However, should leaks from electrical transformers (that will either remain within the construction limits or will require removal and/or relocation) be encountered during construction, the transformer fluid should be sampled and analyzed by qualified personnel for detectable levels of PCB's. Should PCBs be detected, the transformer should be removed and disposed of in accordance with Title 22, Division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations and any other appropriate regulatory agency. Any stained soil encountered below electrical transformers with detectable levels of PCBs should also be handled and disposed of in accordance with Title 22, Division 4.5 of the California Code of Regulations and any other appropriate regulatory agency.

TRA-1: Temporary impacts to traffic flow as a result of construction activities would be minimized through signage and a traffic control plan.

WF-1: The contractor shall prepare a Traffic Management Plan that includes a Project schedule with specific information on when vehicle restrictions during construction including if/when limitation to fire equipment access would occur.

WF-2: The contractor shall prepare a Construction Fire Protection Plan (FPP) and Fuel Modification Plan approved by the Fire Marshal of the City of Menifee Fire Department. The FPP shall evaluate and describe construction activities on or adjacent to vegetated areas such as utility relocation that may be subject to increased fire hazard risk. The FPP shall also implement fire safety measures during such construction activities in compliance with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 15B and California Public Resources Code Section 4442.

WF-3: Hot work (welding, cutting, or any activity that involves open flames or produces sparks) shall cease during Red Flag Warning periods declared by the National Weather Service.

WF-4: The contractor shall prepare an Emergency Plan that includes emergency operational procedures for wildland fires, EMS emergencies, and flood emergencies that identifies ingress and egress during construction.

Mitigation Measures

The following Mitigation Measures are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to a Less than Significant Level.

BIO-6: Following the completion of construction, all temporarily impacted areas will be re-graded to pre-construction conditions and final erosion control measures will be implemented, including a seed mix of native, local species.

NOI-1: Rubberized and/or open grade asphalt will be used on Valley Boulevard from Murrieta Road to approximately 300 feet north of Chambers Avenue.

Appendix B Air Quality Road Construction Emissions Model

Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0

Daily Emission Estimates for -> Valley Boulevard Widening Project

Project Phases (Pounds)	ROG (lbs/day)	CO (lbs/day)	NOx (lbs/day)	Total PM10 (lbs/day)	Exhaust PM10 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM10 (lbs/day)	Total PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Exhaust PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (lbs/day)	SOx (lbs/day)	CO2 (lbs/day)	CH4 (lbs/day)	N2O (lbs/day)	CO2e (lbs/day)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.98	7.88	8.85	1.99	0.39	1.60	0.67	0.34	0.33	0.02	1,911.01	0.44	0.04	1,934.97
Grading/Excavation	4.31	39.83	46.77	3.58	1.98	1.60	2.03	1.69	0.33	0.11	11,072.74	2.49	0.50	11,284.48
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	3.59	33.72	33.93	3.04	1.44	1.60	1.65	1.32	0.33	0.07	7,095.62	1.58	0.09	7,162.38
Paving	1.54	19.58	22.78	1.02	1.02	0.00	0.74	0.74	0.00	0.08	8,286.02	0.76	0.88	8,567.98
Maximum (pounds/day)	4.31	39.83	46.77	3.58	1.98	1.60	2.03	1.69	0.33	0.11	11,072.74	2.49	0.88	11,284.48
Total (tons/construction project)	0.66	6.29	7.03	0.57	0.30	0.27	0.31	0.26	0.06	0.02	1,691.99	0.35	0.08	1,723.67

Notes:

Project Start Year ->	2023
Project Length (months) ->	18
Total Project Area (acres) ->	62
Maximum Area Disturbed/Day (acres) ->	0
Water Truck Used? ->	Yes

	Total Material Imported/Exported Volume (yd^3/day)		Daily VMT (miles/day)			
Phase	Soil	Asphalt	Soil Hauling	Asphalt Hauling	Worker Commute	Water Truck
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0	0	0	0	360	40
Grading/Excavation	435	0	660	0	880	40
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0	0	0	0	760	40
Paving	416	507	630	780	600	40

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

CO2e emissions are estimated by multiplying mass emissions for each GHG by its global warming potential (GWP), 1 , 25 and 298 for CO2, CH4 and N2O, respectively. Total CO2e is then estimated by summing CO2e estimates over all GHGs.

Total Emission Estimates by Phase for -> Valley Boulevard Widening Project

Project Phases (Tons for all except CO2e. Metric tonnes for CO2e)	ROG (tons/phase)	CO (tons/phase)	NOx (tons/phase)	Total PM10 (tons/phase)	Exhaust PM10 (tons/phase)	Fugitive Dust PM10 (tons/phase)	Total PM2.5 (tons/phase)	Exhaust PM2.5 (tons/phase)	Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (tons/phase)	SOx (tons/phase)	CO2 (tons/phase)	CH4 (tons/phase)	N2O (tons/phase)	CO2e (MT/phase)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.02	0.16	0.18	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	37.84	0.01	0.00	34.76
Grading/Excavation	0.38	3.55	4.17	0.32	0.18	0.14	0.18	0.15	0.03	0.01	986.58	0.22	0.04	912.14
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0.21	2.00	2.02	0.18	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.02	0.00	421.48	0.09	0.01	385.96
Paving	0.05	0.58	0.68	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	246.09	0.02	0.03	230.85
Maximum (tons/phase)	0.38	3.55	4.17	0.32	0.18	0.14	0.18	0.15	0.03	0.01	986.58	0.22	0.04	912.14
Total (tons/construction project)	0.66	6.29	7.03	0.57	0.30	0.27	0.31	0.26	0.06	0.02	1691.99	0.35	0.08	1,563.71

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

CO2e emissions are estimated by multiplying mass emissions for each GHG by its global warming potential (GWP), 1 , 25 and 298 for CO2, CH4 and N2O, respectively. Total CO2e is then estimated by summing CO2e estimates over all GHGs.

The CO2e emissions are reported as metric tons per phase.

Appendix C CNDDB, USFWS, CNPS, and CDFW Special Status Species Table

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385
Phone: (760) 431-9440 Fax: (760) 431-5901
http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/

In Reply Refer To: May 09, 2022
Project Code: 2022-0040362
Project Name: Valley Blvd Widening Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A biological assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a biological assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a biological assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Consultation website at:

https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/faq.html

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

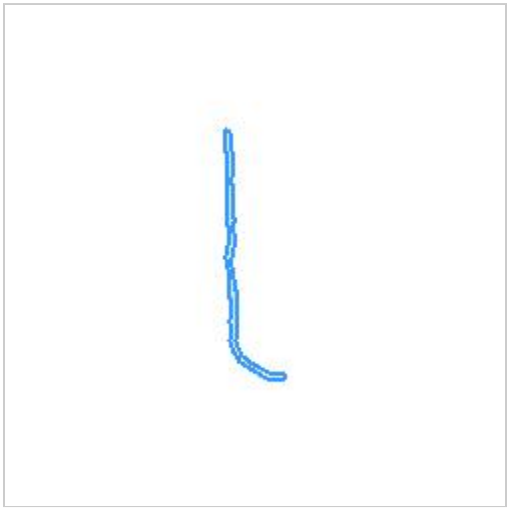
This species list is provided by:

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385
(760) 431-9440

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0040362
Event Code: None
Project Name: Valley Blvd Widening Project
Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification
Project Description: Road widening project
Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@33.7088126,-117.21332462378399,14z



Counties: Riverside County, California

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 15 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
San Bernardino Merriam's Kangaroo Rat *Dipodomys merriami parvus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2060	Endangered
Stephens' Kangaroo Rat *Dipodomys stephensi (incl. D. cascus)* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3495	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Coastal California Gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica californica* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8178	Threatened
Least Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate
Quino Checkerspot Butterfly *Euphydryas editha quino (=E. e. wrighti)* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5900	Endangered

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Riverside Fairy Shrimp *Streptocephalus woottoni* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8148	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
California Orcutt Grass *Orcuttia californica* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4923	Endangered
Munz's Onion *Allium munzii* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2951	Endangered
San Diego Ambrosia *Ambrosia pumila* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8287	Endangered
San Jacinto Valley Crownscale *Atriplex coronata var. notatior* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. However, no *actual* acres or miles were designated due to exemptions or exclusions. See Federal Register publication for details. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4353	Endangered
Spreading Navarretia *Navarretia fossalis* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1334	Threatened
Thread-leaved Brodiaea *Brodiaea filifolia* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6087	Threatened

Selected Elements by Common Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (Romoland (3311762))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Bell's sage sparrow *Artemisiospiza belli belli*	ABPBX97021	None	None	G5T2T3	S3	WL
burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
California glossy snake *Arizona elegans occidentalis*	ARADB01017	None	None	G5T2	S2	SSC
California horned lark *Eremophila alpestris actia*	ABPAT02011	None	None	G5T4Q	S4	WL
California Orcutt grass *Orcuttia californica*	PMPOA4G010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
coast horned lizard *Phrynosoma blainvillii*	ARACF12100	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	SSC
coastal California gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica californica*	ABPBJ08081	Threatened	None	G4G5T3Q	S2	SSC
coastal whiptail *Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*	ARACJ02143	None	None	G5T5	S3	SSC
Coulter's goldfields *Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri*	PDAST5L0A1	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1
Crotch bumble bee *Bombus crotchii*	IIHYM24480	None	None	G2	S1S2	
Dulzura pocket mouse *Chaetodipus californicus femoralis*	AMAFD05021	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
ferruginous hawk *Buteo regalis*	ABNKC19120	None	None	G4	S3S4	WL
golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*	ABNKC22010	None	None	G5	S3	FP
loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*	ABPBR01030	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
long-spined spineflower *Chorizanthe polygonoides var. longispina*	PDPGN040K1	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2
Los Angeles pocket mouse *Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*	AMAFD01041	None	None	G5T2	S1S2	SSC
Munz's onion *Allium munzii*	PMLIL022Z0	Endangered	Threatened	G1	S1	1B.1
northwestern San Diego pocket mouse *Chaetodipus fallax fallax*	AMAFD05031	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	SSC
orange-throated whiptail *Aspidoscelis hyperythra*	ARACJ02060	None	None	G5	S2S3	WL
Palmer's grapplinghook *Harpagonella palmeri*	PDBOR0H010	None	None	G4	S3	4.2

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Parry's spineflower *Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi*	PDPGN040J2	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1
quino checkerspot butterfly *Euphydryas editha quino*	IILEPK405L	Endangered	None	G5T1T2	S1S2	
red-diamond rattlesnake *Crotalus ruber*	ARADE02090	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
Riverside fairy shrimp *Streptocephalus woottoni*	ICBRA07010	Endangered	None	G1G2	S1S2	
Robinson's pepper-grass *Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii*	PDBRA1M114	None	None	G5T3	S3	4.3
San Bernardino kangaroo rat *Dipodomys merriami parvus*	AMAFD03143	Endangered	Candidate Endangered	G5T1	S1	SSC
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit *Lepus californicus bennettii*	AMAEB03051	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	
smooth tarplant *Centromadia pungens ssp. laevis*	PDAST4R0R4	None	None	G3G4T2	S2	1B.1
southern California rufous-crowned sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps canescens*	ABPBX91091	None	None	G5T3	S3	WL
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest *Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest*	CTT61310CA	None	None	G4	S4	
Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest *Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest*	CTT61330CA	None	None	G3	S3.2	
southern grasshopper mouse *Onychomys torridus ramona*	AMAFF06022	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
spreading navarretia *Navarretia fossalis*	PDPLM0C080	Threatened	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Stephens' kangaroo rat *Dipodomys stephensi*	AMAFD03100	Endangered	Threatened	G2	S2	
thread-leaved brodiaea *Brodiaea filifolia*	PMLIL0C050	Threatened	Endangered	G2	S2	1B.1
western mastiff bat *Eumops perotis californicus*	AMACD02011	None	None	G4G5T4	S3S4	SSC
western spadefoot *Spea hammondii*	AAABF02020	None	None	G2G3	S3	SSC
western yellow bat *Lasiurus xanthinus*	AMACC05070	None	None	G4G5	S3	SSC

Record Count: 38

Search Results

17 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria: Quad is one of [**3311762**]

▲ SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	LIFEFORM	BLOOMING PERIOD	FED LIST	STATE LIST	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	CA RARE PLANT RANK	PHOTO
Allium munzii	Munz's onion	Alliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Mar-May	FE	CT	G1	S1	1B.1	 © 2003 Guy Bruyea
Brodiaea filifolia	thread-leaved brodiaea	Themidaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Mar-Jun	FT	CE	G2	S2	1B.1	 © 2016 Keir Morse
Caulanthus simulans	Payson's jewelflower	Brassicaceae	annual herb	(Feb)Mar-May(Jun)	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	No Photo Available
Centromadia pungens ssp. *laevis*	smooth tarplant	Asteraceae	annual herb	Apr-Sep	None	None	G3G4T2	S2	1B.1	No Photo Available
Chorizanthe leptotheca	Peninsular spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	May-Aug	None	None	G3	S3	4.2	No Photo Available
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi*	Parry's spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jun	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1	No Photo Available
Chorizanthe polygonoides var. *longispina*	long-spined spineflower	Polygonaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jul	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2	No Photo Available
Convolvulus simulans	small-flowered morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jul	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	No Photo Available
Deinandra paniculata	paniculate tarplant	Asteraceae	annual herb	(Mar)Apr-Nov	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	No Photo Available
Harpagonella palmeri	Palmer's grapplinghook	Boraginaceae	annual herb	Mar-May	None	None	G4	S3	4.2	 © 2015 Keir Morse
Juglans californica	Southern California black walnut	Juglandaceae	perennial deciduous tree	Mar-Aug	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	 © 2020 Zoya Akulova
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri*	Coulter's goldfields	Asteraceae	annual herb	Feb-Jun	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1	

										 © 2013 Keir Morse
Lepidium virginicum var. *robinsonii*	Robinson's pepper-grass	Brassicaceae	annual herb	Jan-Jul	None	None	G5T3	S3	4.3	 © 2015 Keir Morse
Microseris douglasii ssp. *platycarpha*	small-flowered microseris	Asteraceae	annual herb	Mar-May	None	None	G4T4	S4	4.2	 © 2015 Richard Spellenberg
Myosurus minimus ssp. *apus*	little mousetail	Ranunculaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jun	None	None	G5T2Q	S2	3.1	No Photo Available
Navarretia fossalis	spreading navarretia	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jun	FT	None	G2	S2	1B.1	No Photo Available
Orcuttia californica	California Orcutt grass	Poaceae	annual herb	Apr-Aug	FE	CE	G1	S1	1B.1	No Photo Available

Showing 1 to 17 of 17 entries

Suggested Citation:
California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2022. Rare Plant Inventory (online edition, v9-01 1.5). Website https://www.rareplants.cnps.org [accessed 6 May 2022].

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency: Menifee city
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Lead Agency Contact Information

Lead Agency: Menifee city

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Appendix D AB 52 Native American Correspondence Log

Valley Boulevard Widening Project, California
Native American Consultation Log

Affiliation	Name	Contact Date	Contact Type	Response
Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)	Andrew Green	4/12/2022	email	5/17/2022 – Andrew Green replied that a search of the Sacred Land File returned negative results within the area of potential effects.
Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians	Ebru Ozdil	7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/25/2022. See response below
		1/27/2023	Conference call	A conference call was held with Mr. Ebru, Ms. Earp and Mr. Paul from the Tribe, Diego Guillen (City), and Ken Chen, Michelle Campbell, and Pamala DalcinWalling (Dokken Engineering) to discuss concerns with the project. The Tribe expressed concern for resources that may be present within previously disturbed soils from development of the Sun City community.The Tribe also stated that a TCP occurs in close proximity southwest of the project alignment. The Tribe requested monitoring but stated that, mostlikely, full time monitoring would occur at the gap-closure section with spot-check monitoring occuring throughout the remainder of the alignment although that determination would be made in the field by Tribal monitors. The Tribes also stated that they needed additional time to review the revised cultural resources memo.
	Molly Earp	7/19/2022	Letter	Delievered 7/25/2022. See reponses above and below
		1/27/2023	Conference call	See above
	Juan Ochoa	7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/25/2022
		8/12/2022	e-mail	On August 12, 2022, the Temecula Band of Luiseño Indians (Pechanga) responded via email stating that the tribe would like to initiate formal consultation under AB52. The tribe requested to be added to the distribution list of all public notice and circulation of all documents, including environmental review documents, archaeological reports, development plans, conceptual grading plans (if available), and all other applicable documents pertaining to this Project. The Tribe further requested to be directly notified of all public hearings and scheduled approvals concerning this Project, and that these comments be incorporated into the record of approval for this Project. Follow-up emails were sent on September 6, 2022, and October 17, 2022, to coordinate a meeting. On October 17, 2022 the Tribe responded to request all available engineering and environmental documents prior to setting up a meeting. Consultation with the tribe is on-going.
	Andrea Fernandez	7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/25/2022. See reposnse above
		7/19/2022	Letter	Delieverd 7/26/2022
		8/18/2022	e-mail	On August 18, 2022, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians provided a response letter via email stating that the tribe would like to initiate formal consultation under AB52. The tribe also asked to be provided dates/times to conduct a consultation meeting and/or phone call. A follow-up email was sent on September 6, 2022, to coordinate a meeting.

Valley Boulevard Widening Project, California
Native American Consultation Log

Affiliation	Name	Contact Date	Contact Type	Response
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	Joseph Ontiveros	1/30/2023	Teams meeting	A Teams meeting with Mr. Ontiveros and Ms. Valsez of the Tribe was held with Diego Guillen, City of Menifee, and Ken Chen and Michelle Campbell, Dokken Engineering. At the meeting, Mr. Ontiveros conneyed the Tribes general concern for the sensitivity of the project area and concern for inadverdent discoveries. He also stated that the project occurs within/adjacent to two TCP/TCLs, as the area is a traditional use area for resource gathering and ceremonies as well as holding intangible meaning for the Tribe related to trational practices. He stated that the standard mitigation measures developed with the City are adequate at this time, but the Tribe reserves the ability to request revisions as the project and consulation continues. A follow-up with the Tribe will occur with the measures in the form for the CEQA document following additional consultation with parties for the project.
	Jessica Valdez	7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/26/2022. See response above
		1/30/2023	Teams meeting	See above
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians	Cheryl Madrigal	7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/25/2022
		9/9/2022	e-mail	A response was received from the Tribe stating that they had no information to share but requested review of the cultural resources assessment. It also stated that consultation was not requested at that time but reserved the right to comment during public review. A final recommendation was made to consult with the Pechanga regarding information on the project area.
		10/12/2022	e-mail	Follow-up sent. Tribe requested a virtual meeting to dicuss the project.
		12/2/2022	Teams meeting	A zoom meeting presented the project to the Tribe and the Tribe stated that comments on the cultural memo would be provided, which were revieved the same day. The comments requested that the memo include a description of the previously recorded resources as well as background sections. Comments also stated that it was indeterminable if impacts to TCR would occur from the project.
	Cultural Resources Dept	7/19/2022	Letter	
		10/12/2022	e-mail	Follow-up sent. See above.
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Patricia Garcia	7/19/2022	Letter	Delivered 7/25/2022
		9/30/2022	e-mail	Follow-up sent. Tribe responded on 10/6/2022 via email to the request and stated that the project is located within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area and the tribe requested a copy of the records search, cultural report, and also requested monitoring by archaeological and Tribal monitors during ground disturbance.
		10/6/2022 and 12/5/2022	e-mail	The Tribe requested construction monitoring.

Appendix E Acronyms

AB 52	Assembly Bill 52
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BSA	Biological Study Area
BTU	British thermal unit
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAGN	coastal California gnatcatcher
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFG	California Fish and Game
City	City of Menifee
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
dBA	Decibel A-weighted
EIC	Eastern Information Center
EMWD	Eastern Municipal Water District
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FHWA	Federal Highways Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
GHG	greenhouse gas
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
lbs	Pounds
Ldn	day-night average sound level

Leq	equivalent continuous sound level
Lmax	maximum sound level
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
MSHCP	Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
MT	metric ton
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
PAL	Project Area Limits
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PPV	Peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
RCEM	Road Construction Emissions Model
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SKR	Stephens' kangaroo rat
SPCCP	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TACs	toxic air contaminants
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resources
TNM 2.5	Traffic Noise Model Version 2.5
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS	United States Geological Survey
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
VOC	volatile organic compounds
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program